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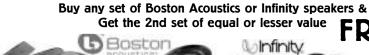
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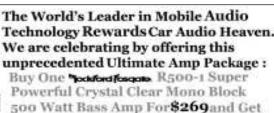
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#### **UNDER THE RADAR**

Lobby leavings Ex-Democratic assemblyman turned insurance industry lobbyist Juan



Vargas quietly kicked off his bid to replace termed-out incumbent state senator **Denise** Ducheny last week by personally making a \$100,000 loan to his own campaign fund, state records show. When Vargas left office in December 2006 after six years in the assembly, he was scorned by critics for

breaking his longtime pledge not to go to work for the insurance business. As a legislator, he carried much legislative water for the industry, which gave him some \$335,000 in campaign contributions.

As vice president of "external relations" for Seattle-based Safeco Insurance, Vargas filed a statement in June 2007 authorizing contract lobbyist Norwood & Associates to represent the insurer in Sacramento. Through the end of that year, Norwood was paid \$50,264; Safeco also spent a total of \$123.10 to wine and dine Democratic senator Ron Calderon and Assemblywoman Nicole Parra at the Hotel del Coronado that October. During the same period, the firm made \$25,214 in campaign contributions; \$3000 went to Assemblyman Joe Coto, who succeeded Vargas as chairman of the assembly's Insurance Committee. Termed out this year, Coto has vowed not to work for an insurance company.

Safeco, then America's 23rd-largest insurer, was purchased by Boston-based Liberty Mutual in a \$6.2 billion deal that closed in September of last year. Liberty Mutual spokesman Chris Goetcheus said Vargas is still employed by the company as a public affairs vice president for the Western states but could offer no other details. Vargas did not respond to a message left with a woman at the phone number listed on his campaign disclo-

**Dinner with Bibi** With the holidays approaching, what better way to get into the spirit

of the season than with a free trip to Tel Aviv? Democratic congresswoman Susan Davis embarked on a three-day tour of Israel, from the 13th through the 16th of November, thanks to the Saban Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution. Transportation was \$4580, lodging was \$1055,



and the food tab was \$350, according to her posttrip disclosure report.

After meeting ex-Israeli prime minister Ehud Olmert, the group spent a day in Ramallah with Palestinian prime minister Salam Fayyad. A "gala dinner" in Jerusalem featured an "off-the-record conversation" with ex-President Bill Clinton and remarks by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, along with a "discussion on alternative energy and the environment with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger."

Egyptian-born billionaire Haim Saban, the money behind the Saban Center, got rich producing The Mighty Morphin Power Rangers. ... The big political news in Los Angeles last week was the election of Democratic assemblyman Paul Krekorian, former head of the Burbank Board of Education, to the Second District seat on the L.A. City Council. His opponent, former Paramount Pictures executive **Christine Essel**, outspent him two to one. The race was nasty and expensive, with the city's big labor unions putting almost \$1 million behind Essel, who lost by 14 percent. But what does the race to represent Studio City and Tujunga mean to San Diego? Democratic assembly members Lori Saldaña and Marty Block each gave \$500 to Krekorian. (Saldaña's cash came from her now-abandoned state senate campaign account. She's declared for the seat currently occupied by Ron Roberts on the county board of supervisors.)

**Retired fat** Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's got the biggest California state pension of them

all? In San Diego County, apparently it's El Cajon's William Garrett, at \$254,745.72 a year, or \$21,228.81 a month, according to numbers released by the California Foundation for Fiscal Responsibility, a nonprofit group founded earlier this year to push for public pension reform. Ex-GOP San Diego



William Garrett

City Council candidate April Boling is on the board and Libertarian Richard Rider is an advisor.

Garrett, currently president of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District governing board, retired as El Cajon city manager in September 2004 after eight years in the job. At that time, he was the highest-paid public employee in the county, with a salary of \$233,586, according to a survey by the San Diego Business Journal. When Garrett arrived in El Cajon in February 1996, after working as city manager for seven years in Corona, he was paid just \$117,500, according to a newspaper report at the time. Now 65, Garrett began his career in Corona in 1975. Reached by phone this week, he said he "fully understands the concerns being expressed" by public pension critics, but noted that the amount of his pension was "based on the rules that were in effect when I retired."

— Matt Potter

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

# **Lobbyists Rule**

By Don Bauder

ome enterprises signal what's going on inside by hanging a red light outside. Mayor Jerry Sanders has revealed what's

going on inside his administration by setting up a group of committees to carry out to the Lobbvists."

Verily, the Sanders committees are so loaded with be any doubt about who runs the City.

There are 51 members of committees pushing community projects such as a new stadium for the Chargers. Of those, no fewer than 20 are registered lobbyists. (Some serve on more than one committee.) And those who aren't registered lobbyists are long-term corporatewelfare mendicants. Most



Craig Benedetto





Greg Mueller



Lani Lutar









Sherm Harmer





his goals. Officially, the name is "Mayor's Civic Leadership 2009-2012." It should be named "San Diego Belongs

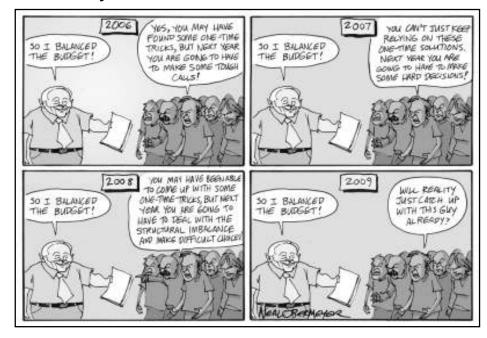
registered lobbyists - mainly working for the real estate development industry that there should no longer

This Is How Bad It Is in Tourism Surprised by the woes at Hard Rock Hotel or the Natural History Museum?...

Read Don Bauder news updates like this every day at SDReader.com

significantly, I don't see even token representatives from community planning and environmental groups, or even labor. "In other cities, these committees are balanced; they put environmentalists on them, union peocontinued on page 8

#### **Neal Obermeyer**



San Diego Reader December 17, 2009

# **Great Whites Might Be Victims**

By Alastair Bland

n late 2007, when local shark researcher Michael Domeier teamed up with a television crew and National Geographic to

tag great white sharks off Guadalupe Island, Patric Douglas took an interest. Douglas runs a cage-diving tourist operation out of San Diego. Each fall he takes his clients to the island, 250 miles southwest of Ensenada, 150 miles off the coast. He also works with movie and TV production companies that are filming sharks. Douglas has supported several shark-research projects, including Domeier's.

But when Douglas learned that Fischer Productions—an outdoor adventure film company based in Park City, Utah — was funding the expedition, providing the vessel, and bringing Hollywood actor Paul Walker, star of The Fast and the Furious, on board, he lost faith in the project.

"Is this science, or is this a TV show with some science thrown in?" asks Douglas.

Domeier, founder and executive director of the Marine Conservation Science Institute in Fallbrook, has been studying great white sharks for almost a decade. From 2000 to 2007, he tagged the animals at Guadalupe Island using a handheld tagging pole — a common technique — but late in 2007 he began deploying advanced Spot (Smart Position or Temperature Transmitting) tags onto the fish. Spot-tagging a baited hook, lifting the shark onto a vessel, and bolting a transmitter to its dorsal fin. Every time the tagged shark surfaces, allowing the device to touch the air, the Spot tag sends a signal to a satellite. The satellite, in turn, instantly emails researchers, providing real-time information on individual shark movement. Spot tags may last years longer than other transmitters, making them valuable research tools. Scientists have deployed

involves catching the fish on

them onto smaller fish, including salmon sharks and hammerheads of several hundred pounds.

However, the stress imparted to an animal during tagging is a drawback, and the larger the animal, the greater the potential for stressrelated injuries. It can take an hour or more to reel in a large white shark, which may weigh more than two tons. Then the shark may spend 20 minutes out of the water, a hose placed inside its mouth to hydrate its gills with fresh seawater. Douglas is concerned that Domeier's research could injure or kill the fish,



Great white shark at Guadalupe Island

and he is suspicious of Domeier's relationship with a camera crew.

"It's not uncommon for a TV show to donate money to a researcher and then tag along and watch the scientist do his thing," says Douglas. "But what's morally suspect and ethically suspect about Domeier's project is that Fischer Productions is running this show."

> On November 16, National Geographic aired the first of 11

television episodes featuring Domeier, Walker, and other crew members as they placed large circle hooks baited with mammal flesh into the waters of the Guadalupe Island Biosphere Reserve, caught several great white sharks, and bolted Spot tags into their dorsal fins. Chris Moore, line producer for Fischer Productions, says that the entire first season has been filmed, with ten episodes scheduled to air beginning in July 2010.

By fall of this year, Domeier had placed 15 Spot tags on Guadalupe Island white sharks. Then, in late October, the team traveled north to the Farallon Islands, off San Francisco, with permission from federal and state authorities to catch and tag as many as ten of the otherwise-protected sharks in the waters of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

But on October 29, the team botched its first catch when a 13-foot great white shark swallowed the bait and, after almost an hour on the line and roughly 20 minutes on board the boat, could only be released after the crew clipped the hook via bolt cutters inserted through one of the shark's gill slits. The shark

eventually swam away with a portion of a large circle hook lodged in its throat. Domeier landed and tagged a second shark three days later before agents with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration halted the project.

Douglas believes the health of the first shark has been compromised.

"I don't think you can leave 60 percent of the world's largest circle hook in the gut of a shark and know that [the shark] is safe. The future of that animal is now in grave doubt."

Dr. Ken Goldman, a fisheries biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, has tagged sharks off Northern California. He also believes white sharks may be injured by Spot-tagging.

"There's a chance of the animal being decked and suf-

continued on page 10

#### STRINGERS

#### **Target: Doctor**

2000 Protest Kidnapping

Tijuana — An estimated 2000 marchers protested the Tijuana kidnapping and subsequent police



impotency in gaining the release of Dr. Irán Cota Cota, medical doctor and secretary general of the Mexican government's social security agency, the IMSS (Sindicato del Instituto Mexicano de Seguro Social).

A group of heavily armed men reportedly kidnapped the doctor from his home — in front of his family — on Wednesday, December 2, at around 9 p.m.

The marchers in Tijuana shouted out "Queremos a Cota sano y salve" ("We want Cota, safe and sound") as they marched from Clinic 27 to el centro de gobierno in the Zona Rio. Other marchers carried banners protesting the plague of kidnappings that has targeted TJ's most educated and prominent.

**Protest marches were** also carried out in Ensenada and Mexicali.

Sources: Frontera, El Mexicano

By T.B. Beaudeau, 12/8

#### **Cast Iron Calamity**

**Pipeline Fails on** 35th Street

Mountain View — "I was [on] Durant Street and saw water flooding the whole intersection near 35th and Durant," said Noah Gates about a broken water main incident on Wednesday, December 9. "The water came from in front of the church."

According to pastor **Brian Clater of the Mount** Olive Baptist Church, "About 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Rudie Jones and a couple of others noticed cracks in the street. There was a bubbling of water in three areas right near our street corner. It bubbled and turned into a gushing flood pretty quickly. I called the San Diego Water Department."

The water flooded nearby homes and caused property damage. It took crews less than three hours to end the flooding, but over two million gallons of water had caused damage from 35th Street toward Imperial Avenue, according to SDWD sources.

The cast-iron pipeline is over 50 years old and a valve failed. The city provided residents with a water truck. The broken pipe left over 15 homes without water until about noon Wednesday.

By Noel Gallego, 12/10

#### **Saved from Suicide**

**Passerby Runs and Grabs Distraught Man** Coronado — "I was riding on bus 901 over the Coronado Bridge [on Decem-



Coronado bridge

ber 4] when I saw two guys who were fighting 🖔 with an old man," recounts Paul Borja. Actually, the "fighting" Borja saw was a struggle to save an elderly man from jumping  $^{17,\,2009}$  off the Coronado bridge.

continued on page 12

# Lobbyists rule

continued from page 6

ple. I don't see that in this town," says activist Mel Shapiro.

Councilmember Donna Frve, political scientist Steve Erie, and former state legislator Jim Mills express the same sentiment: Sanders's committees are almost wholly made up of downtown boosters who want to use taxpayer money to pay for splendiferous structures instead of repairing the rotting infrastructure or helping the needy. Redevelopment, which was intended for truly blighted areas, "has been totally subverted to corporate welfare," says Erie, a professor at the University of California at San Diego. Other California cities use redevelopment funds for "affordable housing, undeveloped neighborhoods — for public purposes. As the City's financial situation becomes ever more precarious, the grandiose plans of downtown boosters grow ever greater."

And that's what Mayor Sanders's committees are all about: grandiose structures such as a football stadium and convention-center expansion that line the pockets of real estate developers and their lobbyists while steal-

ing money that should be used on necessities.

CITY LIGHTS

Observe the mayor's committees. One of them is devoted to studying a new civic center, which the mayor is pushing. There are 13 people on the committee. Nine are registered lobbyists.

Here are the lobbyists and their affiliations:

- Sherm Harmer, chairman of Urban Housing Partners, whose clients include downtown's struggling Smart Corner and Navarra Property Management. Harmer is a longtime leader of the Downtown Residential Marketing and Builders Alliance.
- Shirley Horton, former state legislator who now heads the Downtown San Diego Partnership.
- Donna Jones, of the law firm Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton, whose lobbying clients include Black Mountain Ranch, Irvine Company, Lennar Communities, and McMillin Land Development.
- Craig Benedetto, of California Strategies, whose lobbying clients include the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties and BOMA San Diego, an outfit that provides information on office development and leasing.
- Paul Robinson, a lawyer whose firm does lobbying for Shea Homes and Shea

Properties.

- Robert Lankford, of the development firm bearing his name and a member of the Downtown San Diego Partnership.
- Keith Jones, representing the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce and a principal of Ace Parking Management.
- Tom Sudberry, of Sudberry Properties, a big developer.
- Lani Lutar, a lobbyist for the San Diego County Taxpayers Association, which does not represent the average taxpayer but does flack work for well-heeled members who seek taxpayer money for real estate projects that ought to be financed with private capital.

And what of the four members on the civic center committee who are not registered lobbyists? Well, Mike LaBarre of Fehlman LaBarre is an architect (now planning a building at 11th and B) and Greg Mueller is a principal of the architecture firm Tucker Sadler. Lee Burdick is a lawyer with Higgs Fletcher & Mack and a commissioner of the Port of San Diego. Reid Carr is with an advertising company that works for such clients as Sempra Energy. His firm brags that visitors can watch Padres games from the company's

balcony.

It is no secret that the City of San Diego is on the financial brink. Does anyone think that the members of this committee, all with a stake in downtown development, will carefully weigh the City's fiscal condition when deciding if a civic center is really necessary? Silly boy/girl.

The mayor's finance committee crossed him up. It put out a study that actually told the truth: the City suffers from a structural deficit that can't be patched up with one-time measures. Employment should be cut sharply, and taxes may have to go up. If such measures fail, San Diego should consider bankruptcy. Sanders dismissed the report. But here's the key: only one member of that committee was a registered lobbyist.

Other committees should be more obedient. For example, 5 of the 11 on the group looking into charter reform are registered lobbyists, including chairman John Davies, whose law firm represents numerous operations such as Kilroy Realty and the **Building Industry Association** of San Diego. And 9 of the 22 members of the committee looking into streamlining permit processing are lobbyists, including Marcela Escobar-Eck, the onetime director of the City's Development Services Department. A non-lobbyist on that committee is Jim Waring, Sanders's former real estate czar who left under a cloud.

Among other members of Sanders's committees are the usual suspects: Ben Haddad, chairman, and Ruben Barrales, president, of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce; attorney Lynn Schenk; port commissioner Steve Cushman; and chief executive of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation Julie Meier Wright.

"It would be a good idea to broaden the membership of these action teams," says Frye. She fears the result of these stacked committees will be more misrepresentations to voters. "We need to stop telling people that there will be free civic centers, free football stadiums. Nothing is free. Somebody will pay for it. If it comes from redevelopment money, it still comes from taxes."

Says Mills, former president pro tem of the state senate, "The Redevelopment Agency owes a lot of money to the City of San Diego. The redevelopment money should be used for paying for the consequences of redevelopment. The infrastructure is in bad shape, but we keep building new buildings. We

have cast-iron water mains over 100 years old."

Frye and Shapiro keep demanding that redevelopment funds be paid back to the City. "I keep sending emails, asking when this will be on the agenda," says Shapiro. "Council and the mayor won't touch it. Councilmembers like redevelopment in their districts."

Finally, Erie sees good omens. "This is the last gasp of the old guard desperately trying to hold on," he says. He compares Sanders's committees with the elite, Waspish Committee of 25, created in the 1950s in Los Angeles. It controlled hospitals, foundations, cultural institutions — almost everything. But the Committee of 25 lost its power. "Smart cities diversify the stakeholders, have labor, environmentalists, minorities at the table. They look to the 21st Century. But this San Diego crowd looks toward the 19th Century. It's sad."

Redevelopment funds are concentrated downtown, says Erie. "In other big cities, the money goes to the neighborhoods." Erie's upcoming book, due late next year or early in 2011 from Stanford University Press, is titled *Paradise Plundered: Fiscal Crisis, Growth and Governance in San Diego.* 

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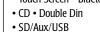
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# **Great** whites

continued from page 7

fering organ damage, and it could easily rupture its liver and you wouldn't know," he says.

Goldman once saw a white shark off the coast of South Australia, recently caught and released, in a near-death state of exhaustion. His foremost concern about Domeier's research is that Spot-tagged sharks may swim away from the operation exhausted, unable to maintain basic vascular functions, and as a result experience a steep decline in body temperature, which averages a stable 74 degrees Fahrenheit in white sharks, according to Goldman.

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Reader December 17, 2009

"And if a white shark can't maintain that core temperature, it dies," he says.

Late last month, Domeier was back at Guadalupe Island with cameras rolling. Fischer Productions and Domeier are tagging more sharks and compiling new footage with the hope of producing a second season in 2011, says line producer Chris Moore.

Domeier maintains that Spot tags will add substantially to the work he and others have already conducted with simpler forms of devices. In late November, he explained via email that he suspects that the Guadalupe great whites may move through the Pacific on a two-year migratory cycle — a time period that only Spot tags can reliably record, he said.

"Effective international white shark conservation requires us to find out where these mature females are spending their time when they do not return to the adult aggregation sites," he wrote.

"We cannot understand the threats they face without knowing precisely where they are during this time. The Spot tagging methods I have developed will allow us to track individuals for up to 6 years."

Domeier asserts that all white sharks he has Spottagged have been proven to be alive after the procedure, each animal generating the satellite *pings* indicative of a live, swimming shark.

"The level of temporary stress we subject these fish to is unfortunate, but the scientific advancements are well worth the effort," he wrote by email. "Our tracking data has proven these sharks quickly resume their normal behavior."

During Domeier's earlier white shark research at Guadalupe Island, he tagged 75 animals using handheld tagging poles. The satellite tags released from the sharks between 15 and 246 days after deployment, and 9 devices were later recovered, providing data on white shark migra-

tory behavior. At least five of the tagged animals had swum as far west as Hawaii before returning to the Mexican island, and when Domeier and coauthor Nicole Lucas published their findings in October 2008 in the *Marine Ecology Progress Series*, they added substantially to the amassing scientific knowledge of the life habits and movement patterns of white sharks.

Scientists have been tracking great white sharks for years. A group called Tagging of Pacific Predators, based in Northern California, put transmitters into 179 Northern California great white sharks between 2000 and 2008 and in November published findings on the migratory patterns of the fish. Sean Van Sommeran, founder of the Pelagic Shark Research Foundation in Santa Cruz, has inserted approximately 50 identification tags and transmitters into white sharks using handheld tagging poles as they swam past his boat.

"We've been tagging them by hand from a boat for 15 years," says Van Sommeran. "It's the best way. It's less invasive, doesn't stress the animal, and has produced an avalanche of data. We barely touch the sharks."

Goldman, the fisheries biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, conducted transmitter research on white sharks in the 1990s at the Farallon Islands.

"I really wonder how much more information they can get off the Spot tags than from the other kinds of satellite tags already in use that don't require lifting this heavy fish from the water," he says.

Mike Lever is, like Douglas, a cage-diving guide, whose vessel, *Nautilus Explorer*, is based in Ensenada. In 2008, Lever donated \$14,000 to Domeier's work, hoping to assist in understanding the species upon which his livelihood depends. But Lever also has doubts about the safety of white sharks undergoing Spot-tagging.

"I believe in pricking a shark with a spear and receiving tracking data for years afterward, but do we need to be hauling sharks onto boats for the same goal?" says Lever. "The big question is, Are the sharks okay afterward?"

Domeier contends that his work has been criticized unfairly, as other researchers have Spot-tagged large animals. Researchers have placed Spot tags on 400-pound salmon sharks. University of California at Davis biologists have Spot-tagged eight-footlong hammerheads at the Galapagos. And the Tag-A-Giant Foundation, based in New York, has deployed dozens of pop-off tags onto half-ton bluefin tuna, caught on rod and reel and lifted onto the deck of a vessel.

"These very same colleagues use the exact same methods as I on other species that have similar conservation status, but for some reason it is OK," Domeier wrote by email.

Even before Domeier began his current research. Spot-tagging had a cloudy history at Guadalupe Island. In 2006, an independent researcher, Dr. Ramón Bonfil, pulled a white shark from the water and placed a Spot tag on the animal as part of another National Geographic film project. The shark, a 16foot female well known to the Guadalupe Island cage-diving community and nicknamed "Clytie," has not been seen since.

Other researchers currently study great white sharks at the island. Dr. Mauricio Hoyos, an independently funded biologist from La Paz, is tracking the local movements of Guadalupe Island white sharks via acoustic tags, which are deployed with a simple stab at the dorsal muscles with a handheld lance and which emit a signal each time a tagged shark passes near a subsurface receiver. The data provided by such tags is limited — a presence or absence of the animal. Hoyos could not be reached for comment, but a field assistant, UC Davis biotelemetry grad student James Ketchum, acknowledged the great value of tracking animals across the ocean via Spot tags.

"But I don't think they need to lift the shark out of the water," says Ketchum, who believes Spot-tagging could cause internal injuries. "I think they could keep the shark in the water in a sling as they bolt in the tag, but what they're doing is very sensationalist. It's something that sells." ■









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#### **STRINGERS**

continued from page 7

**Edgar Gonzalez and Peter** Tegel risked their lives to prevent the suicide.

"Pete [Tegel] noticed a car parked mid-span in the center lane of the bridge," said Len Kaine, an associate of Tegel's. "He then saw a man hanging on the outside of the bridge railing, preparing to jump. Cars were passing by, but Pete chose to stop. He jumped out and ran to the man. He grabbed him and tried to pull him back onto the bridge. The man was too big for Pete to do it alone, so he hung on tight.

"The elderly man kept saying he was ready to die, but Pete, being the good Christian that he is, hung on for dear life. Another car stopped, and now Pete had help keeping the man from jumping to his death. An off-duty policeman, on his own motorcycle, also stopped to help. Pete and these two gentlemen were able to get the distraught man safely back onto the bridge."

By Noel Gallego, 12/8

#### **Comments**

1. Good to know there are **Good Samaritans at** Coronado since Lam looking for properties

> By BGates 8:28 a.m., Dec 9

CITY LIGHTS

2. People have a right to choose their own destiny. This man was ready and not begging for attention, like the two recent low altitude freeway jumpers. All they accomplished was to knot up traffic for hours.

> Bv xians421 10:06 a.m., Dec 9

3. I have to agree with xians. I hate to say it, but the two "saviors" seem a bit arrogant. I'm not saying they're wrong, I'm just playing Devil's Advocate. I myself don't want to live past 50. If I do, fine.

By PistolPete 1:30 p.m., Dec 9

4. The only problem with this is that so often people would have changed their minds the next day, or even in the next hour. I don't see these guys as necessarily arrogant, and whether or not they were Christians, they may have been motivated by the strong altruistic instinct many humans have, to not let someone else be injured.

> By SDaniels 3:54 p.m., Dec 9

#### **River Valley Mall**

**Hubcap-High and Draining Slowly** 

Mission Valley — Monday's downpour and ensuing floods might have hindered holiday shopping when the San Diego River overflowed its banks and inundated acres of lowlevel parking garages at Fashion Valley Mall.



Fashion Valley parking structure

The flooded parking spaces - numbering over 1000 and some under three feet of muddy water were along the mall's south side, just a few dozen yards from the swollen river.

Floodwater was still hubcap-high and draining slowly on Tuesday afternoon. Parking garage entrances remained barricaded with yellow police tape and orange cones, and frustrated shoppers sought parking on higher ground.

The garages are expected to be completely drained before this weekend.

A security guard said, "But if it rains hard again this week, the lower lots will stay flooded."

By Louis Carufel, 12/9

#### **No Sell Motel**

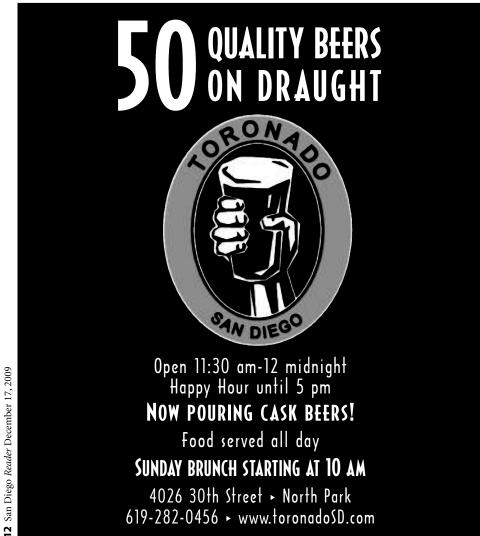
**Eminent Domain** in Vista

Vista — The city council decided on December 8 to follow through on a plan to increase sales-tax revenue by purchasing four properties, including the site of North County Ford, then leasing the land back to the business.

The deal would allow **North County Ford to move**  to 355 West Vista Way and would give the company two years to build a Honda or a Toyota dealership at its previous location. The city would pay \$10.5 million for properties located at 120 Plymouth Drive and 355, 405, and 450 West Vista Way that belong to North County Ford. A fifth property, the Vista Riviera Motel, is key to the city's plan and may have to be taken by eminent domain.

"If it's taken," Michael Stump, the owner's attorney, said, "Mr. [Pankaj]

continued on page 124







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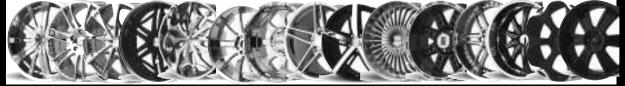












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## LETTERS

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

#### **So Many Questions**

Re "Gompers Takes a Bow" (Cover Story, December 10).

Excellent article. As a person who attended Gompers in the seventh grade, I understand the landscape in which these kids must survive. I think that a follow-up story is in order; more specifically, one about the principal, Vincent Riveroll. Where did he grow up? Where did he go to college? Where did he learn his methods? What has happened to previous schools he has changed? On the other side, can more information be given about the previous principals that allowed the lawlessness at Gompers?

This article gave great insight and concrete evidence into what the motivation behind the teachers' union is. Can the author follow up with other charter schools and reveal their struggles with the school district as well as the teachers' union?

I like the numbers as it pertains to the special-ed students and cost. I would be interested to know how much of the \$5.5 million the district receives.

If the amount is in the order of 20 percent, then I can see why they would fight it so much. It would be interesting to see how much they receive versus how much they spend, i.e., overhead and administration (as opposed to construction).

All in all, a great article about a success story.

> Name Withheld by Request via email

#### Take A Boo

Re "Gompers Takes a Bow" (Cover Story, December 10).

What a load of crap. I worked at Gompers from 1990 until it closed in 2007. They

had to drag me out of there. I loved that school, the teachers, some of whom were there for 30 years, and especially the kids. At some point, Vince Riveroll needs to try to champion his success on something positive instead of his superhero act — it just doesn't play.

Name Withheld by Request via email

#### **Citizens Unite!**

Congratulations to Gompers on defeating the bureaucracy ("Gompers Takes a Bow," Cover Story, December 10)! They tried all of their tricks to keep the same old broken system filled with fat paychecks for the school elite, but Gompers prevailed anyway. The set of rules and regulations for schools could fill a large office, and the rules are all made to keep the same broken system in place that includes the teachers' union. Citizens, unite; we must change this education system where our kids are not safe in school. We must change the expectations where our kids believe they are doomed to failure because the bureaucracy is a failure. Thank you, Gompers, for showing us that there is hope for our children.

> Gene F. via email



#### The True Segway Way

Re "Get Outta My Segway, Mayor" ("Stringers," December 10).

The staff recommendation was to require parental supervision of anyone who rented a Segway in Coronado who was under 16. My suggestion was to require parental supervision of any Segway renter who was under 18. I did not suggest the prohibition of Segway rentals to all minors. I just wanted to clarify that point because a person reading this story could falsely conclude that I want to ban Segways to all minors, which is not my position.

This meeting and the discussion about Segways can be seen online at the link below.

http://coronado.12milesout.com/ClientWebApp/Coronado/Video.aspx?VideoId=05c 142d5-723f-4002-b6b3ed3dee0bab9e

Casey Tanaka Mayor of Coronado

#### He's A — Begins With J

I would like to complain about that journalist of yours, Patrick Dougherty, that article he wrote on page 15 ("Sporting Box," December 10), specifically, where he is referring to this athlete Charles Barkley. The paragraph begins, "December, 2008. Barkley is pulled over for running a stop sign in Scottsdale, Arizona." And he uses a vulgar, trashy word that begins with a b, and I won't repeat it. I think this guy Patrick Dougherty is a jerk and that you should edit his writings. What journalism school did he go to, the one on skid row? I think he's completely unacceptable. It ruined the whole article the article was very interesting except for that. It ruined the whole article, and I feel

> Paul Lang San Carlos

This is regarding the "Blurt" article December 10 ("Rock and Roll Survivor"). As a sixand-a-half-year breast-cancer survivor and a former rock bassist, I want to wish good luck to Bianca Batti and Laura Roppé, and it's good to see so many women in the music business nowadays. It's been just about exactly 30 years since I was a professional bassist, so it's good to see the girls rockin'.

> Dale Anne Thompson Clairemont

#### **Community Flees**

They say that all press is good press. Well, perhaps not everyone says that (insert Tiger Woods reference here). I am more of the mind-set that responsible press is good press.

I must say, I found your December 3 article on Chris Cantore on the slightly lessresponsible side ("Friend of Shamu," Music).

Factual inaccuracies aside, when highlighting a local individual starting a grassroots community movement, it would be helpful if the article content was both timely and relevant.

Community is a vital yet rapidly fleeting concept in our daily lives. If the Reader is truly about the San Diego community, publish another piece on Chris with realtime information regarding his internet radio site (legitradio.com) and social media management firm (cantorecreative.com).

We will all be the better for it.

> Kristyn Carroll via email

#### **Beyond Rock**

Why is your music section mostly all about rock, not everything? I would like to see different types of music and artists.

> Ashanta via email

# **Comments from Reader**

Comments are not edited for spelling, punctuation, or grammar.

#### **Sporting Box Published Dec. 9**

By jerome 9:09 a.m., Dec. 10, 2009

nothing like gossip and trash talk to keep people's minds off the robber barons that are our political leaders

why dont ya all just SHUT UP ABOUT IT...like who really cares, anyway, who tiger is spending his time with. i just enjoy watching him play golf. thats it

#### Off the Cuff Published Dec. 9

By bullwinkle 8:52 a.m., Dec. 11, 2009

I'm best at WASTING TIME - sitting at this computer - when I should be out volunteering for some worthy cause.

By rickeysays 5:21 p.m., Dec. 12, 2009

I'm best at being a student. I can learn worthless information all day. I wish there was a job called "professional student" so I could make some money off my skill.

#### Crasher Published Dec. 9

By Crissyst 2:52 a.m., Dec. 12, 2009

Star Wars is in my Top 5 Greatest Movies List. I remember seeing it in its original film release when I was 8 years old AND in Los Angeles. It was nuts. Of course I had a crush on Mark Hamill. Years ago, a close girlfriend and I had a discussion, rather she kind of condescendingly told me that I probably liked Mark Hamill (back then when we were little) and she was the only cool one, out of her friends, who liked Harrison Ford. It was funny to me because she was right to assume that.. and now we both love Harrison Ford.

#### **Sheep and Goats** Published Dec. 9

By Duhbya 4:56 p.m., Dec. 9, 2009

I always wondered when Beck would attempt to make his natural progression to the "other side". He already had nailed his Jimmy Swaggart impersonation, replete with crocodile tears, no less. ("I have sinned against you....") What a dwid.

#### **Cover Story Published Dec. 9**

By ladana 6:55 p.m., Dec. 9, 2009

While it is true Gompers has had issues for years, it





# like throwing it away. Good To See Ya

was not always the case. Back in the 1980's, academically, it was one of the most competitive, desirable high schools to attend in San Diego. At that time, it served grades 7-12, with the high school classes being small. Most graduates at the time went on to college, and many to Ivy League schools. One could merely check National Merit Scholarship awards, Academic Decathlon, Science Olympiad, and Science Fair award records to verify this. What changed? SDUSD dumped a principal there who had no regard or appreciation for the reputation Gompers' faculty and students built. In a year or two, she managed to undo all of it, which resulted in the strongest teachers fleeing the school for the likes of La Jolla High, etc. The school soon failed. Congratulations to the current faculty, staff and students for the leadership and dedication you all have shown to bringing dignity and substance back to a Gompers education. Well done!

By wiro 7:35 p.m., Dec. 9, 2009

Gompers has proved to be a great success story. Being part of the GPA family myself, I have experienced the hard work ALL staff puts into day activities. The kids are our number one priority and we all work together to help our students who need someone to believe in them. GO GOM-PERS PREP ACADEMY!!!!

By werdup 9:53 a.m., Dec. 10, 2009

Also a new staff member, and, I must admit, I was a skeptic...but, I have stayed focused and committed and this school has changed my life. These AMAZING kids have changed my life. Director Riveroll is a visionary, and he is taking us and our kids on a path that can only lead to success. If you are an educator who is not in it for the kids, then GPA is not for you. But, if you show up everyday wanting to do right by them, even when it's hard, (and let me tell you, it is the hardest job I have EVER done,) then you are in the right place.

You should come witness the magic for yourselves!

By ChuckAdkins 7:29 p.m., Dec. 10, 2009

While much of the article is valid, it seems more like a fluff piece than objective reporting. The article mentions teacher retention. Ah, a simple peruse of edjoin.org on a given day will find three to four open positions. Why are so many teachers bailing on the academy if things are so rosy?

I am not saying the good things are not happening at GPA but I would enjoy some objective reporting instead of more PR fluff from Director Riveroll, the master of

By teela 8:58 p.m., Dec. 10, 2009

As Ladana mentioned. Gompers was a very good school for many years. I graduated in 1996, in a class that had over 90% of students going to college in the fall. Leaving out the former legacy of Gompers seems like a major hole in this article.

By crewinbruin 10:23 a.m., Dec. 11, 2009

As a former Gompers student and graduate I was there throughout the 90's being bussed in as part of the magnet program. The former principal there did drive the school into the ground and ruined its once great history. I'm very happy to see that the school has been reclaimed by the neighborhood, caring teachers and the parents of the students.

During my time there I'd say the #1 problem with the school was the complete lack of parental involvement. Kids come from families where school is an afterthought to parents and there is no push to excel from home. The parents simply expect teachers to put in 100% of the work needed to raise their children. It's great to see that someone has finally broken through this cultural problem.

As for ChuckAdkins, as a former student this is not a fluff piece, but refreshing knowledge that my school is rebuilding its legacy of academic prowess. Chuck, go spend a week observing and assisting in low income schools across the county and then try and call this fluff.

By charterwatch 6:46 p.m., Dec. 12, 2009

Fluff piece would be the least criticism that could be made about the article. Ignoring the misspelling of Keiller, the article is riddled with inaccuracies and overly onesided.

Beginning with the name of the school being Gompers Prep. While that is the name of the newly opened high school with 9th graders only, there is a 6th through 8th grade Gompers Charter Middle School (GCMS) still in operation. There was a recent U-T article that brought to light the somewhat nebulous reason to merge the schools. Mostly, the ability to bury the middle school and forget that it's in Year 3 of Program Improvement and not have the high school loose a \$450,000 federal grant received by every new charter school that is opened. This money grab by charter operators is only just being exposed to the light of day.

Mainstreaming Special Education students does not change the fact that they may still be identified as such and must receive services per an IEP. GCMS could still have 18% of its students identified as Special Education. Gompers did not "hire" the El

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Dorado County SELPA but had to apply to join. While Gompers may have a large Special Education population, charter schools as a group have a much lower percentage of such students due to their ability to put up barriers to enrollment. Interesting that GCMS would like to emulate the Preuss Model school as it has one of the lowest Special Education populations and yet insists it does not cherry pick students. Most charter schools will continue to abandon Special Education students as educating them can be quite costly and they don't really fit into their vision.

Also of interest, is that the school's Director and several other top level administrative staff of the school, remain employees of the San Diego Unified School District. Wouldn't it be nice that these "District" employees were subject to the same "at will" employment contracts

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lic education under the guise of "public" charter schools continues. It would be amusing if it wasn't so scary but the question about the root of all evil is all too apt and should make the taxpayers greatly concerned.

A game indeed! By Hmmmmm 7:45 p.m., Dec. 12, 2009

After reading this article I am left wondering. Why is a school that demonstrates best practices continually showing minimal to no

improvement in student achievement? How is it that the administration of Gompers will go to such great lengths to hide its cracks? Gompers was built on the foundation and hard work of strong teachers and leaders with a mission that every school should adopt. Yet, as the years have passed this charter has become a fake. There are no teachers in this school that don't live and breathe the wish to close the

continued on page 66





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# **New World** Disorder

The promotional boast that this is "beyond imagination" is manifestly unfounded.

MOVIE

**DUNCAN SHEPHERD** 

he reviewer of *Avatar* seems honor-bound to declare which Avatar he is reviewing. Me? 2-D, no. 3-D, yes. IMAX, no. I'm in no position to gauge the differences. Viewers

who opt for 2-D, and for saving a couple of bucks off the admission price, will presumably not duplicate my disorien-

tation in the early going: the people and objects flattened out, paradoxically more two-dimensional than in 2-D, more cardboard cutout than rounded sculpture, and slotted into separate vertical planes with spaces in between, the furthest thing from lifelike, not even all that close to movielike, closer perhaps to the 19th-century toy theaters immortalized in Stevenson's essay, "A Penny Plain and Twopence Coloured." Parallel paper dolls and props and painted scenery.

This flatness, this separateness, will be less bothersome a problem later on, and for the better part of the running time, when human actors give way to cartoon characters molded and

> shaded into an illusion of corporality, when, in other words, live action gives way to total or preponderant com-

puter animation. Or when you get used to it or resigned to it. But the 2-D viewer will presumably also not register the oddest 3-D effect, when English subtitles for the language spoken on the celestial body of Pandora are inserted on a plane in the middle distance between a foreground figure and an upstage figure, as if the foreground one could look down and read the subtitle himself. This effect is silly, is pretentious, is pointless, and nonetheless is fun.

Much the same could be said of



the movie as a whole. Silly, pretentious, pointless, and fun is surely less than writer and director James Cameron had in mind for his first feature film since Titanic twelve years ago, purportedly ten of those years in the making, a two hour and forty-five minute "visionary" science-fiction epic that dishes up an allegory on globalism, a warm-over of the old science-versusmilitary debate, a dose of Noble Savage romanticism, a Capt. Smith and Pocahontas culture-clash romance, an ecological message, and a tree-felling that insistently recalls the toppling of the World Trade Center. Among other things. There appears little doubt that Cameron drew upon all his mental powers, yet happily those powers prove too feeble, too reliant on convention

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and stereotype, or if you wish to make it sound better, on tradition and archetype, to ruin the fun. The powers themselves, with their rumble of self-importance and their straining for significance, are part and parcel of the kitschy fun.

One thing that brings the film down to earth, or perhaps we should say down to Terra, is that the basic plotline copies closely that of the com-

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puter-animated science-fiction adventure of a little over half a year ago and a little over half the length, Battle for Terra, a terrestrial soldier siding with the extraterrestrial natives, one female native above all, in resisting the colonization of a distant planet by earthlings, i.e., alien invaders. No theft is alleged, nothing worse than conformity. There are of course individualities. The planet in Avatar, though no less fully computer-generated, contains a tropical jungle with special features such as Floating Mountains and bottomless waterfalls, a Sacred Tree with windborne seeds in the form of flying jellyfish, and a menagerie of beasties out of The Lost World, while the soldier is a paraplegic who once more can "virtually" walk and run by means of his remote hookup to a laboratorybred replica of the twelve-foot-tall, blue-skinned natives with their panther faces and toned-up Gumby torsos.

This protagonist gives a nice big lead role to Sam Worthington, albeit often only the dubbed voice of Sam Worthington, who showed in Terminator Salvation that he was worthy of one. And Stephen Lang, with striated battle scars on his head, pumps some boiling blood into the stale role of the shoot-first military commander, a formidable antagonist, far more so than the merely obnoxious Giovanni Ribisi as a white-collar pencil neck sneering at "fly-bitten savages that live in a tree." Sigourney Weaver, the drowned-out voice of science and of reason, bequeaths to Lang her robotic suit of armor from the climax of Cameron's Aliens.

But the promotional boast that all or any of this is "beyond imagination"



is manifestly unfounded. If it's on screen, it has been imagined. Manifestly. Imagined and then actualized. It is a bit of this and a bit of that (a lot, to repeat, of the aforesaid *Battle for Terra*, which had lain around for a couple of years prior to its release, and bits of *Apocalypto, Emerald Forest, Dances with Wolves*, the recent *District 9*, the more recent *Surrogates*, whatever else you please), a Frankenstein's monster assembled from never before precisely combined body parts. Well within the realm of imagination.

Where *Avatar* seeks to distinguish itself is more or less where *2012*, to name another piece of enjoyable juvenilia, also sought to distinguish itself: in its CGI effects. And like *2012*, it actually man-

ages to achieve some distinction. It is inarguably a visual experience, even if not inarguably a movie, but rather something "other," something alien, something mutant, more of an extended amusementpark ride, not the proverbial thrill ride of critical blurbs but an ooh-and-ahh ride, or maybe no more than a huhand-hmm ride. Whatever it is, it carries through to completion the common science-fiction activity of creating a new world. And it's to its credit that it comes as close as it does to filling up the two hours or so before the shooting starts. After that, in the sound and fury of primal space opera, its distinction becomes less distinct.

I might add in parting that it's to the credit of the coming-attractions

trailer that so many of the film's visual stimuli have been held back from public view. The moviegoer these days gets so accustomed to having an entire movie laid out for him in the trailer that he could be excused for a lack of enthusiasm over *Avatar*. Is that all there is? Well, no, as a matter of fact, not nearly. And even if I wouldn't push anyone to go see it, in particular anyone above the age of twelve, I would advise him all the same not to let the trailer stop him.

#### MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews sorted alphabetically, by year of release and by rating, are available online at SanDiegoReader.com.

**Armored** — "There's no bad guys, only good guys": an inside job among armored-car guards, thoroughly and lethally botched. Compact caper film, all business, worked out with an overabundance of closeups and





# Calendar

occasional cracks in credibility. With Columbus Short, Matt Dillon, Laurence Fishburne, Jean Reno, Skeet Ulrich, and Fred Ward; directed by Nimrod Antal. 2009. ★ (CHULA VISTA 10; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; PALM PROMENADE 24: PLAZA BONITA 14)

**Avatar** — Reviewed this issue. With Sam Worthington, Sigourney Weaver, Stephen Lang, Giovanni Ribisi, and Michelle Rodriguez; written and directed by James Cameron.

★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION WARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 12/18)

#### **Bad Lieutenant, Port of Call: New**

**Orleans** — Nearly but not quite a remake of Abel Ferrara's Bad Lieutenant of 1992, at the very least a relocation of it from the Big Apple to the Big Easy, perhaps simply a variation on a theme — all the same kinds of badness, drugs, gambling, prostitutes, a blind eye to crime under his nose — but hardly a viable franchise, a continuing series, even assuming there's no shortage of bad lieutenants around the country. (Bad Lieutenant, Port of Call: Duluth.) If the film doesn't match the hellish hyperbole of its namesake, that's not at all a bad thing, a kind of badness that we don't want matched. And yet, not so good if not all the way to downright bad, the German director Werner Herzog now seems more fully assimilated into Hollywood than in his previous commercial venture, Rescue Dawn more fully erased as a nutball personality, despite some genuinely odd reptile footage: a twitching road-killed alligator and an interested alligator onlooker into whose skin or eveball the camera earnestly tries to crawl, and later, equally close-up, a couple of hallucinatory iguanas. Not remotely competent as a well-knit policier, and with a final stretch that feels like an extended dream scene from which we keep expecting to wake up, the film holds our interest, scene by scene, through its vivid characters acted with an edge. Nicolas Cage, who more than once goes over the top in his psychosis, at all times does painfully well at miming the symptoms of a bad back (tilted shoulders, bent body, a forward lean as if withstanding a gale-force tailwind), the best kind of badness in the film. Eva Mendes, Val Kilmer, Brad Dourif, Fairuza Balk, Xzibit. 2009

★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

The Blind Side — Soft warm cozy sports story from the maker of The Rookie, John Lee Hancock, about a headstrong well-todo white Memphis housewife who takes under her wing and under her roof a homeless black gentle giant, an irresistible force meeting an immovable object. Sandra Bullock stays obstinately on the surface of her role, and Ouinton Aaron is touchingly minimalist as Michael Oher, a future firstround NFL draft pick. Very late in the game a couple of aspersions are cast on the motives of Oher's adoptive parents, aspersions which, if shown to be even fractionally valid, might have made a more interesting movie. With Tim McGraw, Jae Head, Lily Collins, Kathy Bates, and assorted college football coaches as themselves, Nick Saban, Phil Fulmer, Lou Holtz, et al. 2009. ★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14: CHULA VISTA 10:

DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18;

MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; OTAY

RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA

COSTA 6: LA JOLLA 12: MISSION

DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14)

GROSSMONT CENTER 10; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA

BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SANTEE

Brothers — Jim Sheridan's Hollywood do-over of Susanne Bier's Danish original is a wartime soap opera served up as kitchensink realism, photographed by Frederick Elmes with a clear and cold albeit clichéd eye for Middle American mundanity. The Good Brother (Tobey Maguire) is off to war in Afghanistan, currently the Good War, a week after the Bad Brother (Jake Gyllenhaal) is out of prison. Then, in a contrivance every long-running daytime drama will have at some point resorted to, namely the Presumed Dead scenario, the good one is erroneously reported KIA, and in his absence the bad one, showing signs of getting better, moves in to provide aid and comfort to his sister-in-law (Natalie Portman) and two nieces. A reserved Maguire, saving up the vein-popping hysterics for the final reel, looks alarmingly pale and frail on his rescue from captivity and his return home, but the slobbery empathy for the maladjusted veteran sets a near impossible standard, as if to imply you mightn't come in for empathy unless you'd been forced to beat one of your

buddies to death with a lead pipe. (Just to tighten the screws, the widow and rug rat of the bludgeoned comrade will turn up one day in your living room.) The film's most interesting material, the two young daughters' shifted affection from their zombified father to their barrel-of-fun uncle, demonstrates that interest can be generated without heat and hoo-hah. Sam Shepard, Mare Winningham, Bailee Madison, Taylor Geare. 2009.

★ (DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; TOWN SQUARE 14)

A Christmas Carol — Disney's re-do is probably better the fewer times you've read, seen, or heard the story. With or without 3-D, this is nevertheless a lavishly, lovingly, and imaginatively illustrated edition of the Dickens holiday classic, in a graphic style congenial to a Victorian ghost story, and in a motion-capture computer-animation technique which director Robert Zemeckis has made his personal domain (The Polar Express, Beowulf, 2-D and 3-D respectively) There are amusingly recognizable caricatures, to go along with the voices, of Gary Oldman, Colin Firth, and Bob Hoskins, while Jim Carrey is sufficiently disguised by a pickax nose and scratch-awl chin, and by an acceptable British accent, so as to be no distraction. The guttering candle-flame head of the Ghost of Christmas Past is a marvelous effect, soon topped by the dissolving transparent floor in the airborne house piloted by the Ghost of Christmas Present. The Grim Reaper shadow of the Ghost of Christmas Future is not bad, but his section gives way to the grandiose spectacle of a chase by horse-drawn hearse, to say nothing of the spectacle of an Incredible Shrinking Scrooge, that rather tramples the gloom of the forecast. We don't want excitement there; we want despair. In the end, all the emphasis on the technology of the telling tends to outbalance the sentiment, such that there remains a bit of a chill even after Scrooge warms up. 2009.

★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12; POWAY 10; TOWN SQUARE 14)

#### Did You Hear about the Morgans? -

Marc Lawrence's comedy about an estranged couple (Hugh Grant, Sarah Jessica Parker) compelled to enter the witness protection program.

(CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSS-

MONT CENTER 10; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROME-NADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 12/18)

**An Education** — A precocious English schoolgirl of 1961 (a cellist, a Francophile, a devotee of the Pre-Raphaelites, a sneaky smoker for sophistication), on track for Oxford, gets rerouted by a shady older man who shows her the finer things of life: a Ravel concert, a Christie's auction, nightclubs, Paris. The foreseeable end is a bit of a slog, but the film in the early stages is very good on the pretensions of intelligent youth, and very good on the heady intoxication of growing up fast. Peter Sarsgaard's British accent is hit-and-miss; and the prim schoolmarm of Olivia Williams, a beauty disguised in eyeglasses and pulled-back hair, is strictly stock; and the comic portraits of the heroine's hidebound dad, a same-aged fumbling suitor, and a blond bimbo (Alfred Molina, Matthew Beard, Rosamund Pike, in order) are sharp but narrow. Keeping things fully alive through out, however, is Carey Mulligan in the lead, showing off, among her other talents, the freshest smile since Eleanor Powell: plenty of teeth with a demure downturn at the corners of the mouth. And Sally Hawkins, back to reality from the giddy heights of Happy-Go-Lucky, has a tiny but vital part to play. With Cara Seymour, Dominic Cooper, Emma Thompson; directed by Lone Scherfig. 2009.

★★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14, FROM 12/18; FLOWER HILL 4; HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VII LAGE)

**Everybody's Fine** — Rueful road movie, an American resetting of a Giuseppe Tornatore tearjerker, in which an ailing widower takes off cross-country in his all-brown wardrobe, New York to Chicago to Denver to Vegas, to visit individually the scattered adult children who can't make time to visit him collectively, uncovering lessons along the way on life's disappointments and deceptions. Kate Beckinsale, Sam Rockwell, and Drew Barrymore do not have much the look of siblings, but Robert De Niro has the look of a lonely man, and the film is cleanly photographed and, till a late and little attempt at feel-good, keenly observed. Directed by Kirk Jones. 2009.

★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION VALLEY 7; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; TOWN SQUARE 14) Fantastic Mr. Fox — Wes Anderson's wised-up children's film, a labor-intensive stop-motion animated adaptation of the Roald Dahl animal tale (reportedly he never visited the London set, but directed from Paris by E-mail) about a vulpine sophisticate who moves up in the world - out of a hole and into a tree — but can't escape his animal nature. (See him, for example, drop the act and rip into his food before regaining his composure: "Dinner was pitchperfect.") Though the droll result has its charms, such as the use of "cuss" as an allpurpose cussword, as in "I sure the cuss hope so," it's not so much for children as a group or adults as a group as it is specifically for devotees of Anderson, who is able to pursue with puppets and miniature sets his standard visual predilections: squaredup and flattened compositions, lateral action and tracking shots, a clump-clump editing rhythm. On the eclectic soundtrack (the Rolling Stones, the Beach Boys, the Wellingtons, Burl Ives), the director resorts to thievery from the film scores of Georges Delerue, like Scorsese in Casino, for the moments of peak emotion. With the voices of George Clooney, Meryl Streep, Jason Schwartzman, Eric Anderson, Bill Murray, Michael Gambon. 2009.

★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; LA PALOMA, FROM 12/18; MISSION VALLEY 7; TOWN SQUARE 14)

The Hurt Locker - Fictitious countdown of the final six weeks in the twelvemonth tour of an army bomb squad in Baghdad. The living and working conditions in a color-free wasteland appear perfectly credible, and the quasi-sciencefictional details of the job — the spaceman protective suits, the remote-control bombsniffing robot, the tangle of colored wires, the hide-and-seek triggers — are highly enlightening. And the defusing of bombs the constant prospect of their blowing up in our faces - carries a guaranteed tension, as witness such forerunners as Robert Aldrich's Ten Seconds to Hell or Michael Powell's and Emeric Pressburger's The Small Back Room. The ambush in middesert, outside the squad's normal sphere of operations, is if anything even tenser: more unpredictable, more open to possibilities. Kathryn Bigelow, one of the rare female action directors, dead-set on matching any man in muscle, favors here the combatfootage filmmaking style of jostles and jars to the camera, punchy zooms, whiplashing pans, and a chronic shaky hand, not neces sarily restricted to scenes of combat. This is

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#### **CONCERT REVIEWS**

#### Gloom Boy's Band

By Paul Kaplan | Published Sunday, Dec. 13, 2009



It is rainy and cold on Fern Street in South Park, about as gloomy as San Diego gets. Local death-rockers Blessure Grave set up in the tiny anteroom at the Whistle Stop in front of a screen showing a creepy 1980s flick with Sigourney Weaver. Lots of black clothes, complex hair, and ungroomed beards in the crowd. This vibe is incongruous because the Whistle Stop is a boisterous, friendly place and Blessure Grave and their fans are card-carrying members of Goth nation, albeit of the indie-punk strand, not the corny Elizabethan strand.

The music begins with tom-tom beats, droning bass, and shimmering walls of high-gain, warm-toned guitar. You can't hear the vocals at all. The focal point is T. Grave, guitar man and singer. He is a simulacrum, a perfect-copy-that-never-really-existed of an '80s gloom-boy, with shards of obsidian hair and an androgynous lean over the mike. There is also Reyna Kay, elfin-faced and weirdly cheerful amid all the black. The other musicians, although playing well, are support staff. Blessure Grave's music sounds like early-'80s death rock, only heavier. Think Faith-era Cure crossed with the guitar volume and dissonance of Sonic Youth. The best thing tonight is the guitar tones. All four stringed instruments stand out, and the droning layers create a sense of waterfalls.

#### In-Solvent-See at HOB

By Matthew Penna | Published Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009



Stepping into the world of Nivek Ogre and cEvin Key is like stepping into a Dadaist electro-performance-art thrill ride. The show began with a crippled Ogre entering the stage. He was hunched over, supporting himself on a cane. On his head was a tall, white mitre, his face had a white mask with large, black pits for eyes, and a long, gnarled beard hung off his jaw. His white outfit looked like a straightjacket with its clasps and extended sleeves. The performance of their "In Solvent See" tour was another Skinny Puppy visual and audio head-trip.

Despite defaming the Holy See, the show was less grotesque than previous ones. However, there was one point where Ogre was in a box and it looked as if he was shot from behind as red liquid oozed down the Plexiglas. He sang a few songs from inside this box with his face directed into a camera that projected his wide-angled image onto the big screen behind the drums. The show used a sophisticated light and projector system with screens set up above cEvin Key's gear.

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trendy at best, a tired cliché at worst. (The amplified heartbeat and the slo-mo explosion ought to be put to bed for a rest period of not less than a generation.) She takes a lot of time on the action scenes, or more broadly the tension scenes, and not much time in between, so that the three principals — Jeremy Renner, Anthony Mackie, Brian Geraghty, each of them looking the part — are thin on character, static in development, no more than generic as opposed to individual soldiers. With Guv Pearce, Ralph Fiennes, David Morse. 2009. ★★ (FLOWER HILL 4; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA 12; FROM 12/18)

**Invictus** — Doubtless not the sort of project that fans of director Clint Eastwood want from him, a Big Statement, no matter how characteristically understated. Marrying elements of the Great Man biography and the inspirational true sports story, it tells of Nelson Mandela's first years as the first black president of South Africa timely parallel to somebody closer to and his outwardly frivolous, inwardly farsighted interest in his country's hosting of the Rugby World Cup, 1995, as an opportunity to unify a divided populace. (An anti-revenge film, a reconciliation film, it could have been titled Forgiven to round out the course of contrition Eastwood undertook way back with Unforgiven.) The extensive speechmaking does not get in the way of the director's serene craftsmanship, the slanted compositions solidly hinged together and unfolded at a steady and imperturbable pace, stretching out customarily to a wieldy and evenly balanced two and a quarter hours. Morgan Freeman as Mandela (put a batik shirt on his back and a smile on his face and it's amazing how well he can pass) and Matt Damon as the rugby team captain, François Pienaar, struggle to outdo one another in stoical underplaying, and neither struggles noticeably with the accent. Eastwood, meantime, has his own struggle in making an unfamiliar sport comprehensible ("So, it is very important that we beat

Australia"), and although he fails at that on the field of play, he succeeds stirringly in the stands and on the streets and in front of the nation's televisions. 2009.

★★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VAL-LEY 18: GASLAMP 15: GROSSMONT CENTER 10: LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Me and Orson Welles — Filmmaker Richard Linklater fictionalizes, mythologizes, the Mercury Theatre's mounting of a modern-dress Julius Caesar in 1937, the titular "me" being a stagestruck high-schooler who in one week lands a small speaking and singing part in the Broadway production, falls head over heels for the company secretary, sees her stolen out from under him by the titular Orson, gets fired and rehired and refired, falls back on a nicer girl for a happy ending, and at least has something to tell his grandchildren. As a coming-of-age tale, it isn't much, but as an exhibition of old-fashioned studio filmmaking, luxurious sets and costumes lusciously photographed, it is more than adequate. In eye and in mouth, in glance and in cadence, the unknown British actor Christian McKay magically conjures the Welles we know, although given his age it would be the Welles of, say, The Third Man or Othello. (Other Mercury players we know, Joseph Cotten, George Coulouris, Norman Lloyd, are not rendered with such fidelity, or indeed any fidelity, outside of perhaps the choppy waves on Cotten's head.) It ought to give us serious pause when we calculate to ourselves that the actor who fills the role of the teenager, Zac Efron, is in real life the same age as Welles would have been in 1937, and in that pause we can reflect that we are getting the Welles of myth and legend instead of the Welles of a particular time and place. The performance remains more impression than characterization. Claire Danes, Eddie Marsan, Ben Chaplin, Zoe Kazan. 2009.

Peter Rainer, THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

DIRECTED BY RICHARD LINKLATER

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-Patrick Goldstein, LOS ANGELES TIMES

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IT'S A BLAST!

Claire

12/18; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

The Men Who Stare at Goats — The first film directed by character actor Grant Heslov has a promising premise (paranormal military research), plenty of script troubles (an investigative reporter's blathering narration, the disruptive channelswitching between periods twenty years apart, a sputtery and rudderless last act), and a couple of tickling performances by Jeff Bridges as the hippie-haired architect of the New Earth Army, a new breed of supersoldiers and psychic spies, alias Jedi Warriors (thus a new emphasis in the slogan, "Be *All* You Can Be"), and by, in a larger part, George Clooney as his most ardent disciple. It also has Ewan McGregor and Kevin Spacey. 2009.

★ (GASLAMP 15)

The Messenger — Three months from the finish of his tour of duty, a wounded Iraq War vet gets assigned on the home front to the Casualty Notification Team, a recipe for overacting. A muted Samantha Morton almost alone avoids the pitfall. With Ben Foster, Woody Harrelson, Jena Malone, and Steve Buscemi; directed by Oren Moverman, 2009.

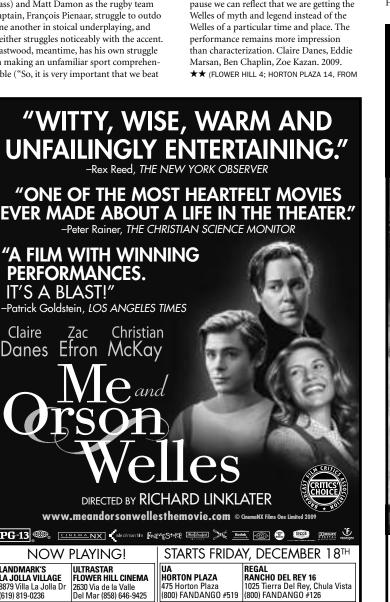
★ (GASLAMP 15)

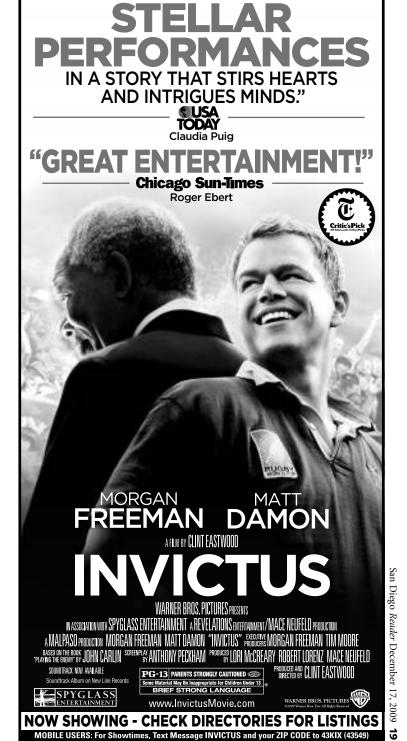
New Moon — Second installment in "The Twilight Saga" from the best-selling girls' books by Stephenie Meyer, a vampire movie sprinkled with pop songs, long and slow and slack. (New director: Chris Weitz.) Whatever may be the attributes that make this franchise a "phenomenon," they seem to ensure that it will also have a significant silly factor: e.g., the extracurricular alignment of Team Edward against Team Jacob. Hardly has the lipsticked bloodsucker (a



narcotized Robert Pattinson as Edward) given his human girlfriend the kiss-off for her own good — "Leaving you," he will later allow, "was the hardest thing I've done in a hundred years" — than his only romantic rival (a bulked-up Taylor Lautner as Jacob) turns into a werewolf and, again for her own good, gives her another kiss-off. (Further silliness: he and his bare-chested pack are good were wolves, preying only on bad vampires and leaving humans as well as good vampires untouched.) Kristen Stewart, who looks now a little different, as if possibly she spent summer vacation getting an advanced degree at cosmetology school, makes something palpable of the adolescent tragedy of rejection, quite an achievement in the circumstances. With Billy Burke, Michael Sheen, Dakota Fanning. 2009. • (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14: CHULA VISTA 10: GROSSMONT CENTER 10; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6: LA JOLLA 12: MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; TOWN SOUARE 14)

Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire — A bit of well-meaning manipulation, unevenly photographed, alternately oversaturated and washed-out and glossy and grainy, centered around a Harlem African-American illiterate obese unwed teenage mother of a Down's daughter, now pregnant again, expelled from school, abused and battered at home by her welfare mother, an incestuous rape victim of her absentee father, and oh, HIV-positive. We don't find out all of that at once. It piles up. Some interesting effects are gotten from the heroine's first-person voice-over, interwoven at competitive volume with the dialogue, such that it plays as interior monologue rather than expository narration. The fantasy scenes almost attain a similar musing quality, triggered as they are by the heroine's urgent desire to escape, but the actual content of these fantasies - a red-carpet Hollywood premiere, a mirror reflection of a slender beautiful blonde in place of a fat black, a subtitled black-andwhite takeoff on a telecast of De Sica's Two Women, etc. — exhibit a consistent inanity





"FREEMAN AND DAMON GIVE

# **MOVIE SHOWTIMES**

Showtimes subject to change. (Bargain showtimes in parentheses.)

#### **CENTRAL**

#### **CARMEL MOUNTAIN**

#### Carmel Mountain 14

#2704)

Avatar (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 2:45) 6:00, 9:15: Avatar 3D (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:30, 3:45) 7:00, 10:15; The Blind Side (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:55, 1:40) 4:25, 7:20, 10:05; A Christmas Carol (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 2:15) 4:30; Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 1:15, 3:30) 5:45, 8:10, 10:30; **An Education** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:10, 1:20, 3:30) 5:40, 8:00, 10:20; Everybody's Fine (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (2:40) 4:50; Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:35, 12:35); Invictus (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:45, 1:35) 4:20, 7:10, 9:55; New Moon (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:30, 1:15) 4:00, 7:05, 9:55; Old Dogs (PG) Fri.-Sun. 7:25, 9:30; Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:45, 2:15) 5:05, 7:30, 10:00; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 11:15, 12:30, 1:30, 2:45, 3:45) 5:00, 6:00, 7:15, 8:15, 9:25, 10:25; **2012** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 7:00, 10:10

#### **CLAIREMONT**

#### **Town Square 14**

4665 Clairemont Drive (800-326-3264 #2722) **Avatar** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:30, 1:15, 3:45) 4:30, 7:00, 7:45, 10:15, 11:00; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 2:30) 5:45, 9:00; The Blind Side (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:55, 11:55, 1:40, 2:40) 4:25, 5:25, 7:15, 8:15, 10:05, 11:05; Brothers (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:25, 1:50) 4:35, 7:10, 9:40; A Christmas Carol (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:50, 1:20); Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:35, 2:10) 4:50, 7:30, 10:20 Sun. (11:35, 2:10) 4:50, 7:30, 10:20 Everybody's Fine (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (3:35) 5:50; Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Fri.-Sun. 8:05, 10:25; **Invictus** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:45, 1:35) 4:30, 7:20, 10:30; **New Moon** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:40, 1:25) 4:10, 7:05, 10:10; **Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:05, 2:00) 4:40, 7:25, 9:55; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 12:10, 1:10, 2:25, 3:25) 4:55, 5:55, 7:10, 8:10, 9:30, 10:30; **2012** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 2:45) 6:05, 9:20

#### **DOWNTOWN**

#### Gaslamp 15

701 Fifth Avenue (800-326-3264 #2709) Armored (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:40, 1:50) 4:05, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30 Sun. (11:40, 1:50) 4:05, 6:10, 8:20; Brothers (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:35, 12:40, 2:05,

3:10) 4:35, 5:40, 7:05, 8:10, 9:35, 10:40 Sun. (11:35, 12:40, 2:05, 3:10) 4:35, 5:40, 7:05, 8:10, 9:35: Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Fri.-Sat. (11:45) 2:00) 4:10, 6:15, 8:20, 10:25 Sun. (11:45, 2:00) 4:10, 6:15, 8:20; The Hurt Locker (R) Fri.-Sun (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:30, 1:00, 2:20, 3:50) 5:10. 7:00, 8:00, 9:50, 10:45 Sun. (11:30, 1:00, 2:20, 3:50) 5:10, 7:00, 8:00, 9:50; **The Men Who** Stare at Goats (R) Fri.-Sat. (1:10, 3:30) 5:50, 8:05, 10:20 Sun. (1:10, 3:30) 5:50, 8:05; The Messenger (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:30, 2:55) 5:20, 7:45, 10:10; Ninja Assassin (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:10, 2:30) 4:50, 7:10, 9:30; Old Dogs (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:25, 1:35, 3:40) 5:45; Pirate Radio (R) Fri.-Sat. (12:00, 2:35) 5:15, 7:50, 10:35 Sun. (12:00, 2:35) 5:15, 7:50; **2012** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:45, 1:55, 3:05) 5:05, 6:30, 8:15, 9:45; Uncertainty (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun. (12:20, 2:40) 4:55, 7:20, 9:40; Zombieland (R) Fri.-Sun. 7:55, 10:05

#### Horton Plaza 14

Horton Plaza (619-444-FILM) Avatar (PG-13) Fri. (11:50, 12:40, 3:10, 4:00) 6:30, 7:20, 9:50, 10:40 Sat.-Sun. (11:50, 12:40, 3:10) 4:00, 6:30, 7:20, 9:50, 10:40 Sat.-Sun. (11:50, 12:40, 3:10) 4:00, 6:30, 7:20, 9:50, 10:40; Avatar 3D (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:20, 3:40) 7:00, 10:20; The Blind Side (PG-13) Fri. (11:00, 1:45, 4:30) 7:15, 7:45, 10:05, 10:35 Sat.-Sun. (11:00, 1:45) 4:30, 7:15, 7:45, 10:05, 10:35; **The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day** (Not Rated) Fri. (11:45, 2:25, 5:05) 7:45, 10:25 Sat.-Sun. (11:45, 2:25) 5:05, 7:45, 10:25; **A Christmas Carol** (PG) Fri. (11:20, 1:55, 4:10) Sun. (11:20, 1:55) 4:10; Couples Retreat (R) Fri. (11:15, 1:50, 4:10, Couples Retreat (N) 11. (11.15, 1:50, 4:25) 7:25, 10:00 Sat.-Sun. (11:15, 1:50) 4:25, 7:25, 10:00; Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG-13) Fri. (11:00, 11:30, 1:30, 2:00, 4·15, 4·45) 7·10, 7·40, 9·40, 10·10 Sat -Sun (11:00, 11:30, 1:30, 2:00) 4:15, 4:45, 7:10, 7:40, 9:40, 10:10; **Everybody's Fine** (PG-13) Fri. 7:30, 9:45 Sun. 7:30, 9:45; **Me and Orson** Welles (PG-13) Fri. (11:35, 2:10, 4:50) 7:35 10:15 Sat.-Sun. (11:35, 2:10) 4:50, 7:35, 10:15; New Moon (PG-13) Fri. (11:10, 2:05, 4:55) 7:50, 10:45 Sat.-Sun. (11:10, 2:05) 4:55, 7:50, 10:45; Planet 51 (PG) Fri. (11:25, 1:40, 4:05) -Sun. (11:25, 1:40) 4:05; The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri.-Sun. (11:05, 1:25, 3:45) 7:05. 9:25; **The Road** (R) Fri. (11:40, 2:15, 4:50) 7:30, 10:10 Sat.-Sun. (11:40, 2:15) 4:50, 7:30. 10:10; The Metropolitan Opera: Les Contes d'Hoffmann (Not Rated) Sat. 10:00p.m.

#### KENSINGTON

4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236) Rashomon (NR) Fri. & Mon.-Thu. (5:00) 7:15, 9:30, No 9:30 pm show Thu., 12/24/09, Sat. & Sun. (2:45) 5:00, 7:15, 9:30

#### **LA JOLLA**

#### La Jolla 12

8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (888-262-4386) Avatar; The Blind Side; Brothers; Did You Hear About the Morgans?; Fantastic Mr. Fox; The Hurt Locker; Invictus; New Moon; The Princess and the Frog; Up in the Air

#### La Jolla Village

8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-819-0236) The Road (R) Fri. & Mon.-Thu. (2:10, 4:45) 7:20, 9:55, No 9:55 pm show Thu., 12/24/09 Sat. & Sun. (2:10) 4:45, 7:20, 9:55: Me and Orson Welles (PG-13) Fri. & Mon.-Thu. (2:00, 4:35) 7:10, 9:45, No 9:45 pm show Thu., 2/24/09, Sat. & Sun. (2:00) 4:35, 7:10, 9:45, Pirate Radio (R) Fri. & Mon.-Thu. (1:50, 4:25) 7:00, 9:35, No 9:35 pm show Thu., 12/24/09; Sat. & Sun. (1:50) 4:25, 7:00, 9:35; An Education (PG-13) Fri. & Mon.-Thu. (2:20, 4:55) 7:30, 10:05, No 10:05 pm show Thu., 12/24/09, Sat. & Sun. (2:20) 4:55, 7:30,

#### **MIRA MESA**

#### Mira Mesa 18

10733 Westview Parkway (800-326-3264) Avatar 3D (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. 900 1220 340 700 1020 130, Sun. - Tue. 900 1220 340 700 1020; The Metropolitan Opera: Les Contes d'Hoffmann (NR) Sat 1000: Avatar 3D (PG-13), Fri. (930 1100 1255 230 420)605 745 935 1200 100, Sat. (930 1100 1255)230 420 605 745 935 1200 100, Sun. (930 1100 1255)230 420 605 745 935, Mon. - Tue. (930 1100 1255 230 420)605 745 935; **Avatar** (PG-13) Fri. - Tue. 720 1100; Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG-13) Fri. (940 1130 1225 205 300 435 535)715 810 950 1045 1220, Sat. (1130)205 300 435 535 715 810 950 1045 1220, Sun. (940 1130 1225)205 300 435 535 715 810 950 1045. Tue. (940 1130 1225 205 300 435 535)715 810 950 1045; Up in The Air (R) Fri. (920 1050 1200 135 240 415 520)655 800 930 1040 1210, Sat. (135)240 415 520 655 800 930 1040 1210, Sun. (920 1050 1200 135)240 415 520 655 800 930 1040, Mon. (920 1050 1200 135 240 415 520)655 800 930 1040, Tue. (1050 1215 135 245 415 520)655 800 930 1040; **The** Princess and the Frog (G) Fri. (1040)620, Sat (115)840, Sun. (1040)840; Invictus (PG-13) Fri. (950 1155 105 410)730 1025, Sat. - Sun. (950 1155 105)410 730 1025, Mon. - Tue. (950 1155 105 410)730 1025; The Princess and the Frog (G) Mon. (1040)620, Tue. (115)840; The **Princess and the Frog** (G) Fri. (910 1150 115 220 350 450)725 840 945 1110, Sat. (910 1040 1150)220 350 450 620 725 945 1110, Sun. (910 1150 115)220 350 450 620 725 945, Mon. (910 1150 115 220 350 450)725 840 945, Tue. (910 1040 1150 220 350 450)620 725 945; **Armored** (PG-13) Fri. - Tue. (1020)940: Brothers (R)

Fri. (1120 200 455)735 1015, Sat. - Sun. (1120

200)455 735 1015, Mon. - Tue. (1120 200 455)735 1015; Ninja Assassin (R) Fri. (305 530)805 1050, Sat. - Sun. 305 530 805 1050, Mon. - Tue. (305 530)805 1050; **Old Dogs** (PG) Fri. (1010 1235 315 525), Sat. - Sun (1010 1235)315 525, Mon. - Tue. (1010 1235 315 525), **The Blind Side** (PG-13); Fri. (1030 1240 130 345 440)650 740 1035, Sat. - Sun. (1030 1240 130)345 440 650 740 1035, Mon. Tue. (1030 1240 130 345 440)650 740 1035; New Moon (PG-13) Fri. (325)645 955 1255. Sat. (1210)325 645 955 1255, Sun. (1210)325 645 955, Mon. - Tue. (1210 325)645 955; 2012 (PG-13) Fri. (1205 335)710 1030, Sat. - Sun. (1205)335 710 1030, Mon. - Tue. (1205 335)710 1030; A Christmas Carol (PG) Fri. (1140 210 445), Sat. - Sun. (1140)210 445, Mon. - Tue. (1140 210 445); **The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day** (R) Fri. - Tue. 755

#### **MISSION VALLEY**

#### **Fashion Valley 18**

7037 Friars Road (888-262-4386) Armored; Avatar; The Blind Side; Brothers; Did You Hear About the Morgans?; Invictus; Ninja Assassin; Old Dogs; The Princess and the Frog; 2012

Mission Valley 7 7510 Hazard Center Drive (619-685-2841)



Avatar 3D (PG-13) (9:30 12:00 1:00 3:30) 4:30 7:00 8:00 10:30: Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG-13) (10:00 12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:15 10:45; The Princess and the Frog (G) (10:00 12:15 2:30) 4:45 7:15 9:30; Everybody's Fine (PG-13) 9:45 pm; Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) (10:15 12:30 2:45) 5:15 7:30; No 10:15 Sat. & Sun.; No shows Monday; New Moon (PG-13) (10:15 1:00 4:00) 7:15 10:15; **The** Blind Side (PG-13) (10:30 1:30) 4:30 7:45 10:45; Olivia & Curious George Double-Feature (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only

**Mission Valley 20**1640 Camino Del Rio North (888-262-4386) **Avatar** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:30) 2:15, 6:05, 9:45; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. 12:30, 4:15, 8:00, 11:45 Sun. 12:30, 4:15, 8:00, 11:30; **Did** You Hear About the Morgans? (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:00) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00; The Metropolitan Opera: Les Contes d'Hoff-mann (Not Rated) Sat. 10:00a.m.

#### **UPTOWN**

#### Hillcrest Cinemas

3965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236) Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' By **Sapphire** (R) Fri. & Mon.-Thu. (2:00, 4:40) 7:20, 10:00, No 10:00 pm show Thu., 12/24/09, Sat. & Sun. (2:00) 4:40, 7:20, 10:00; **An Education** (PG-13) Fri. & Mon.-Thu. (2:15, 4:55) 7:35, 10:15, No 10:15 pm show Thu., 12/24/09; Sat. & Sun. (2:15) 4:55, 7:35, 10:15; A Serious Man (R) Fri. & Mon.-Thu. (1:50) (4:30) 7:10, 9:50, No 9:50 pm show Thu., 12/24/09, Sat. & Sun. (1:50) 4:30, 7:10, 9:50; Red Cliff (R) Fri.(18) (2:25, 5:30) 8:35, Sat. & Sun. (2:25) 5:30, 8:35, Mon. (21)-Wed.(23) (2:25) (5:30) 8:35, Thu.(24) (1:25) 4:25, 7:30; Bad Lieutenant, Port of Call: New Orleans (NR) Fri. & Mon.-Thu. (1:40) (4:20) 7:00 9:40, No 9:40 pm show Thu., 12/24/09, Sat. & Sun. (1:40) 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

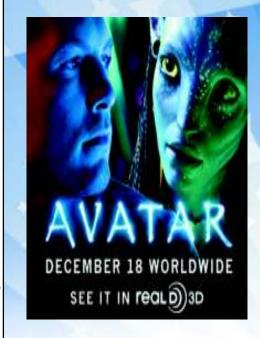
Reuben H. Fleet Science Center 1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233) Adventures in Wild California (Not Rated) Fri. 3:00p.m. Sat.-Sun. 11:00, 3:00; Amazon (2007) (Not Rated) Fri.-Sat. 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00 Sun. 12:00, 2:00, 4:00; Bears (Not Rated) Sun. 6:00p.m.; Under the Sea (G) Fri. 1:00, 5:00, 7:00 Sat. 10:00, 1:00, 5:00, 7:00 Sun. 10:00,

#### **EAST COUNTY**

#### **EL CAJON**

#### Parkway Plaza 18

405 Parkway Plaza (619-401-3456) Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakuel (PG) Wed. (1000 1230 255 525)755 1020: **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) Fri. (900 940 1220 105 340 430)700 755 1020, Sat. - Sun. (900 940 1220 105 340)430 700 755 1020, Mon. - Tue. (900 940 1220 105 340 430)700 755 1020; **Avatar** (PG-13) Fri. (920 1240 400)605 720 935 1040, Sat. - Sun. (920 1240)400 605 720 935 1040, Mon. - Tue. (920 1240 400)605 720 935 1040; Did You Hear About the Morgans?  $(PG\mbox{-}13)$ Fri. (1100 135 410)710 945, Sat. - Sun. (1100 135)410 710 945, Mon. - Tue. (1100 135 410)710 945; **2012** (PG-13) Fri. - Tue. (1135 300)630 955; Armored (PG-13) Fri. (1250 315 535)800 1035, Sat. - Sun. (1250 315)535 800 1035, Mon. - Tue. (1250 315 535)800 1035; The Blind Side (PG-13) Fri. (1000 1040 100 140 405 440)705 740 1015 1045, Sat. - Sun (1000 1040 100 140)405 440 705 740 1015 1045, Mon. - Tue. (1000 1040 100 140 405 440)705 740 1015 1045; Brothers (R) Fri. Tue. (1215 350)720 1005; A Christmas Carol (PG) Fri. (1130 205 440)715 950, Sat. - Sun. (1130 205)440 715 950, Mon. - Tue. (1130 205) 440)715 950; **Invictus** (PG-13) Fri. - Tue.





**Mission Valley Hazard Center** 7510 Hazard Ctr. Dr. • San Diego

#### **River Village**

5256 S. Mission Rd. • Bonsall

#### **Chula Vista**

555 Broadway, in the Chula Vista Center

#### **Mission Marketplace**

431 College Blvd. • Oceanside

#### **Del Mar Highlands**

12905 El Camino Real • San Diego

#### **Poway Creekside Plaza**

13475 Poway Rd. • Poway

#### La Costa

6941 El Camino Real • Carlsbad

#### Flower Hill

2630 Via de la Valle • Del Mar



Code: M9-12-32

**Daily Early Bird** 

First matinee of every film, every day. Excludes 3D.



San Diego Reader December 17, 2009

(1230 355)700 945 1015; New Moon (PG-13) Fri. (110 410)710 1010, Sat. - Sun. (110)410 710 1010, Mon. - Tue. (110 410)710 1010; Ninja Assassin (R) Fri. (1240 305 530)755 1020, Sat. - Sun. (1240 305)530 755 1020, Mon. - Tue. (1240 305 530)755 1020; **Old Dogs** (PG) Fri. (1205 225 445)705, Sat. - Sun. (1205 225)445 705, Mon. - Tue. (1205 225 445)705; **Planet 51** (PG) Fri. - Tue. (1110 125 345); Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire (R) Fri. (1150 230 510)750 1030, Sat. Sun. (1150 230)510 750 1030, Mon. - Tue (1150 230 510)750 1030; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) Fri. (1005 1155 1230 220 300 455 530)730 800 1000 1030, Sat. - Sun. (930 1005 1155 1230 220 300)455 530 730 800 1000 1030. Mon. - Tue. (930 1005 1155 1230 220 300 455 530)730 800 1000 1030

#### LA MESA

#### **Grossmont Center 10**

nt Center Drive (800-326-3264 #2710)

**Avatar** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:05, 3:35) 7:05, 10:30; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 2:30) 6:00, 9:30; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:20, 2:00) 4:50, 7:35, 10:20; **Brothers** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:40, 3:10) 5:40, 8:10, 10:40; Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:25, 2:50) 5:15, 7:40, 10:05; **Every-body's Fine** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 8:00, 10:15; **Fantastic Mr. Fox** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 1:35, 3:40) 5:45; **Invictus** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:05, 2:00) 4:55, 7:50, 10:45; **New Moon** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:10, 1:55) 4:40, 7:25, 10:10; **Old** Dogs (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:35, 1:40) 7:00; The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri.-Sun. (12:15, 2:40) 5:05, 7:30, 9:50; **2012** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun

#### **RANCHO SAN DIEGO**

#### Rancho San Diego 15

2951 Jamacha Road (800-326-3264) **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) Fri. - Tue. (1130 315)700 1040, **Avatar** (PG-13) Fri. - Mon. (1150 1220 335 355)640 720 740 1015 1055 1115, Tue. (1150 1220 335 355 640 720 740 1015 1055 1115); **Did You Hear About the Morgans?** (PG-13) Fri. (1140 230 505)750 1025, Sat. -Sun. (1140 230)505 750 1025, Mon. (1140 230 505)750 1025, Tue. (1140 230 505 750 1025); **The Princess and the Frog** (G) Fri. (1145 1215 215 245 440 510)705 735 930 1000, Sat. Sun. (1145 1215 215 245)440 510 705 735 930 1000, Mon. (1145 1215 215 245 440 510)705 735 930 1000. Tue (1145 1215 215 245 440 510 705 735 930 1000); **The Blind Side** (PG-13) Fri - Mon (1135 1205 300 330)715 745 1015. Tue. (1135 1205 300 330 715 745 1015); **Invic**tus (PG-13) Fri. - Mon. (1230 340)730 1035 1045, Tue. (1230 340 730 1035 1045); **Armored** (PG-13) Fri. - Mon. (1225)800, Tue. (1225) (PG-13) Fri. - Mon. (1225) 800, 1tle. (1225) 800); **New Moon** (PG-13) Fri. - Mon. (1210) 325)710 1020, Tue. (1210) 325 710 1020); **Brothers** (R) Fri. - Mon. (1235) 345)755 1050, Tue. (1235) 345 755 1050); **Ninja Assassin** (R) Fri. (250) 515)1030, Sat. - Sun. (250) 515 1030, Mon. (250 515)1030, Tue. (250 515 1030); Old **Dogs** (PG) Fri. - Tue. (1200 220), **2012** (PG-13), Fri. - Mon. (1155 320)645 1010, Tue. (1155 320 645 1010); A Christmas Carol (PG) Fri. - Mon. (1240 310)650 935, Tue. (1240 310

#### **SANTEE**

#### Santee Drive In

10990 Woodside Avenue (619-448-7447) Avatar (PG-13); The Blind Side (PG-13); The Princess and the Frog (G)

# **SOUTH BAY**

#### **CHULA VISTA** Chula Vista 10

Broadway between H and I (619-338-4214)



CASTLE ROCK

Avatar 3D (PG-13) (9:30 1:00) 4:30 8:00; Avatar (PG-13) (12:00 3:30) 7:00 10:30; **Did** You Hear About the Morgans? (PG-13) (10:00 12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:15 10:45; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) (10:00 12:15 2:30)
5:00 7:30 9:45; **Invictus** (PG-13) (10:15 1:15)
4:15 7:15 10:15; **Armored** (PG-13) (10:30

12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:30; Ninja Assassin (R) (3:45) 8:30 10:45; **New Moon** (PG-13) (10:45 1:45) 4:45 7:45 10:45; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) (10:15 1:00 4:00) 7:15 10:30; **Planet 51** (PG) (11:00 1:30) 6:00; **2012** (PG-13) (12:00 3:15) 7:00 10:15; Olivia & Curious George Double-Feature (G) 10:30 am Sat.

#### Otay Ranch 12

Eastlake Parkway (at Olympic) (888-262-4386) Avatar; The Blind Side; Brothers; A Christ-mas Carol; Did You Hear About the Morgans?; Invictus; New Moon; Old Dogs; The Princess and the Frog; 2012

#### Palm Promenade 24

770 Dennery Road (888-262-4386) Armored; Avatar; The Blind Side; Brothers; Did You Hear About the Morgans?; The Fourth Kind; Invictus; New Moon; Ninja Assassin; Old Dogs; Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire; The Princess and the Frog; The Road; 2012

#### Rancho Del Rey 16

1025 Tierra del Rey (off 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 (888-262-4386) Armored (PG-13); Avatar (PG-13); The Blind Side (PG-13); Brothers (R); Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG-13); Invictus (PG-13); New Moon (PG-13); Ninja Assas- $\begin{array}{l} \text{sin }(R); \text{Old Dogs}\,(PG); \text{Precious: Based on} \\ \text{the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire}\,\,(R); \text{The} \\ \text{Princess and the Frog}\,\,(G); \text{2012}\,\,(PG\text{-}13) \end{array}$ 

## **NORTH INLAND**

#### **ESCONDIDO** Escondido 16

350 West Valley Parkway (760-291-0119) Avatar 3D (PG-13) Fri. - Sun. 900 1220 340 700 1020, Mon. - Tue. 1220 340 700 1020; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) Fri. (920 945 1240 105 400 425)720 745 1040, Sat. - Sun. (920 945 1240 105)400 425 720 745 1040, Mon. - Tue. (1240 105 400 425)720 745 1040; **Avatar** (PG-13) Fri. - Tue, 630 950: Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG-13) Fri. (1130 205 440)715 1005, Sat. - Sun. (1130 205)440 715 1005, Mon - Tue. (1130 205 440)715 1005; Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire (R) Fri. (1140 220 500)740 1035, Sat. - Sun. (1140 220)500 740 1035, Mon. - Tue. (1140 220 500)740 1035; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) Fri. (1000 1205 1235 230 310 455)900 655 730 930 1000, Sat. - Sun. (910 1000 1205 1235 230 310)455 655 730 930 1000, Mon. - Tue. (1205 1235 230 310 455)655 730 930 1000; **Invictus** (PG-13) Fri. - Sun. (915 1250 355)735 945 1040, Mon. - Tue. (1250 355)735 945 1040; **Everybody's Fine** (PG-13) Fri. - Sun. (1045 115)750, Mon. - Tue. (115)750; **Armored** (PG-13) Fri. - Tue. (335)1025; **Brothers** (R) Fri. (1030 110 420)755 1045, Sat. - Sun. (1030 110)420 755 1045, Mon. - Tue. (110 420)755 1045; Ninja Assassin (R) Fri. - Tue. 645 940; Old Dogs (PG) Fri. - Sun. (935 1200 330)705, Mon. - Tue. (1200 330)705; The Blind Side (PG-13) Fri. - Sun. (930 1245 350)710 1010, Mon. - Tue. (1245 350)710 1010; **Planet 51** (PG) Fri. (1115 210 430), Sat. - Sun. (1115 210)430, Mon. - Tue. (1135 210 430); **New Moon** (PG-13) Fri. (950 1255 410)725 1030, Sat. - Sun. (950 1255)410 725 1030, Mon. Tue. (1255 410)725 1030; **2012** (PG-13) Fri. Tue. (1150 320)650 1015; **A Christmas Carol** (PG) Fri. - Sun. (1015 100 345), Mon. - Tue. (100345)

#### **FALLBROOK**

#### River Village 6

5256 S. Mission Road (760-945-8784)



Avatar 3D (PG-13) (12:00 3:30) 7:00 10:30; The Princess and the Frog (G) (11:30 2:15) 4:45 7:15 9:30; Everybody's Fine (PG-13) (12:30 3:00) 5:45 8:15 10:30; **Old Dogs** (PG) (12:15 2:45) 5:30 7:45 10:00; **New Moon** (PG-13)(11:15 2:00) 5:00 8:00 10:45; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) (11:00 1:45) 4:30 7:30 10:15; Olivia & Curious George Double-Feature (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only

#### POWAY

**Poway 10**13475 Poway Road (858-646-9423)

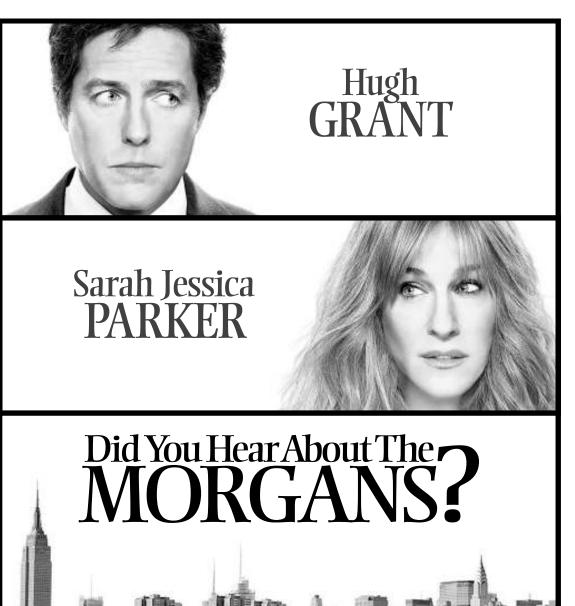


Avatar 3D (PG-13) (9:30 12:00 1:00 3:30) 4:30 7:00 8:00 10:30; Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG-13) (10:00 12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:15 10:45; The Princess and the Frog (G) (10:00 12:15 2:30) 5:00 7:30 9:45; **Invictus** (PG-13) (10:00 1:00 4:00) 7:15 10:15; **Every**body's Fine (PG-13) (11:00 1:30 3:45) 6:00 8:30 10:45; New Moon (PG-13)(10:45 1:45) 4:45 7:45 10:45; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) (10:15 1:15) 4:15 7:30 10:15; **A Christmas** Carol (PG) (10:30 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:00 10:00; **2012** (PG-13) (12:00 3:15) 7:15 10:30; **Olivia** & Curious George Double-Feature (G)10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only

#### SAN MARCOS

#### San Marcos 18

1180 W. San Marcos Boulevard (at Old California Walk) (800-326-3264) Avatar 3D (PG-13) Fri. (1220 1240 340 405)700 720 1020 1040, Sat. - Sun. (1220 1240 340)405 700 720 1020 1040, Mon. - Tue. (1220



# STARTS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

IRES PRESENTS: IN ASSOCIATION WITH RELATIVITY MEDIA: A CASTLE ROCK ENTERTAINMENT/BANTER FILMS PRO

THE MORGANS?' SAM ELLIOTT MARY STEENBURGEN ELISABETH MOSS MICHAEL KELLY WILFORD BRIMLEY

NGG MELISSA WELLS PRODUCTE ANTHONY KATAGAS RYAN KAVANAUGH PRODUCT MARTIN SHAFER LIZ GLOTZER

WITH AN MARC LAWRENCE DIdYouHearAboutTheMorgans.com

CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES SORRY, NO PASSES ACCEPTED FOR THIS ENGAGEMENT

## Calendar MOVIES

which works to rob sympathy from either the film's heroine or its director, Lee Daniels. One or the other. You choose. With Gabourey Sidibe, Mo'Nique, Paula Patton, and Mariah Carev. 2009.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14, FROM 12/18; FLOWER HILL 4; HILLCREST CINEMAS; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; PALM PROMENADE 24, FROM 12/18: PLAZA BONITA 14: TOWN SOUARE 14. FROM 12/18)

The Princess and the Frog — Throwback Disney cartoon, a blessed retreat from plumped-up computer animation and smart-aleck anachronisms. The updated and retailored fairy tale serves primarily as a valentine to Old New Orleans: jazz, voodoo, gumbo, beignets, riverboat, streetcar (okay, one sneaky anachronism: "Stellahhhh!"). The songs, though they mostly stay true to the place and period, are unmemorable, and the ending approaches the endless. With the voices of Anika Noni Rose, Bruno Campos, Keith David, Michael-Leon Wooley, Jim Cummings, and Jenifer Lewis; directed by Ron Clements and John Musker. 2009.

★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8: FASHION VALLEY 18: GROSSMONT CENTER 10; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14: POWAY 10: RIVER VILLAGE 6: SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Rashomon - A pregnant parable ontruth and the eye of the beholder. The construction is neat, tight, and schematic (four conflicting points of view on a mysterious forest killing), whereas Kurosawa's treatment is full-blown (torrential rains, hysterical performances) and long-drawn-out. Toshiro Mifune, Machiko Kyo, Takashi Shimura. 1952.

★ ★ ★ (KEN, 12/18 THROUGH 24)

Red Cliff - Third-century Chinese war story, a two-and-a-half-hour reduction of what was twice that long in its native land released there in two parts. Two and a half hours seem more than too much, although any complaints about the mess of it, the incoherent jumble, might invite a challenge from its partisans to sit through the unabridged version before rendering judgment. John Woo, who certainly has his partisans, owns an unwarrantable reputation as a "master" (a messer, yes), and it appears doubtful that double the length would do much to redeem the melodramatic performances, the dissolve-happy coy love scene, the infrequent interjection of martial-arts superpowers, or the wildly energetic gear-grinding visual technique of short punchy zooms, hither-and-thither moving cameras, slow-motion, whatnot. It's just possible that in the full cut his characteristic balance of gore and schmaltz, or rather his imbalance favoring gore, might be affected a few degrees in the other direction. Only the fiercest partisan will want to know. There's one absurd yet amusing ploy to deplete the enemy's arrow supply, sending out straw-padded boats in a fog to be transformed into floating pincushions, and there are impressive arrays of flags, ships, geometric masses of men. In spite of the cast of thousands, the climactic battle comes down to that signature Woo moment when, having found each other amid the chaos, the two principal antagonists hold their weapons to one another's heads. Tony Leung, Takeshi Kaneshiro, Fengyi Zhang,

The Road — From the novel by Cormac McCarthy, a post-apocalyptic road movie of a man, a boy, a gray wasteland, and roving bands of ragtag cannibals whom Mad Max would have blown away with a sneeze. Naturalistic science fiction, it amounts to an anti-2012 (careful what you wish for) from the maker of the Australian anti-Western, The Proposition, John Hillcoat, a small-scale spectacle of unrelieved grimness and gloom, short on characters, thin in incident thick with sallow grimy hairy closeups

Chiling Lin, Wei Zhao. 2009.

★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS, FROM 12/18)

(Viggo Mortensen and a barely recognizable Robert Duvall among them), a spittingup of blood here and an upchuck there, a gun held repeatedly to the head of a child. The boy's cultivation of morality and charity, in defiance of his father's stony-hearted defenses, offers a hint of dramatic interest. With Kodi Smit-McPhee, Charlize Theron, Guy Pearce, Molly Parker. 2009.

★ (HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; PALM PROMENADE 24, FROM 12/18)

A Serious Man — At bottom, the Coen brothers' most "personal" work. To be sure, they've never been reduced to hired hands. They've always had the good fortune to be able to make the films they wanted to make films that reflected their personal tastes and personal attitudes and personal interests and personal viewpoints. Still, in the strict autobiographical sense, this one must be acknowledged as extra personal, set as it is in the Minneapolis suburb of their adolescence (Jefferson Airplane on the soundtrack to fix the date, 1967), in a Jewish household headed by a university professor with a son on the brink of his bar mitzvah. The filmmakers bring to their subject the unkind eye of the caricaturist. They demonstrate an acute and excruciating body awareness, the girth, the ear hair, the sebaceous cyst on the neck, the protagonist's half squat at the classroom blackboard, his outthrust butt, his pant cuffs riding up to his calves. And their subtly bulging face shots and torso shots, fronted and centered, approach the freak-show aura of the photographs of Diane Arbus. The parade of surnames has a Dickensian grotesquerie all its own: Gopnik, Finkle, Marshak, Nachtner, Schlutz, seldom a simple Shapiro. And the three rabbis of three different generations are hilariously ineffectual in three different ways. But to complain that the character portraits are not rounded, are slanted, would be to complain that a caricaturist is not a classicist, that Daumier is not Ingres. This is, it bears stressing at this point, a personal film. It is also - unexpectedly enough, as unexpected as the superstitious Old Country folk tale of the prologue and its old-fashioned 4:3 aspect ratio — a religious film, a

film concerned not just with the specific religion of Judaism and its whole exotic lexicon, but with broader religious questions, universal inquiries into life's mysteries: what have I done to deserve this? what have I done with my life? what ought I to do? what am I here for? Ioel and Ethan Coen have long and lately devoted themselves to the vast panoply of human stupidity. Stretching out now, stretching back to Barton Fink, they have chosen to reassure us, although "reassure" doesn't sound quite right. that an intelligent, educated, well-meaning, and would-be serious man is no less at a loss. Michael Stuhlbarg, Sari Lennick, Richard Kind, Aaron Wolff, Fred Melamed. 2009.

★★★★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA PALOMA)

2012 — Roland Emmerich's widest view of disaster to date: the sky-high eruption of Yellowstone (Old Faithful gone Vesuvius), the toppling of the Washington Monument and St. Peter's Basilica (the Statue of Liberty and the Eiffel Tower would be so old-hat), the block-by-block collapse of Los Angeles (a rented limo outrunning the spreading crevasses and sinkholes, dodging the crumbling high-rises and overpasses), the monster tsunamis that engulf the White House and even, very far from sea level, the Himalayas. All of that is quite something quite a lot of things — to see. And the plot attempt to update, to technologize, to science-fictionalize the Biblical story of Noah's Ark is something worth trying. The human drama, such as it is, strives to be no more than serviceable. As elsewhere in Emmerich's oeuvre (Independence Day, Godzilla, The Day after Tomorrow, chiefly), the degree of glee in the destruction ap pears more than equal to any shock and awe in it. And a viewer might well rebel at a test of his humanity measured by his willingness to hold his breath for the survival of the star of a Hollywood blockbuster, and never mind the billions who missed the literal boat. Still, in the inadequacy of its response to its chosen subject matter, in its merry refusal to think about the unthinkable, in its whistling past the graveyard, the film after all seems only human. Strange to

say about an FX extravaganza. John Cusack, Chiwetel Eijofor, Amanda Peet, Thandie Newton, Danny Glover, Oliver Platt. 2009. ★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; CHULA VISTA 10; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12: PALM PROMENADE 24: PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Uncertainty - Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Lynn Collins as a young couple facing a choice of destinies, co-directed by Scott McGehee and David Siegel. (GASLAMP 15, FROM 12/18)

Up in the Air — A comedown from Jason Reitman's auspicious first two features, Thank You for Smoking and Juno, narrowly centered as it is on a narrowly self-centered hero, a travelling corporate downsizer, a hired hatchet man, now a potential dinosaur whose way of life is threatened — by long-distance terminations via the innovation of video conferencing — before he can reach his lone life's goal of becoming just the seventh man in history, and the youngest ever, to log ten million air miles and to reap the benefits that come with that milestone. The smirky smugness of a backsliding George Clooney, back at least as far as Danny Ocean if not all the way to Dr. Ross on ER, makes him an unlikely candidate to be handing out pink slips, unless as a grotesque expressionistic subjective projection of the pink-slip recipients. The recipients themselves, while widely varied in type, many of them having been downsized in real life, are for the most part penned up in bum's-rush montages. And the movie overall seems to share rather too much of the protagonist's glibness and frigidity. Waiting for a crack to appear in his façade is a sufficiently conventional plot hook, and patching up the crack afterwards is an insufficiently unconventional ending. Vera Farmiga, Anna Kendrick, Jason Bateman, Melanie Lynskey, Danny McBride. 2009.

★ (LA JOLLA 12)

1240 340 405)700 720 1020 1040, Wed. (1220 340)700 1020, Thu. (1220 340)700; Avatar (PG-13) Fri. (105 425)630 745 1005 1105, Sat. (105)425 630 745 1005 1105, Sun. (105)425 630 745 1005, Mon. - Tue. (105 425)630 745 1005; Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakuel (PG) Wed. (1100 130 355)710 940, Thu. (1100 130 355)710; **Did You Hear About the Morgans?** (PG-13) Fri. - Tue. (1235 310)730 1005; Invictus (PG-13) Fri. - Tue. (1250 355)700 725 1010 1030; The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri. (1230 145 255 430 515)705 740 940 1015, Sat. - Sun. (1230 145 255)430 515 705 740 940 1015, Mon. - Tue. (1230 145 255 430 515)705 740 940 1015; Everybody's Fine (PG-13) Fri. - Tue. 745 1015; **Armored** (PG-13) Fri. - Tue. 710 930; Brothers (R) Fri. - Tue. (1255 350)715 1010: Ninja Assassin (R) Fri. (410)710, Sat. - Sun. 410 710, Mon. - Tue. (410)710; **Old Dogs** (PG) Fri. - Tue. (110 330); **The Blind Side** (PG-13) Fri. (1245 115 345 420)650 725 955 1025, Sat. - Sun. (1245 115 345)420 650 725 955 1025, Mon. - Tue. (1245 115 345)420 650 725 955 1025; **Planet 51** (PG) Fri. (150 415), Sat. - Sun. (150)415, Mon. - Tue. (150 415): New Moon (PG-13) Fri. (120 425)730 1030, Sat. - Sun. (120)425 730 1030, Mon. - Tue. (120 425)730 1030; Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Fri. (140 445), Sat. - Sun. (140)445, Mon. - Tue. 1 (140 445); 2012 (PG-13) Fri. (1225 420)750, Sat. - Sun. (1225)420 750, Mon. - Tue. (1225 420)750; A Christmas Carol (PG) Fri. (130 440), Sat. - Sun. (130)440, Mon. - Tue. (130 440); Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push'

Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day (R) Fri.

Tue. (100 355)705 955

#### VISTA

#### Vista Village

Highway 78 at Vista Village Drive (760-945-7469)

Avatar 3D (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 11:15, 12:00, 12:40, 1:25, 2:50, 3:35, 4:15, 5:00) 6:30, 7:10, 7:50, 8:30, 10:05, 10:45, 11:20; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:40, 1:35, 4:30) 7:25, 10:25; **Brothers** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:40, 2:20, 5:00) 7:40, 10:25; **A Christmas Carol** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 2:20); **Did You Hear About** the Morgans? (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 12:15, 2:10, 2:50, 4:40, 5:20) 7:20, 7:55, 9:50, 10:30; **Invictus** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:30, 3:45, 4:45) 7:15, 8:00, 10:20, 11:00; **New Moon** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 1:45, 4:40) 7:30, 10:15; **Ninja Assassin** (R) Fri.-Sun. 10:10p.m.; The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri.-Sun (10:00, 10:45, 11:30, 12:20, 1:15, 2:00, 2:40, 3:40, 4:30, 5:10) 6:15, 7:05, 7:45, 8:40, 9:30; **2012** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:35, 3:10) 7:00,

#### NORTH COASTAL **CARLSBAD**

#### Plaza Camino Real

2385 Marron Road (760-729-7469) Avatar (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 1:20, 4:40) 8:00: The Blind Side (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 1:40, 4:20) 7:00, 9:35; **Brothers** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 2:00, 4:25) 7:30, 9:45; **The Princess** and the Frog (G) Fri.-Sun. (10:20, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00) 7:15, 9:25

#### **DEL MAR**

#### Del Mar Highlands 8

El Camino Real at Del Mar Heights Road (858-646-9420)



Avatar 3D (PG-13) (9:30 12:00 1:00 3:30) 4:30 7:00 8:00 10:30; **Did You Hear About the Morgans?** (PG-13) (10:00 12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:15 10:45; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) (10:00 12:15 2:30) 5:00 7:30 9:45; **Invictus** (PG-13) (10:00 10:45 1:00 1:45 4:00) 4:45 7:15 7:45 10:15 10:45; **Brothers** (PG-13) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; No 10:15 Sat. & Sun.; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) (10:30 1:15) 4:15 7:15 10:15; Olivia & Curious George Double-Feature (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only

#### Flower Hill 4

2630 Via de la Valle (858-646-9425)



The Hurt Locker (R) (10:45 1:30) 4:15 7:00 9:45: Me and Orson Welles (PG-13) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; Everybody's Fine (PG-13) (11:00) 4:30 10:15; Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire (R) (10:00 12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:00 10:30; An Education (PG-13) (1:45) 7:30

#### **ENCINITAS**

#### La Paloma

471 South Coast Highway 101 (760-436-7469) Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Fri. 6:05p.m. Sat.-Sun. (4:00) 6:05; A Serious Man (R) Fri. 8:10p.m. Sat.-Sun. (1:45) 8:10; The Rocky Horror Picture Show (R) Fri. 12:00a.m.

#### LA COSTA

#### La Costa 6

6941 El Camino Real (at Aviara/Alga) (760-599-8221)



Avatar 3D (PG-13) (9:30 12:00 1:00 3:30) 4:30 7:00 8:00 10:30; The Princess and the Frog (G) (10:30 12:45 3:00) 5:15 7:30 9:45; Old **Dogs** (PG) (10:45 3:15) 8:00; No 10:45 Sat. & Sun.: Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) (1:00) 5:30 10:15; **New Moon** (PG-13) (10:15 1:30) 4:30 7:45 10:45; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) (10:00 1:15) 4:15 7:15 10:15; Olivia & Curious George Double-Feature (G) 10:30 am Sat.

#### **OCEANSIDE**

#### Mission Marketplace 13

College Boulevard and Mission Avenue (760-806-1790)



Avatar 3D (PG-13) (9:30 12:00 1:00 3:30) 4:30 7:00 8:00 10:30; **Did You Hear About the Morgans?** (PG-13) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; The Princess and the Frog (G) (10:00 11:00 12:15 1:15 2:30 3:30) 4:45 5:45 7:00 8:00 9:15 10:1: Invictus (PG-13) (10:15 1:15) 4:15 7:15 10:30; **Precious: Based on the** Novel 'Push' by Sapphire (R)  $(10:45\ 1:30)$ 4:15 7:30 10:30; **Brothers** (PG-13) (10:00 12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:15 10:45; Armored (PG-13) (4:00) 8:30 10:45; Ninja Assassin (R) (10:00 12:15 2:45) 5:15 7:45 10:15: New Moon (PG-13) (11:15 2:15) 5:00 7:45 10:45; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) (11:00 2:00) 4:45 7:30 10:15: A Christmas Carol (PG) (11:30 1:45) 6:15 2012 (PG-13)(12:00 3:45) 7:15 10:30; Olivia & Curious George Double-Feature (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun, only

#### Oceanside 16

401 Mission Avenue (760-439-1733) Avatar 3D (PG-13) Fri. - Sun. (1150 325)700 1025; **Avatar** (PG-13) Fri. - Sun. (1210 345)720 1045

# **SportingBox**

BY PATRICK DAUGHERTY

# **Invictus**



he letter read, "You're on your own." It was typewritten on blank white paper and undated. The missive was from my magazine editor. She explained that if something happened to me the magazine was not obliged to do anything about it. This is April 1986, and I am flying to South Africa in three days' time.

South Africa had announced a state of emergency the previous year and stopped issuing visas to foreign journalists. So, I'm going on a tourist visa, which makes me illegal.

Afrikaners have been running South Africa since 1948. More than 3.5 million blacks were forced from their homes into what became ten artificial (and many times noncontiguous) reservations called "homelands." These entities amounted to 13 percent of the nation's land area. Whites, consisting of 9 percent of the population, kept 87 percent of the land for themselves and solved their "democracy" problem to boot. Blacks were stripped of their citizenship, assigned to a "homeland," and then, magically, whites became the majority race in South Africa. The government could ban you, imprison you indefinitely without charges, make it illegal to tell anyone the name of any person arrested or detained. censor newspapers, television, wiretap telephones, flat out murder your ass, and did. Here's the short version: South Africa was where Germany won WWII.

I traveled all around the country, stayed in black townships, Indian townships, colored townships, marched in funeral possessions, attended rallies, and ran alongside township residents through thick clouds of tear gas. I ate with activists, drank with them, talked politics with them, slept in their houses, and, on one occasion, transported banned articles for

Several people I met had done time at Robben Island and knew Nelson Mandela. To a man, they spoke his name with the reverence

of a young seminarian saying the name of his lord.

So, I came to Invictus rooting for the movie. It features the man I admire above all others, directed by Clint Eastwood (I'll see any movie he directs), starring Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon. Freeman usually doesn't act much: he's Morgan Freeman in whatever movie he's in, and that's fine with me.

To make it more interesting, Freeman has been conferring with Mandela since the mid-'90s about making a movie. It was Mandela who wanted Freeman to portray him. And, as bonus, the film is about the 1995 Rugby World Cup Championship and how Mandela used that contest to unite his country. Rugby is a great game and deserves a wider audience. I liked everything about the movie going in.

Let me hurry to say that I enjoyed the show. In fact, it's testimony to Eastwood's skill that after the first 20 minutes you're caught up in a sports movie and 1995 South Africa subsides into the background. Which is also the problem: it is a sports movie and takes every step every other sports movie has taken for the past hundred years.

Freeman acted this time. He nailed Mandela's walk, stance, and accent. Brilliant performance, only missing the steel of Mandela. There is a quality to the real man, a place right below the surface of his skin that contains the hardest steel man can make. Push a little and vou'll see it.

Matt Damon as captain of the rugby team is wonderful. He has the accent, walk, look of a white South African. He has no memorable speeches, no moments that audiences will take home and remember, but it's a flawless performance. No one else in the film has much screen time. There is interplay between the black security personnel fresh from the ANC and white security personnel fresh from enforcing Apartheid. That could have been interesting, but again, the script relies on formula — how recent enemies find humanity in each other. It's been done one million times, and this makes one million and one.

There is something else missing in Freeman's Mandela. You leave the theater not knowing the man any better than when you walked in. A lot of this has to do with the immense problem of filming great historic figures. When was the last time you saw George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, or FDR played with depth? My guess is never. Writers, directors, producers are careful not to offend or disturb popularly held myths. Therefore, Washington/Lincoln/FDR come out bland, and, despite Freeman's stellar effort, that's what happens here. Add to that the hack sports-story line and an ending that not only fails to rise to the occasion, but actually pushes the movie in the other direction, and you don't have a great

You have a pretty good movie which is plenty good enough. But, it could have been so much more.

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Saved From Suicide

By Noel Gallego | Published Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2009



"I was riding on bus 901 over the Coronado Bridge Ion December 41 when I saw two guys who were fighting with an old man," recounts Paul Borja. Actually, the "fighting" Borja saw was a struggle to save an elderly man from jumping off the Coronado bridge. Edgar

Gonzalez and Peter Tegel risked their lives to prevent the suicide.

"Pete [Tegel] noticed a car parked mid-span in the center lane of the bridge," said Len Kaine, an associate of Tegel's. "He then saw a man hanging on the outside of the bridge railing, preparing to jump. Cars were passing by, but Pete chose to stop. He jumped out and ran to the man. He grabbed him and tried to pull him back onto the bridge. The man was too big for Pete to do it alone, so he hung on tight.

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thed zone

By Anthony Gentile



Eastlake running back Chris Fletcher looks to Titans supporters after winning the Division I title game



in the pocket to make a pass

refreshing to see a team from the South Bay

#### **Oceanside, Francis Parker** invited to state bowls

Posted December 13, 2009

The CIF announced today the State Bowl Game pairings for next weekend at the Home Depot Center in Carson:

South team listed first, North second Division I, Friday 8 p.m.

Oceanside (13-0) vs. Bellarmine Prep (San Jose) (11-1-1)

Small Schools, Friday 4 p.m. Francis Parker (San Diego) (11-2) vs. Modesto Christian (14-0)

#### COMMENTS

Very curious that Oceanside, Div. II champion, is in the Div. I playoff, and Eastlake, the Div. I champion, is not.

Obviously the state doesn't have the funding for a true playoff system for high school football at this time, but it should be considered in the future. Otherwise what we have is ten guys who get to decide which teams play, based upon unbeaten seasons — with no means of weighing how difficult their opponents actually were. So teams with more challenging schedules might even have tie games — technically being unbeaten, yet are not considered.

By eastlaker 10:17 p.m., Dec 13, 2009

#### **Division I: Eastlake vs Vista**

Posted December 12, 2009

Making their first appearance in the CIF finals, Eastlake beat Vista 21-14 to win the Division I championship, but they had to survive the nightmare of an injury to their star player coupled with a furious Panthers comeback.

"These kids deserve it, and the South Bay deserves it." Eastlake coach John McFadden said. "We don't always get a lot of respect down there." COMMENTS

Outstanding coverage of this and all championship games at the Q. I felt as if I were there and was able to enjoy the games through your articles while in a nice dry environment. It was Cathedral Catholic quarterback Max Brewer steps up

break through the dominance of the sport by the North County schools. By sportsjunkie 8:31 a.m., Dec 13, 2009

#### **Division II: Oceanside vs Helix**

Posted December 11, 2009

In the Division II finals, Oceanside's offense struggled against Helix. But the Pirates' defense and special teams picked up the slack, creating six turnovers and scoring three times in a 26-10 win. The victory gave Oceanside its unprecedented sixth consecutive section title.

"Tonight our special teams were outstanding and they won the game," Oceanside head coach John Carroll said.

#### **Division III: Cathedral Catholic** vs Point Loma

Posted December 11, 2009

The Dons showed a flair for the dramatic in winning their third championship in a row. Cathedral Catholic scored two touchdowns in the final quarter to spoil Point Loma's upset bid and pull out a 20-14 win.

"The kids' experience from the last couple of years really took it over in the end," said Cathedral Catholic head coach Sean Doyle.

#### **Division IV: Mission Bay vs Valley Center**

Posted December 13, 2009

Mission Bay's Dillon Baxter ran for 384 yards and and a record-tying seven touchdowns as the Buccaneers rolled over Valley Center 48-17 in the Division IV finals.

"I'm just glad we got our ring," Baxter said.

#### **Division V: Francis Parker vs** Bishop's

Posted December 11, 2009

Francis Parker raced out to a big lead early and went on to beat Bishop's 55-20 and capture backto-back section championships.

The Red Zone can be found at SDReader.com/football

# **BestBuys**

-EVE KELLY

**W**hat if we skipped Christmas cards this year?" I asked my husband Patrick.

"What if we just told the kids Santa had swine flu this year?" he replied. "You're just stressed. Let's take care of that."

Janet Casey of Taskmasters San Diego (619-316-0574, sdtaskmasters.com) was just what I had in mind. "Everyone is overwhelmed right now," she said, "and that makes it hard to enjoy the holidays. That's where we come in. We do as little or as much as peo-

ple need — our service is driven by your goals and budget. We do all kinds of holiday decorating - lighting houses, helping to decorate trees, even getting trees. We'll help people get their decorations organized and come up with a game plan for making them fresh and festive. We can work with the decorations you have or augment with new things or start from scratch."

Despite the talk of shopping, Casey said that this year, "with the economy, people are searching for things that make them feel comforted. They're moving away from the commercial and toward the homey and down-toearth. They want to renew the simpler times to make gingerbread houses and have the kids put the gumdrops on it. They want to take family pictures and listen to Christmas music. They want to make gifts, as opposed to spending \$50 for everyone on the list and having anxiety about paying off the debt. We can help create those memories by taking care of people's detail work so that they are free to spend the fun time with their families."

Or their friends — Casey also specializes in party planning. "Most people want something festive yet economical. So, this year, we're suggesting hors d'oeuvres or dessert parties; that way, you're not spending a fortune. Again, we can do as little or as much as people like."

I knew I wouldn't be throwing any parties this year — I would be too busy making lists, shopping, wrapping, mailing... "We do a lot of personal shopping for people," added Casey. "We'll interview the person, help them come up with ideas they may not have had while still keeping it personal, so that the gifts are gifts they would want to give. We're always looking at different stores, catalogs, and websites for ideas, and we have a great database."

I asked about my dear Aunt Azelda. "For an elderly grandma-type, I would do something personal. There are wonderful online

"Most people just give us the gifts and a list of who gets what."

services that allow you to create a fully bound book. We can help facilitate gathering old photographs, getting new ones, mixing in shots of the grandchildren. You could give a lovely, personal coffee-table book." And for my niece in the throes of teenhood? "It would depend on her personality. Bookstore or music gift cards are great. But people also

appreciate something that creates a

memory, like a membership to a museum or the zoo. And people like events. There's a wonderful company in La Jolla, Surf Diva. They offer group surf lessons, and they sell surf clothing and jewelry. A niece might appreciate a gift card from them."

Casey and her team of elves will also wrap presents. "Most peo-

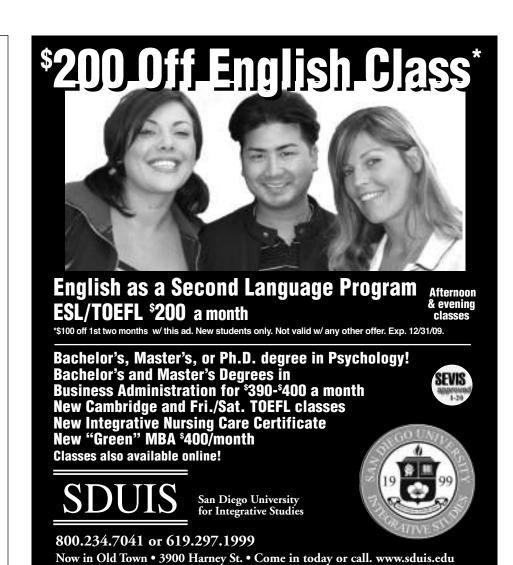
ple just give us the gifts and a list of who gets what. But some people want a theme we've done all white and silver, and we can do retro themes with grosgrain ribbon and handmade materials. And we can go back to basics...maybe use butcher paper and paints, sit down with the kids one evening and have them decorate the paper. It all depends on the client. Oh, and we do Christmas cards. We can make cards using a recent family photo, or we can just take on the stressful part addressing, stamping, and mailing them."

Taskmasters has a two-hour minimum and charges \$25 an hour for most services. Organization services run \$35 an hour, and party planning is \$55 an hour.

Next I spoke with Cara Chace of Apparel Therapy (appareltherapy.net; cara@apparel therapy.net). "Most of what I do is wardrobe consulting and the personal shopping that goes along with that," she explained. "Usually, in December, I'll have clients who need accessories for holiday parties, but for that one month, I will also shop for people's gift lists. They don't have to be clients. If they need help coming up with gift ideas, I can do that. Mostly, people just don't want to deal with malls. Some will give me a very specific list what to get and where to get it. Others will say, 'I need a pink scarf' and give me a price range. I'll pick up five pink scarves, then bring them to the client. The client selects one, and I return the rest."

Chace has a two-hour minimum and charges \$60 an hour. For \$70 an hour, she will shop with the client and give on-the-spot fashion counsel.

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





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by Barbarella

If you wish to converse with me, define your terms.

— Voltaire

e could have *watched* a movie in the time it's taken you to pick one," I said, failing in my attempt to make my tone sound more playful than provoking. I wasn't surprised when David barked at me in response or when he threw up his hands and suggested I take over or when he then grumbled about my lack of appreciation for how frustrating a task it is to toggle between On Demand, Netflix, Rotten Tomatoes, and IMDB in the quest to find one film that lay within the intersection of our four-person Venn diagram.

At first, like a child who has inadvertently discov-

ered the power of curse words, I was bemused and "Maybe we can entertained by David's overreaction to my taunt. work out some When I remembered we weren't alone, I was sudkind of Morse code denly embarrassed. "Pinky swear," I said. using facial tics.

"That's not fair," David argued. "You can't just use that whenever —

"Pinky swear," I repeated, hissing the words through clenched teeth while widening my eyes to further punctuate my demand that he cease and

desist. At this, David relented. He gave an indignant huff and resumed his search while I set about salvaging what agreeable air was left in the room. With an unnatural infusion of perkiness, I sug-

**Pinky Swear** 

gested we skip the movie idea and work on a jigsaw puzzle — an activity we could enjoy while talking to one another, thus maximizing our quality time. My mother-in-law agreed with enthusiasm that this

was a fine idea.

David and I had established the code phrase on the plane, shortly after we'd reached our cruising altitude of 30,000 feet. "We need to make a pact," I had said. David was in, even before he knew what I was talking about. He lifted his right arm and extended his pinky. I raised my pinky and linked it with his. "It's tough to find alone time when we're houseguests. It's really important to me that this is a tensionfree - as tension-free as it can be — visit. So, let's promise each other right now that if we disagree on something, we'll wait until we're alone to discuss it.

The last thing I want to do is make your parents feel uncomfortable by hearing us bicker. Okay?"

David nodded and tightened his grip on my pinky. "Pinky swear," he said.

"Pinky swear," I repeated. "That's great, we can use that — if either one of us wants to table a discussion or request alone time with the other, we can just say 'pinky swear,' and we'll know what we mean." We held each other's gaze, and pinkies, until the flight attendant appeared to top off our glasses of wine.

I thought it was a solid plan, a plausible method for maintaining the sanity of home while away. But in practice, our code turned out to be mostly ineffective. Two words are not enough to capture all the nuances of communication.

One morning, while sitting at the kitchen table (the location of our "office" at David's parents' house), I wanted to confer privately with my man regarding how we planned to thank his folks for the free room and board. The night before, we'd discussed the possibility of cooking dinner for them or taking them to one of the few restaurants open on Martha's Vineyard during the off-season. It wouldn't be appropriate to discuss the matter where we sat, within earshot of his folks, and we would raise questions if we were both to suddenly stand and leave the common area. Short of passing notes, sending email, or — even worse — whispering, I couldn't think of any way for us to reach a consensus in time to beat the question I knew was about to be asked by David's hyper-organized mother — that

is, what we'd like to eat for each of our three remaining nights.

A few years ago, David and I had begun learning Japanese in preparation for our trip to Japan. At the time, I'd joked that it would be great if we could employ the exotic and largely unknown language for the purpose of encrypting our conversations, the way David's parents sometimes switch to their native Hungarian. As I sat there trying to figure out how to get the answer I wanted, I could have kicked myself under the table for not keeping up with my lessons.

When I was sure no one else was looking, I turned to David and mouthed the word, "Dinner," then raised my brows in question. He shrugged. "Out?" I silently queried. David shook his head. So, dinner in it was. But I'd still have to wait until we were alone to discuss the what and the how of it.

"There's got to be a better way," I said to David the next morning as we dressed in our room. "What about Double Dutch?" David shook his head. I was fluent in the coded speak even before I read that Sweet Valley Twins book in which the perky blonde heroines' father teaches them the secret language referred to as "Ithig." I'd recently taught it to Michelle, my sister-in-law, who's beginning to get the hang of it. My sisters — especially Heather, from whom I learned how to speak Double Dutch — are fluent. It was the only way we could secretly communicate under our parents' noses (although I have a sneaking suspicion that my father, who majored in linguistics, quickly grew

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move your brows

independently of

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hip to the code).

"Cithigome ithigon, Dithigavithigid, ithigit's nithigot thithigat hithigard," I said.

"I didn't catch a word of that, so no," David said. "What about Ubbi Dubbi?"

"Never heard of that one. How's it go?"

"UbI lubove yubou," David demonstrated.

"Nah, wouldn't work, I tend to trip up on Bs." "What about igpay atinlay?"

"Absolutely not," I said. "I hate that one. Totally impossible to understand. Maybe we can work out some kind of Morse code using facial tics. Oh, wait, you can't move your brows independently of one another. You ever heard of Ong? O Nong Gong?"

"Too much spelling," David said.

"We're just going to have to learn Japanese," I said with a sigh. I sat on the bed and gestured for David to join me. "Okay, let's make a pact," I said. David lifted his arm and extended his pinky. "Let's promise each other that when we get home, we're going to break out the Rosetta Stone and really try to learn Japanese." I joined my pinky with

David. "Okay?" "Pinky swear," David said, tightening his grip. "Pinky swear," I

repeated.

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Reader December 17, 2009

# Crasher

## HO-HO-HOW ABOUT A COOKIE?

by Josh Board

found out from a friend with a six-year-old son that one of his playmates has a mom who throws elaborate Christmas parties. I drove up to Kimberley's condo in Peñasquitos, and from there we drove to another friend's house. We all sat in our cars, waiting for a few other people to show up before we caravanned to the party. Kimberley quipped, "This is like high school. When else are you sitting in a car following people to a party?"

After a million different turns (which would cause us to get lost when leaving, sans caravan), we finally arrived.

Many of the houses on the cul-de-sac were lit up with Christmas lights. Tamitha's house had the most. There were characters who moved, singing carols from the balcony; an inflatable Snoopy on the fence, as well as other *Peanuts* characters; and lots of lights, decorations, and signs on the lawn.

As we opened the door, it bumped into a woman near her son. Apparently, Santa had just come down the spiral staircase and had their attention near the front door. Candy canes were being passed out, and one kid who was crying clutched his mom's arm tightly.

After getting past the kids, I noticed more cookies than I'd seen at any other party I've ever been to: about 20 huge trays with every variety of cookie imaginable. In the kitchen were another five trays of chocolate chip ready to go



Left: Kimberley and Ben; Center: Tamitha and her father; Right: Kids watching Christmas movies

when they ran low.

I opted for some fudge and M&Ms before making my way out back, where, on a huge screen, *Elf* was being projected. A bunch of chairs were set up. Some kids watched, and other kids were having a pillow fight.

In the huge backyard, a large selection of regular food was laid out. Near the meatballs and hot

"That was good.

I want another
one of those
jelly drinks."

wings, I overheard a woman say, "I can't believe this mashed-potato bar. It has all kinds of toppings. And there's sushi that Paula brought."

As I was smothering my potatoes with sour cream and cheese, I overheard one guy say to his friend, "It's so nice to see families getting together like this during the holidays. With my family, we just fight. That basically means when holidays roll around, we just don't communicate."

The backyard had some heating lamps set up, but I made the mistake of talking to the most interesting person in an area where I stood freezing.

Mark talked about music memorabilia his dad had saved from the '60s. He also told me about a comedy troupe from the early '70s called the Conception Corporation. He appeared on one of their albums.

"I was working on a skit with Peter Boyle. He was in his 30s at the time. He was so nice and patient with me. I was an 11-yearold kid. Sometimes I'd be talking and accidentally brush the headphone cord against the mic, and they'd have to stop and rerecord."

He told me there was supposed to be a Conception Corporation movie made, but it never panned out. Mark's dad also worked with Arthur Lee and Love. He had a few stories about the crazy things bands did in their hotel rooms.

I glanced at the movie screen to see *Elf* had ended and *Ice Age* was running. One kid complained to his mom that another boy had two pillows and he only had one.

Tamitha panicked as she went to the kitchen. I thought one of the eight Christmas trees in her house had caught fire. Each tree had a different theme. One had all black-and-white animals — penguins, polar bears, and Dalmatians. Another was upside down and dangling from the ceiling.

I listened as three women had an interesting debate. One said how great it is for the environment to buy artificial trees instead of real ones. Her friend replied, "No it isn't. You'd need to keep it for 200 years for that to help the environment. It has to do with the landfills and things like that."

Tamitha came out with a huge tray of Jell-O shots, saying, "I almost forgot these."

An older woman said, "Why isn't my drink moving?" She realized a minute later it was Jell-O, made with Everclear. When she finished it she said, "That was good. I want another one of those jelly drinks."

I thought about all the alcohol Tamitha had outside — the various bottles of wine and hard liquor, the three different dispensers with flavored fruity alcohol drinks, and coolers filled with beer. She must have spent a thousand bucks on the booze alone.

After helping Tamitha get rid of the Jell-O shots (by taking two), I asked her how long it had taken her to decorate. She said, "It takes two weeks. I take a week off work to do most of it, though. I have charts, to make sure I don't decorate the same as last year. My

attic is filled with decorations."

As I went to grab some more fudge, I heard a high school wrestler tell a girl about how he pinned a guy in his last match.

I talked to a woman named Kim, who told me her husband was in a Reader story about the removal of fire pits. She explained all the fire hazards involved, including hot embers that ended up on her roof and how an evacuation wouldn't work in a certain area of where they lived.

Three women walked in together, and one looked around and said, "I hope there are single guys here." A man overheard this and said to his friend, "I guess the ho-ho-ho's are here."

I went to look for my friend Kimberley and heard the wrestler talking to two different women. He was explaining a move in wrestling called "bridging." One of the ladies asked, "Is that like yoga? There's something called bridging in yoga." He replied, "I don't know. I don't do yoga." He went on about how strong his neck has gotten because of wrestling. As I walked away I heard him plead with them, "Touch my neck. Feel it! Seriously, go ahead."

I laughed as I found my friend and started to tell her the story. Her friend said to me, "You're not the party crasher." 
You're the party eavesdropper."

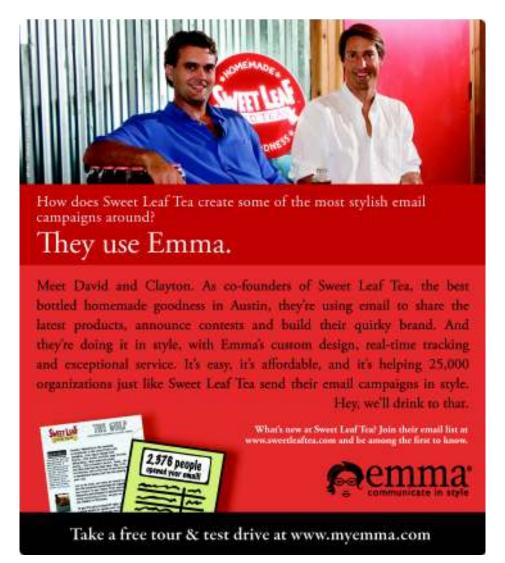
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continued on page 34



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one more hit and I'm done for. There are a couple of health powerups in the next hallway, so I head in that direction. Rocketboy takes a risk and comes charging at me as I throw my own grenades in the doorway to slow him down. It isn't enough; he has too much armor now, and his rockets obliterate me. He ties the match with 30 sec-

onds to go. He then scores two more conversion frags before time is up. Rocketboy wins the map 11–9 and ends my hopes of winning my first big tournament.

The loss hurt, but I played well. Rocketboy would go on to win the Cyberathlete Professional League (CPL) 2004 tournament. I arrived home to McCarran Interna-

tional in Las Vegas, the dustiest, most frigid airport on earth — the air-conditioning and the familiar racket of slot machines are always cranked way up.

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At a house party in Stockholm, I met a beautiful Swedish girl — blonde hair, long slender body, pretty eyes. Her name was Elin, and she was into the gaming scene. We talked about traveling. I told her about growing up in California. She said she had visited San Diego the

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#### You may be eligible to participate in this study if you:

- Are 40 years of age or older
- Have a diagnosis of COPD
- Are a current smoker or were a smoker in the past

In addition to receiving study-related physical exams and laboratory services at no charge, participants will receive study medication and will be monitored by a medical team including the study physician.

Ask your doctor if this study is right for you. For more information, call:

1-888-365-3203



# Are you suffering from sciatica pain?

If you have low back pain combined with a pain through the buttock and down one leg, you may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study of an investigational medication.

#### **Eligibility requirements include** (but are not limited to):

- Ages 18 to 65
- Pain present for at least 2 weeks but not lasting for more than 12 weeks

Qualified volunteers may receive the study medication and any study-related procedures at no cost.

To learn more about this study, please call:

1-888-365-3203



# **Do You Suffer From** Symptoms of Depression?

Have you tried taking ONE or TWO ANTI-DEPRESSANTS but aren't relieved from your depression symptoms?

If so, please contact us today about our research study of an investigational depression medication.

#### Qualified participants must:

- Be 18-65 years of age
- Have tried taking one or two anti-depressant treatments without relief from depression symptoms
- Have felt symptoms of depression for at least the past eight weeks

#### Qualified participants receive:

- All study-related care and study medication at no cost
- Compensation for time and travel

To learn more about this study, please call:

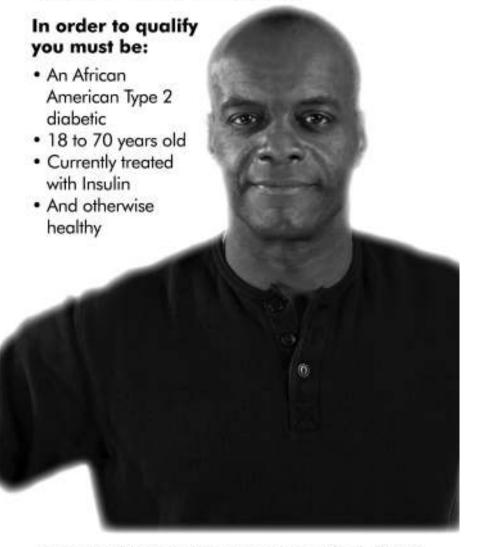
1-888-365-3203



1908 Sweetwater Rd., National City, CA 91950 www.synergysandiego.com

# Are you an African American with Type 2 Diabetes? Currently Using Insulin?

If so, consider participating in a clinical trial at Profil Institute for Clinical Research. Profil is conducting a clinical research study to evaluate an investigational insulin in African Americans diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes.



If you qualify you may be compensated up to \$5195 for time and travel. 8 overnights will be required.

For more information, call Profil Toll Free at +1 (866) 271-6840.



year before and loved it there.

"Do you really live in Las Vegas now?" she asked as she sipped her rum and Coke.

I was sober, but it didn't matter — having fallen under her spell, I was attempting to mask the signals of fascination my body language clearly betrayed.

"I really do," I said.
"Can you guess which hotel I live in?"

She laughed, which surprised me. Most people back home usually try to guess.

"Actually," I said,
"when you live there,
you try to stay away
from the hotels and
casinos. To be honest, if
it wasn't for the scorching heat, I probably
would have never gotten into gaming."

"Just like the Swedish players," she said, "except that being this far north, the winters last a lot longer than the summers."

She spent my last day with me, touring Stockholm's sites and relaying the history. We conversed as much as we could; luckily for me, she was bilingual and interested in improving her English.

After that, everything seemed to happen so fast. I hooked up with a well-funded team that would be sending me to the newly launched World Series of Video Games circuit events. I would be flying all over North America and Europe to practice and compete but spending as much time in Sweden as I was

able

Whenever I traveled, I loathed having to head back to Vegas. Now I only loathed having to leave Sweden. But when I finally departed Europe, it wasn't so bad — my girlfriend was a Swedish goddess.

My older brother said, "She even has the same name as Tiger Woods' wife."

I had no idea what I had done to gain Elin's interest, only that we enjoyed each other's company and were waiting for the next time we would see each other. And when I arrived home, it was tolerable, because Elin was just one Skype call away.

My family moved from San Diego to Las Vegas

#### RESEARCH STUDIES



# Hand Eczema?

Therapeutics Clinical Research, a center of excellence in dermatological care, is conducting a clinical research trial of an investigational medication for hand eczema (also known as hand dermatitis).

#### We need participants:

- 18-75 years of age
- with hand eczema lasting at least six months

#### Qualified participants will receive:

- study-related evaluations by a board-certified dermatologist and study medication at no cost
- compensation for time and travel

#### No insurance required.

Conveniently located in Kearny Mesa.

### Call us at: 619-512-DERM (3376)

E-mail: <u>info@therapeuticsresearch.com</u> Website: <u>www.therapeuticsresearch.com</u>

### THERAPEUTICS

**CLINICAL RESEARCH -**

# Are you a healthcare professional with an opioid dependence?

Could a monthly investigational medication break the cycle?

Participants may receive, at no charge, study-related:

- Physical exams
- Laboratory tests
- Study medication



(Vivitrol®, an FDA-approved drug to treat alcoholism, is being investigated to treat opioid dependence.)

All participants will be monitored by a medical team and the study doctor.

All information is strictly confidential.

To learn more, please call North County Clinical Research: 760-639-4378



### Irritable Bowel Syndrome with Constipation

Abdominal pain and constipation can slow you down. Researchers are evaluating an investigational medication to see if it helps Irritable Bowl Syndrome with Constipation. You may qualify for a research study if you experience any of the following symptoms:

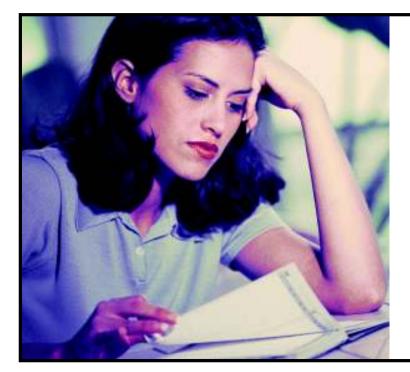
- Abdominal pain
- Bloating and/or straining
- Constipation (fewer than 3 bowl movements per week)

All study-related care will be provided at no cost. Insurance is not needed.

To learn more, call:

GW Research, Inc. 353 Church Ave., Suite B Chula Vista

619-585-8882



### **CLINICAL RESEARCH**

SCHIZOPHRENIA • DEPRESSION • BIPOLAR DISORDER

Researchers at Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital are currently enrolling men and women in inpatient and outpatient studies.

Eligible participants may receive all study-related care at no cost, and may be reimbursed for time and travel.

Participation is confidential and trials are safely conducted under the supervision of experienced physicians and research specialists.

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





MV88A @2008 SH



Are you or someone you know diagnosed with any of the following conditions? We may currently or in the near future have clinical studies for the following conditions:

- Alcohol Dependency
- Atrial Fibrillation
- Bipolar Disorder
- Diabetes
- Fibromyalgia
- High Blood Pressure
- Insomnia

- Major Depression
- Parkinson's Disease
- Schizophrenia

Qualified participants may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study and receive:

- Study-related medical care at no cost Reimbursement for time and travel
- Study-related evaluations by board-certified psychiatrists and internists for both inpatient and outpatient studies

Please contact CNRI-San Diego at (619) 481-5252

### Study of Phantom Limb Pain Treatment



Have you experienced a unilateral amputation (either above or below the knee, or above or below the elbow)?

Do you currently experience phantom limb pain at least once weekly?

If you answered **yes** to both of these questions and are available to take part in **8 weekly 1.5-hour therapy sessions** with 12- and 24-week follow-up appointments, you may be eligible.

#### Inclusion criteria:

- adult (18 or over)
- unilateral amputation at or above the wrist or ankle
- living within 50 miles of the VA San Diego
- able to read and speak English

Interested in participating?

Qualified participants will be compensated for participation up to \$160. Participants will be paid \$40 at a pre-treatment interview, end-of-treatment interview, as well as at the 12- and 24-week follow-up interviews. Located at VA San Diego.

To see if you qualify or to learn more about the study, please call Kathleen Parkes: 858-552-8585 ext. 6495 when I was 11. I was athletic and in a good private school with fun, loyal friends. But I was too young to realize how good it was in comparison to what awaited me in Nevada. On the first day of school, I was dying of heat stroke around strange people. Mission Beach seemed so far away. The dry heat was cruel even in the evenings.

I'd been spoiled by San Diego's perfect weather. But it was okay because I loved playing video games and Goldeneye for Nintendo 64 had just been released. It was my introduction to the First Person Shooter (FPS) genre, and I found myself logging ridiculous amounts of hours. I have always been competitive in sports but never imagined it would or could transfer over to video needed improvement. I worked tirelessly, often until 3:00 or 4:00 in the morning, when I had to be up for school

### I worked at it tirelessly, often until 3:00 or 4:00 in the morning.

games.

From the second floor of my family's airconditioned home, I would practice, I would analyze, I would critique. I've heard it takes around 10,000 hours of practice at something before things start to change, and I always felt there was some aspect of my game that

at 6:00 a.m. I consumed gallons of caffeine to sustain this lifestyle, and I loved every minute of it.

My parents didn't like it, though, especially when my grades began to plummet. I ended my senior year with a 2.1 GPA. To me, it was a small price to pay. I couldn't have

RESEARCH STUDIES

### ARE YOU SUFFERING FROM SCIATIC PAIN?

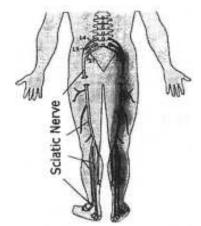
If you have low back pain combined with a pain through the buttock and down one leg, you may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study of an investigational medication.

### Requirements for participation in the study are:

- Ages 18 to 65
- Pain present for at least 2 weeks

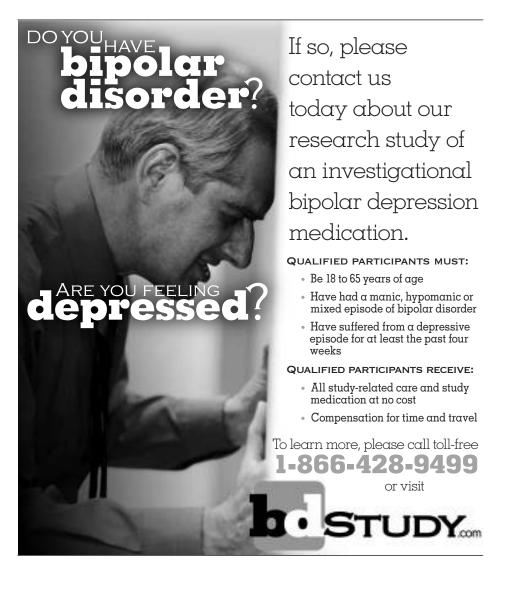
If you qualify you will receive:

- Study-related evaluations, test, and study medication
- Compensation for time and travel



To learn more about this study, please call:

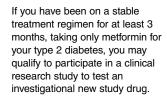
Tricest 888-582-9626





We are looking for men and women between 18 and 70 years of age who have been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes.

### **TYPE 2 DIABETES?**



Qualified participants will receive at no cost:

- = Study-related physical exams
- = Study medication
- = Study-related laboratory tests
- = Compensation for time and

For more information, contact:

Perlman Clinic: (858) 554-1212 or (858) 554-0808 or email: carolina@perlmanclinic.com



### Shingles Vaccine... For SENIORS!

If you are 60 and over, you are at a greater risk for the potentially serious and painful disease, Shingles.

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60 and over?... Call Accelovance today to receive vaccination at no cost, as well as compensation for time and travel.

(619) 291-2845

5920 Friars Road, #200, San Diego





### Does major depression change your outlook?

A clinical research study – STEP-D (Safety, Tolerability, and Efficacy Program) – is now underway to explore an investigational medication for major depressive disorder (MDD) to see if it may work when taken with an approved antidepressant.

#### You (or someone you know) may be eligible to participate in the STEP-D study if you:

- · Are 18 to 65 years of age · Have been told by your doctor that you have MDD
- Are experiencing depression lasting at least 8 weeks
  Have tried at least one antidepressant without success

In addition to receiving study-related physical exams and laboratory services at no charge, participants may receive the investigational medication and will be monitored by a medical team, including a study doctor. After the STEP-D study ends, some participants may be eligible to take the investigational medication as part of another research study.

Ask your doctor if the STEP-D study is right for you.



If you are interested in learning more about this study, please contact:

(619) 688-6565

See our website: www.ari-inc.com



### Have you been diagnosed with schizophrenia and currently taking medication?

#### Are you:

- Male or female between the ages of 18-55?
- Currently taking a stable dose of medication?
- Currently in a stable living situation?

If you answered yes to all of these questions, you may be eligible for our investigational drug research study. If you qualify and choose to participate, you will receive physician consultations, study-related medical examinations, laboratory evaluations and follow-up visits at no charge. You may receive study medication to be used in addition to the schizophrenia medication you are currently taking. Health insurance is not required and compensation for time and travel is provided.



If you are interested in learning more about this study, please contact:

(619) 688-6565

See our website: www.ari-inc.com



### Sadness? Low energy? Trouble sleeping? Can't concentrate? These are symptoms of depression!

#### If you, or someone you know, is:

- Between the ages of 18 and 55
- · Currently experiencing a depressive episode
- · In overall good health

If you answered yes to all of these questions, you may be eligible to participate in a research study for an investigational drug for depression. If you qualify and choose to participate, you will receive study-related consultations, study-related medical examinations, laboratory evaluations and follow-up visits at no charge to you or your insurance company.

You may be reimbursed for participation.



If you are interested in learning more about this study, please contact:

(619) 688-6565

See our website: www.ari-inc.com



### Do you want to quit smoking?

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

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

Affiliated Research Institute is conducting a clinical trial on an investigational vaccine that may help participants quit smoking and maintain smoking cessation. To qualify for this research study, you must be between the ages of 18 and 65 years and smoke an average of 10 cigarettes per day. If you qualify for participation, all research medication and study-related care will be provided at no cost to you. You will receive smoking cessation counseling to help you succeed in your effort to stop smoking.

Health insurance is not required and compensation for time and travel is provided.



If you are interested in learning more about this study, please contact:

(619) 688-6565

See our website: www.ari-inc.com

# Looking for: Males with Type 2 Diabetes

Accelorance is currently recruiting Males 40-75 years of age to participate in a clinical research study that is evaluating an investigational non-invasive diabetes screening device.

We need:

- White Males
- 40-75 years of age
- Diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes

Study requires one visit that will last 2 1/2 hours. Volunteers will be compensated for their participation.



Call 619-291-2845

cared less about school. I had something few would ever experience in their lives — I was doing something I was good at and loved to do. Looking back, the goal of getting out of Vegas was always in the back of my mind. Somehow, I would make it back to San Diego; maybe gaming was the path back home.

"You like how I disrespect your corpse, newb?" Those words, spoken so casually by one of my new friends, brought things out of me — rage, anger, jealousy, and envy. But after learning to play the game properly, I felt pleasure, satisfaction, pride, and confidence, especially after laying a solid beatdown on a trash-talker.

I became immersed in the online community and joined online gaming teams with that somehow I would figure out how to get there. "It's impossible to be that good," my friend Eric would say.

### I became immersed in the online community and joined online gaming teams.

players at my level.
From home, I watched
the finals of the
Cyberathlete Professional League (CPL),
where Johnathan
"Fatallty" Wendel took
down the reigning king
Victor "Makaveli"
Cuadra. I dreamed of
being able to play the
game like these guys. I
didn't know how,
though; all I knew was

"He's gifted. Nobody knows how he does it." But I had to know.

In 2005, at Quakecon, where money is only paid out to the top three finishers, I lost in the final seconds by one point, landing me a fourth-place finish. My opponent would take third place, winning \$10,000. But I was okay. Winning the cash

RESEARCH STUDIES



# Have you lost your eyelashes because of chemotherapy?

Therapeutics Clinical Research is conducting a research study to assess the safety and effectiveness of an investigational drug called bimatoprost 0.03% to treat inadequate eyelashes from varied causes.

#### We need participants:

- 18 years of age or older
- With eyelash loss due to chemotherapy

#### **Qualified participants will receive:**

- Study-related evaluations by a board-certified dermatologist and study medication at no cost
- · Compensation for paticipation

#### No insurance required

Conveniently located in Kearny Mesa

Call us at 858-279-SKIN (7546)

THERAPEUTICS

9025 Balboa Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123

Email: info@therapeuticsresearch.com Website: www.therapeuticsresearch.com

### Does your knee hurt? Be part of our important knee pain study! Have you been diagnosed with osteoarthritis of the knee? Are you at least 40 years or older? Then you may be eligible for a clinical trial to investigate an investigational treatment option to treat your knee pain. 888-582-9626 KneePainClinicalTrial.com It's your move!

### Chronic Low Back Pain



## Do you wake up to pain?

Consider volunteering for a clinical research study

To qualify, you must:

- □ Be at least 18 years of age
- Have chronic low back pain that you treat with medication
- Other criteria will apply
  As a qualified participant, you
  will see a study doctor to discuss
  your pain. All study-related care is
  included and no insurance
  is required.

Clinical Research Study

CHRONIC LOW BACK PAIN

Please Call: 877-899-5355

www.chroniclowbackpainstudy.com

### COUGHING, SHORTNESS OF BREATH, WHEEZING, YEARS OF SMOKING

eStudySite is participating in a world-wide research study to test an investigational treatment for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease COPD, also knows as smoker's cough, chronic bronchitis or emphysema.



You may be eligible to participate in this study if you:

- · Are 40 years of age or older
- Have a diagnosis of COPD
- Are a current smoker or were a smoker in the past

Compensation for time and travel may be availble.



For more information please contact eStudySite toll free at:

1-877-500-eStudy (1-877-500-3788)

### Hepatitis C Research Study

If you suffer from chronic Hepatitis C you may be eligible to participate in a research study of an investigational drug for Hepatitis C.

You may be eligible if you have:

- Chronic infection with Hepatitis C genotype 1
- Never been on prescription therapy for Hepatitis C
- Otherwise good health

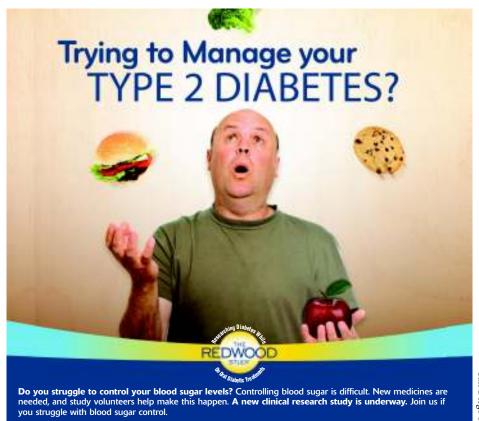
If you qualify, you may receive study-related medical examinations, lab tests, and compensation for time and travel.



For more information, contact eStudySite toll-free at:

1-877-500-eStudy (1-877-500-3788)

info@eStudySite.com



n Diego Reader December 17,

**eStudySite** 

1-877-500-3788 OR VISIT

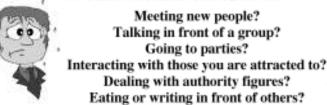
www.DiabetesStudies.net
TO SEE IF YOU MAY QUALIFY.

SPACE IS LIMITED

to the number of people who can participate based on
meeting study criteria and on a first-come, first-served basis

### Do You Suffer from Excessive Shyness?

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





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

1-877-UCSD-SHY (1-877-827-3749) or e-mail: veryshy@ucsd.edu would have been nice, but I knew that money didn't make me a better player, and that was all I really wanted.

It wasn't just about being good at something for the sake of being good. I had been an avid soccer player most of my life. I made my high school's varsity soccer team my sophomore year. But this was something different. I had to taste success. I had to know what it was like to figure something out this way, to pioneer a new frontier in the industry now referred to as esports. All I wanted was to know for myself what it takes, and if I had it.

The first tournament I ever attended where I thought I had a shot at winning was CPL Winter 2004. The game was Doom 3 (the second sequel to the ever-popular Doom), and the multiplayer mode was new and different enough from the previous Quake games that it wasn't something you could just pick up and start owning it. Although it was different, I was open to trying something new, especially because I had been playing Quake 3

for the past five years straight.

"Why are you bothering with this game?" my buddy Nick asked.

"Because it's a fresh start, and I think it could really catch on."

Nick was one of my best friends from high school. He was a stocky 5'8", with dark hair, and he wore glasses, same as I did. We were both into the same games, but I think it was our ability to appreciate the skill of the professionals that allowed us to be such good friends.

"The GGL [Global Gaming League] just

### **Attn: Heavy Drinkers**

Researchers at The Scripps Research Institute are working to develop new treatments for people with alcohol problems.

Is your current alcohol use causing problems with your family, your work, your life? If you want to stop drinking, The Pearson Center for Alcoholism and Addiction Research is conducting a clinical trial to help you reach that goal.

Qualified participants receive lab tests, medication or placebo, individual counseling and compensation for travel. All information is confidential.

Call: 858-784-7867 (STOP) Or visit: www.pearsoncenter.org



RESEARCH STUDIES

# Does your child have eyelid redness and swelling?



They may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study involving investigational medication.

Participating children will receive the following at no cost:

- Study-related eye exam
- Study medication

For more information about the study, please contact:

**Patti Simpson 760-758-2008** 

Pendleton

### Have you taken medication for your depression, but it hasn't helped?



UCSD Researchers are looking for people who have taken two or more antidepressants in the past, but are still depressed, to take part in a research study investigating an experimental antidepressant compared to placebo. The study drug is not approved by the FDA and it is designed to work differently than other antidepressants.

Eligible participants must be willing to stay in the hospital for up to 16 days.

All participants will receive a comprehensive psychiatric evaluation by a UCSD faculty psychiatrist.

Medical evaluations and study drug will be provided at no cost. Eligible participants will also receive financial compensation for time and travel.

For more information, please call: 1-866-UC PRICE (1-866-827-7423)



# Smoking too much pot?

### WE WANT TO HELP YOU STOP!

Researchers at the Scripps Research Institute are working to develop treatments to help you quit smoking marijuana. This 12-week program involves medication.

For more information and to see if you qualify, please call **858-784-7867** or visit **www.pearsoncenter.org** for more detailed information.



42 San Diego Reader December 17, 2009



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started an online tournament," I said. "If I qualify, I go into a playoff bracket and the winner gets \$4000."

Admittedly, I was sort of in it for the money — four grand to the winner of a newly released game. I liked my odds.

CPL Winter 2004 came around. The powerhouse at this event would be a Chinese player known as Rocketboy. He had just won \$150,000 from a Doom 3 tournament in China. It was all over the internet, this sensational talent out of nowhere who won over a million yuan in a video game tournament.

"You really think you stand a chance against him?" Nick

"I don't know, but we're going to find out."

"What if you go there and you just get dominated?"

"That would suck. I wouldn't win any

winning CPL and going home with the firstplace prize of \$9000.

CPL was always held in Dallas, and the first day of the tournament is usually pretty easy to get through. Matches consist of

### I heard Rocketboy mutter something in Chinese.

money, and I'd probably never want to play games again."

I had been practicing hard with the best players in North America and was now in the top eight for the online GGL tournament. I knew that if I played well. I had a shot at

players who are either local or who have driven in for the weekend to play against the top players. If you're from Europe or China — or Las Vegas — you probably wouldn't be fronting the cash for the trip if you didn't think you

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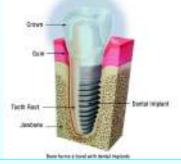
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could win.

After the first day, the tournament was down to 32 players. I got a phone call from Nick that morning before I finished breakfast; he had been following the tournament from home.

"Dude, have you seen the bracket?"

"Nope, why?"

"You're playing Rocketboy in the second round."

"You had better be joking."

"I wish I was. Guess we're going to find out pretty quick if you went all that way for nothing." He ended sarcastically. "Good luck."

As I headed down to the tournament area, I got a couple of strange looks from the

German players. It was the kind of look your coworkers give you when your boss says, "Can I see you in my office, please?"

My first match was against a relatively unknown player. He

moment of truth. I was anxious to start the match but remained confident in my own ability.

We chose maps, and the tournament admin asked if I was ready. I heard Rocket-

### My health went from 200 to 100 to 0 in about 2 seconds.

had good skills, but I could tell he hadn't practiced much. I used that match as warm-up for my second match — trying tactics I had been toying with, timing armor and weapon routes differently.

Then came the

boy mutter something in Chinese from the other side of the table, but I thought nothing

"He says good luck," the translator told me.

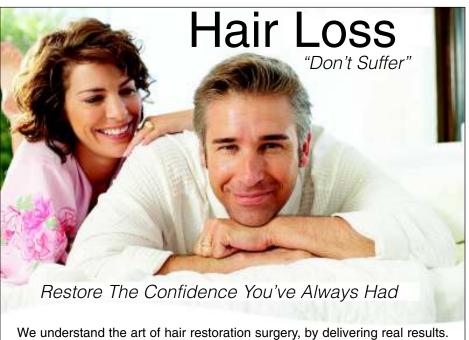
"Oh, th-thanks," I stuttered back, caught off guard by this sud-

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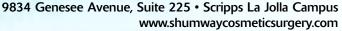
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den friendly gesture from a complete stranger whom I would now try to destroy.

The match began, both of us starting at fair points in the map. I had control of the rocket launcher and picked up the first big health boost; he had the chain-gun and armor boost. Barely any fire was exchanged for the first couple of minutes. We were both creeping around, playing keep-away with the items we controlled and not giving the other any space into our own side of the map. I became impatient and decided I was high enough on ammunition and health that I could try to sneak in and catch him waiting on his armor.

That would be the mistake that would cost me the map and some pride.

There he was on his way back from picking up the chain-gun, waiting for me to come jumping up for the armor. I don't think he missed with a single bullet as my health went from 200 to 100 to 0 in about two seconds. From then on, he would dominate the big weapons as well as the armor and health power-ups. Whenever I thought I could break his control, I was rejected by either a rocket to the face or a fierce chain-gun, draining my health. The map ended with a score of

I hadn't been beaten like that in a

long time. Many memories rushed back to me after that first map, and I suddenly felt like a kid who was lucky just to be playing against someone as good as Rocketboy was.

"One greedy mistake cost me that loss," I told myself. "I'll play more conservatively. My aim is just as good as his."

The second match began again with neither player getting a better start, and again we would each be sneaking around, waiting for the other to slip up. This time, however, I would capitalize. I was able to corner him in a small room with well-placed rockets and score the first frag. I went up by one, then two, then five. He did

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well to keep the gap close and not give away too many points. After a few more minutes, he was able to gain some ground back and get possession of a rocket launcher and some armor.

The clock showed two minutes remaining. I was winning 9–7.

"Run the clock out," I thought. "He has to come to me."

And he did so with remarkable aim, once again draining my health and taking back control. He was now trailing me by one point and had full control of the map.

"Shit, I'll just have to run my ass off," I thought.

I hid, I ran, and I hid some more. But he still beat me.

When I got home, I went right back to practicing. Playing that well against Rocketboy was a huge boost to my confidence, and I was now through to the top four in the GGL online tournament. Then I was through to the finals. Next thing I knew, I was \$4000 richer, and I could now say I was the best Doom 3 player on this side of the planet. It was my biggest win to date. From that point forward, I was no longer a kid wanting to be like the pros. Now, I was one.

In 2005, on the international stage at CPL Winter, I experienced an awesome triumph. The game was the newly released Quake 4. Almost every

big name from Quake 3 had made the switch to the new sequel. Esports was on the rise, and the big money would now be offered to the winners of Quake 4 tournaments.

My first big match was against a Russian player who was well known from his dominant background in Quake 3. After all the practice, nothing could have really prepared me for my nerves beginning to get the best of me. To know you've invested so much but still doubt yourself it is one of the most draining and saddest states of mind to be in. I was so upset about this match that I even called my mom and told her how I felt. She said that there was only

#### HEALTH AND BEAUTY





**50** San Diego Reader December 17, 2009

one choice.

"You've prepared for this for the past four months, don't let it all go to waste because you think he might be better. You owe it to yourself to play your best and come away from it knowing you put it all out there to win."

She was right, and that was exactly what I was going to do.

Next thing I knew, we were in the tiebreaking round, and my preparation paid off as I would take a clean victory and move on to the Final 8. When I got up to shake my opponent's hand, I was immediately approached by an organization offering to fly me to Europe, sponsoring me for the

remainder of the event and the next year. I couldn't wait to tell Elin the good news.

Stockholm is seven hours ahead of Dallas. It was about 4:00 a.m. in Sweden when the tournament ended. My girlfriend had stayed up all night in bed with her laptop and watched the win via the online video stream. She was waiting for me to call.

I'd never heard her so excited. "I can't believe you won," she said. "It was amazing to watch! But I have some good news of my own."

Her research lab had a connection with UCSD. She could get a job in San Diego, working under a student visa.

"Are you serious?" I was so happy, I almost

HEALTH AND BEAUTY





SDR



started crying. "I can't believe it. We don't have to do the longdistance thing anymore!"

We moved into a tiny one-bedroom apartment in Pacific Beach. It was perfect – together in paradise, no more than a mile from the beach. With the dust bowl now in my past, life was divine.

In August 2007, the World Series of Video Games would shut its doors due to a lack of sponsors. Suddenly, the professional gamer would have to enter the world of professional administrative-assisting. It was a harsh reality that I had ignored when I decided to skip college and pursue gaming. Elin was so far

ahead of me. She had a good education and a career in pharmaceutical research. I had a high school diploma and thousands of hours staring at a monitor. I had to get educated and I knew it.

My nickname as a

cyberathlete was Nomadic. My job was that of a hired gun seeking out the opposition for the sole intention of destroying it. When I was done, I removed the noisecanceling aviator headphones used to silence all distractions, shook the hand of the poor fellow I'd just sent home, and thanked the sponsors for allowing me to do so. I went back to my hotel in Paris or London or Rome and ordered my

favorite dinner, a New York strip steak. My team picked up the tab, including room service.

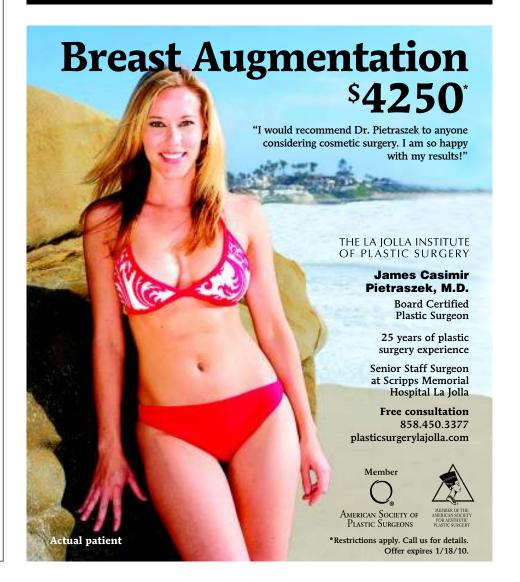
Now I'm trying to find a parking spot at Mesa College. When my classes are over, I head off to my fulltime job. But at least I've still got connections. I'm in sales and marketing for Razer, the innovative gaminghardware company.

"It could be worse," I tell myself. "I could be stuck in Vegas."

When I get home, Elin is waiting for me. We have dinner, watch a movie, or just hang out — which is perfectly fine by me, because I already know the ending.

The gamer wins. ■
— Evan Bradshaw

HEALTH AND BEAUTY



52 San Diego Reader December 17, 2009

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#### THE FAKE MEMO

by Josh Board,

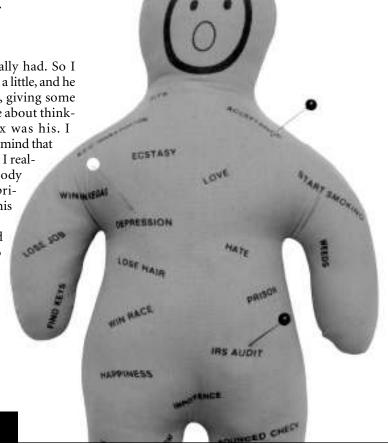
Rancho Peñasquitos

I used to work on a morning show for Magic 102, a former classic rock station here in San Diego. I usually got to work before the other DJs, and I'd spend a few minutes talking to the overnight jock. One morning he was asking me questions about a DJ that worked with us. I thought it was a little unusual because we'd never talked about this person before. We usually just talked about basketball or the weirdos that call in at 2:00 a.m. requesting things we've never heard of. Usually songs from local bands they're in or some obscure live Deep Purple tune that was only released in Guam.

Well, when I went to my mailbox, I saw a

personal note from this DJ he had just asked me about. I thought it was a weird coincidence, but then it hit me. Here's a DJ that works overnight, the one time nobody else is around. Maybe he was playing Zeppelin's "Moby Dick," and during the tenminute drum solo, he went looking through other people's boxes reading their notes. So I asked him if he looked at the stuff in my box, and he said no. But he hesitated just long enough to make me realize he actually had. So I pressed him a little, and he admitted it, giving some lame excuse about thinking my box was his. I really didn't mind that much, until I realized — nobody really has privacy from this

We had a boss who



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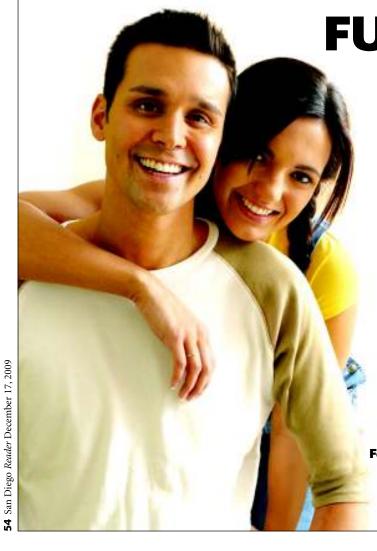
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typed memos all the time, so I decided to get revenge by typing a fake memo complete with a bogus signature of my boss. It basically said, "We are going to fire 'Jerry' next week, but we would prefer he quit on his own. I know that you're usually the first person to see him in the morning, so why don't you tell him to send résumés out because there isn't much job security in radio. Make sure you're very subtle..."

After I typed the memo, I put it in my own box. I figured, if he didn't look in my box, he wouldn't see it, and no harm done. If he is nosy again, he'll be s\*%#ing bricks. When I came in the next morning, I made the usual small talk and went to see the messages in my box. After I re-read my bogus memo, I started tearing it up in front of the trash can. Jerry said, very innocently, "What's that?" I acted nervous, purposely, saying, "Oh, that. It was nothing." I walked into another studio, and he followed me. He said, "So, anything interesting going on?" At this point, I assumed he had looked in my box again. I was ready to gut him. I said, "I've been thinking about sending out some résumés. Have you ever thought about..." Before I could finish my sentence, he said, "No. Why should I? Do you know something I don't?" I replied, "No, but it's always a good idea to see what jobs are out there."

All morning I felt like the mission was accomplished. I figured I'd let him go a few days being scared, and then I'd let him off the hook. Well, when my boss got there in the morning, he yelled, "JOSH!" I walked into his office, and he was holding a copy of this fake memo, with a note from Jerry that said, "If you don't want me to work here, tell me yourself." My boss asked me to explain, which I did. He laughed, although I don't think he

cared for my forging his signature. Jerry never admitted to looking in my box this second time and tried to say some other DJ must have made the copy. So for the next few months,

I'd occasionally leave notes

in my box that said, "Still haven't learned your lesson, have you?"

### I TOLD THEM THE **BABY WAS MINE**

by Marcelle Lige, **University Heights**  In 1988 I got involved with a man who was only out to use me. I cared for him so much, I was blind to the game he and his mother and family played on me. He acted like he cared for

me, and his mother and other family members really acted like they cared and accepted me. He used me for everything. I gave him anything I could. His mother lied to me, say-

ing she was receiving a large lawsuit settlement very soon and she would repay everything I did for my boyfriend, and her, and her family, plus more, because "I was like family."

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No settlement ever came, and as I got broke he no longer wanted me, and the mother had no need to be involved. I found there was no settlement ever, and this wasn't anything unusual for them...so...I faked being pregnant. I also took them to small claims court during this faked pregnancy. I won in court, but they didn't pay. During this fake pregnancy they kept in touch because they wanted my "baby." I moved to Phoenix during this time. My best friend in Phoenix really was pregnant and had the baby around the time I would have been due. So I used her baby, who fit perfect because her baby was half white and half black, which would have been what ours would have been if it was real. So he and his family believed I had his son, as I would use my godson and bring him with me to San Diego, and they really believed the baby was mine. I was able to get money, and lots of baby clothes, etc., for him.

I did this for a little over a year and recovered all my money plus more and kept my godson in gifts. The money they sent was for the support of the baby, not my credit cards. They thought I was going to let them have the baby after he was a year old, then they could draw welfare...they thought! After that I thanked them for repaying my money and asked them how it felt to be lied to and used!! They didn't like it! A family member advised me her family had done this to several trusting people before, especially using the "settlement con," to get people to do things for them. And my exboyfriend only used women anyway.

I feel we are even!

### THEY FOOLED WITH A PRO

by Richard M., Spring Valley During the summer of 1967 I traveled with my father, who at the time



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was an umpire for the old California Pacific Coast League, a minor league division of the American League.

My father was doing a three-game series in Bakersfield, the temperature was in the hundreds, the fans were barbaric, the ball players were bush league, and so was the management. By the third inning of the third game of the series, there had been two player fistfights, at least one bean ball, and my father had thrown out both managers and four players. It was a miserable series.

After the end of the third game, we had to leave immediately for the next series in Modesto with two new teams. When my dad and I got to our car, we found all four tires flat. Apparently someone had just let the air out. Needless to say, my dad was furious. He called the auto club and waited. While the tires were being inflated, a couple of guys walked by and told my dad that they saw two of the players letting the air out. My dad was livid.

He packed his umpire gear in the trunk and immediately drove back to the hotel. We went straight to the room, and he went straight to the telephone. Grabbing the local Bakersfield phone book, he looked up a number and made a call.

He called a prominent restaurant in Bakersfield and introduced himself as the manager of the visiting team. In honor of having a winning series, the manager [my dad] wanted to make reservations for 20 top sirloin steak dinners, champagne, and the works for his winning team. The owner of the restaurant was more than happy to take the reservation, stating that the red carpet would be rolled out for the team; he was looking at a highdollar tab.

After my dad had finished the call to the restaurant, he called the motel where the home team was billeted. He asked to speak to the team manager. The following conversation went on: "Hello, I'm the owner of the so-and-so restaurant, and in honor of your three-game series in our city, I'd like to invite you, your coaching staff, and your team members to a free top sirloin dinner with salad, dessert, complimentary and champagne."

After the conversation was over, my dad and I packed, loaded the car, and got out of town.

Two days later we had finished our umpire duties and were spending the night just outside of L.A. My dad came back to our hotel room with a copy of the Los Angeles Times. In the middle of the front page of the sports section it read, "Major Brou-ha-ha in Bakersfield restaurant — 13 arrested."

Apparently what my father thought would hap-

pen did happen. The supposedly invited team showed up, ate, drank, and became merry and then was presented with a check for over \$400. The team manager made a stink, a fist fight broke out, the

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restaurant was trashed, the cops were called, 13 players were arrested, along with the manager. I read the article, laughed like hell, looked at my dad. His comment was, "They shouldn't screw around with a pro!"

End of story, we packed, loaded the car, and came on home to San Diego. I forgot all about what happened until six

months later when an article appeared in Sports Illustrated recounting the whole incident, with the bottom line being the team, as a whole, was fined \$1000 and had to pay for all restaurant damage.

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by Alex Rynant, Rancho Bernardo

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realized that we were four tacos short. It was too late to turn back, the plane was scheduled to land in a few minutes, and we were half an hour away.

Bob ran off to find his wife, and I went to look for a pay phone. I called the restaurant and explained that our order was shorted. The manager was less than friendly, and we argued for a little bit. It was my word against his, and I finally gave up. It was only a couple of dollars, but it was the principle that counted. Plus we were still hungry.

I caught up with Bob and his wife, exchanged pleasantries, and then told Bob the bad news. Surprisingly, he was just as ticked off as I was. Bob and I had been shorted by fast food drive-through windows once too often. He cussed the whole way home, which made for a very long car ride. Later that night Bob called me with a plan for getting even.

Bob was a business major in college. Even though he never graduated, he did manage to pick up a few things, mostly from his fraternity brothers. One thing he learned to do was how to make a stink bomb. I'm sure it wasn't in the university's curriculum, it was just one of the important things you needed to learn in life.

It was just before noon on a Saturday when we decided to pay Taco Bell a visit. We pulled into the parking lot, and Bob grabbed a bottle of liquid out of the back of his truck. Once inside the restaurant, we each ordered a large soft drink. Instead of filling the cups from the self-serve soda machine, we took them to the back of the restaurant. Bob then filled each cup from the bottle he had brought with him. He then pulled two envelopes from his pocket, one for each of us, and told me dump

the contents of it into the cup after I had placed it on the table. Bob went to the other side of the restaurant to do the same thing.

Words cannot describe the rancid odor that

engulfed the restaurant. These were stink bombs that were disguised as ordinary soft-drink cups. They emitted an invisible stench that pierced your nose like being hit with a sledgehammer. Try to imagine

the horrific odor produced by a pool of chunky vomit baking in the summer heat, only a hundred times worse.

We sat in Bob's truck and watched as people streamed out of the restaurant. The workers propped the doors open and cleaned up the mess. It was at least 25 to 30 minutes before people went into the restaurant. Meanwhile, Bob and I had a good laugh. It was worth the tacos that we had been shorted.

### NOSE TO NOSE WITH A KENWORTH

by Joe Kievit, Rolando Most over-the-road truck drivers are invariably

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known to their peers by their CB radio call signs or "handles." "Bad News" was no exception, and if ever I saw someone who fit their nickname, this guy was the one.

We both worked for a now-defunct trucking company that was based in San Diego. This company was a fairly berserk place to work, and Bad News fit right in when he hired on as a driver. He was definitely a strange bird. He talked in CB lingo when he was talking to people in person and introduced himself by his handle as if he were Clint Eastwood introducing himself to a fan. I have never figured out whether we were friends or enemies.

After a few weeks at work, it became apparent to his fellow drivers that Bad News was going to be a real pain in the ass to work with. In addition to

a lot of annoying habits, Bad News was an inveterate practical joker. Everyone at the company was sooner or later made a victim of his attempts at humor, myself included.

frozen-storage place near the convention center. Bad News and I were there loading at the same time. I finished first, secured my trailer doors, and got in my cab to check my

### "I damn near had an accident when the little bastard got caught under the seat."

The only way he kept his job was the fact that he was a fairly good driver, and management was too dumb to figure out who the joker was that put the dispatcher on an X-rated mailing list, signed the secretary up with a dating service (she was married), or who kept mailing potatoes to the owner. (No note or anything, just potatoes.)

The first time Bad News got me was at a

paperwork. Bad News finished, hopped in his truck, waved, and took off. Satisfied my paperwork was right, I fired up and headed onto the freeway. About a mile later, cars started driving by me and pointing and honking. I checked my mirrors and, to my great horror, saw a door was open and was swinging in the wind. I pulled off to the shoulder and ran to the rear. Bad News apparently had unlatched

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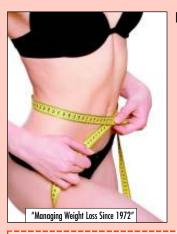
my door, and I was now short four cases of frozen fish that were undoubtedly all over the freeway. Ha-ha. Naturally Bad News denied it. The next time, several of us were getting ready to take off out of our yard for a trip to Washington state with several van loads of military freight. I checked my truck, got in, and got ready to go. Bad News and two others took off, and I started up and put it in gear. Little did I know that Bad News had pulled my fifthwheel release lever. As soon as I moved, the trailer slid off the tractor and dropped on its nose. Naturally, the owner, the mechanic, and the dispatcher were watching. The owner walked over and asked me what I did for an encore. I was so shocked, I just sat there with a weak smile.

The final straw was the mouse he put in my truck. I kept finding chewed-up papers and mouse turds, and I damn near had an accident one day when the little bas-

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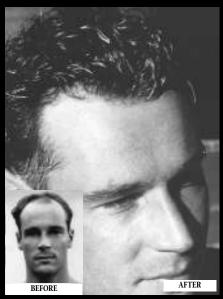
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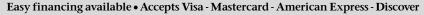


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tard got caught under the seat and started shrieking. I eventually caught him in a box and threw him out at a rest stop. I had had enough.

Evening the score with Mr. Bad News was not ever really planned, the opportunity just presented itself to me one day. I pulled over at the Union 76 truck stop at Buttonwillow one night, and who should be there but my old pal Bad News. He was asleep with his head resting on the steering wheel

of his truck. A truck-stop parking lot is a fairly noisy place, and he didn't wake the front of his cabover. I had heard old timers talk about the following

I definitely saw him hit his head on the roof, and I strongly suspect he ruined his underwear. He flew out of his cab, cursing.

up when I put the nose of my conventional Kenworth about ten feet from

stunt, and now it seemed like a pretty good idea.

To those not familiar with the terms, a conventional tractor is one with a hood in front of the driver's cab, and a cabover is a tractor where the driver sits up high over the engine, and the only thing separating him from the outside world is about a 1/4-inch of glass. Anyway, I turned off all my lights and crept forward very slowly until I was maybe four or five feet from his windshield. I reached up and yanked the air horn, flipped on all my

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lights, and while I rolled very slowly forward, I pumped the brakes hard for maximum effect. Bad News awoke from a sound sleep and believed for a split second he had fallen asleep at the wheel and was about to have a head-on collision. He stood straight up in the cab, jamming down on the brake pedal with all his might. I definitely saw him hit his head on the roof, and I strongly suspect he ruined his underwear. After he realized he wasn't dead and was in fact stopped in a parking lot, he flew out of his cab, cursing.

He didn't realize it was me until he got to my side. I locked my door just in time before he grabbed the door handle. "Get the  $f^{***}$  outta that truck, you m\*\*\*\*f\*\*\*\*, I'll kill you!" he screamed. "What's the matter, man? Can't you take a joke?" I offered as he was about zipping the door handle off. I put my truck in reverse, and he just stood there glaring at me. As I backed up and then went around him, I rolled down my window and called to him. "Hey, Bad News! What's that saying? Payback's a bitch?" "F\*\*\* you!" was his snappy comeback. I started thinking on the way back that maybe I had gone a tad too far with Bad News and that now I was probably going to die, or at least have to fight when we got to the yard. I didn't see Bad News back home. (I didn't know he was having brake-valve problems.) As a matter of fact, I didn't see him again until the following week.

Instead of the confrontation I was expecting, he totally ignored me. This continued until Bad News quit a few months later in a pay dispute. He came in to pick up his last check, and we passed each other as he was leaving. See ya on the road," I said. "Yeah," he said, "whatever." ■

Originally published in the Reader on November 23,

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### Jamul and the **Oranges of Hieronymus Bosch**



Author: Chad Deal Neighborhood: Hillcrest Age: 24 Occupation: "Pizza dude"

Editor's note: This is the winner of November's \$250 second-place prize for our monthly neighborhoodessay 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.

Jamul is a little-regarded and gravely misrepresented speck of San Diego geography.

Those "in the know" will drop names like "the Greek Sombrero," "El Campo," and may occasionally lend an esoteric nod to "the Haven" or even "the Hideaway." Some may see the place as the last bastion of civilization on outbound 94, that mysterious nexus where the event horizon of suburban San Diego ends and the untamed cosmos of East County truly begins.

Jamul is a magickal place — an alchemical fusion of foggy creek-side oak groves, rattlesnakes, upper-rung retire-



ment estates, poison oak, feed stores, middle-class families, granite hills, Border Patrol agents eating California burritos, horned toads, and expansive cowdotted countryside.

Many simply pass through on the way to a fish fry in Barrett Junction, the train museum in Campo, or a rave on the outskirts of Jacumba. Some come with fancy visions of getting away from it all. Others live here simply because that is who they are, what they do.

The True Jamulian is a rogue breed. This story is about them.

The sun has barely set, and already the Doverson house is flooded with drunks. In a single, spastic motion, James, the older Doverson brother, turns up the stereo to full volume on his trailer-bound speedboat, shoves one of his best friends over the starboard side, grabs his grinning topless girlfriend with one hand, and cracks open a can of beer with the other. The air smells of

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Reader December 17, 2009 San Diego

**Before** 

summer — that unmistakable Santa Ana edge of desert wind, Bud Light, and chaparral burning somewhere in the distance.

In the backyard, next to a sizable monument of beer cases, Cole Doverson drains the fuel from his brother's dirt bike to facilitate the fire-starting process. A squabble breaks out when a dimeyed friend grabs the cup of gas and insists on lighting the fire himself. The blast of high-octane bike fuel singes eyebrows, and Cole laughs uproariously as he stumbles off, knowing he should have just lit the damn thing himself.

The atmosphere is hard to pinpoint — a clash of belligerence, merriment, machismo, lust, and nihilism, all tempered by a grassroots sensibility. Reckless abandon with the best of

So much

Kim Knox, MS, PA-C

more than

intentions, a strange sense of soul.

You may be punched in the face, but so what? Hug and chug, bro. We're in this Weird Boat together.

James emerges from the house in a leopardprint thong, ever-grinning girlfriend in tow. They climb to the top of the ice-plant hill in the backyard, covered with plastic tarpaulin. "Sex!" he yells, as they plummet down the homemade waterslide — 30 feet at least — before being sent off a ledge into a newly dug pond where the begonias used to be.

The Sporting Mood is amplified by Fox Racing and Monster energy drink banners hanging from the chain-link fence.

Around the fire, someone strums Woody Guthrie on an acoustic guitar, the sound of

**HEALTH AND BEAUTY** 

which finds an eerie synchronicity with the Eminem track pumping from James's speedboat. Singed Eyebrows lurches around with a huge plate of carne asada and a look that says, "Try it and like it, or I'll break your nose for no good reason," while Cole makes strident assertions about the best sources of alternative energy in case of an apocalypse, diesel-to-veggie oil conversion, and the importance of community solidarity. He doesn't want any carne asada and - in that singular hermetic motion known only to the Doverson brothers suddenly head-butts Singed Eyebrows and then immediately grasps S.E.'s skull, cooing in his ear like a mother to a baby, carefully inspecting the fresh lump turning purple on his friend's

forehead.

A different sort of camaraderie prevails amongst this inner sanctum of the Jamul elite one of dominance, boisterous one-upism, a Mac-Gyver brand of intellect coupled with unrestrained brute strength. A modern-day Guevara swilling tall cans on a 250cc bike, inverse Abbie Hoffman shouting rightwing slogans and conspiracy theories to the vacant desert night, William Wallace bumping Linkin Park from a lifted vegetable-oil pickup. Because the tougher I get, the tougher

we all get, and the future

rushes in with smug certainty, while we've got certainties of our own.

The fire burns low as the night turns late. Singed Eyebrows and others pass out in lawn

semiconscious friends how to make a battery from a lemon, a nail, and a penny.

In the distance, a coyote yips an appraisal of the moon, and one

### The tougher I get, the tougher we all get.

chairs with cigarettes still burning between lips and fingertips. The feminine melodies of drunken coitus float down from open windows as Cole demonstrates to a few

senses some sort of revolution lurking in the common psyche — like a Kundalini serpent, ever poised to strike beneath that eternal, cloudless Jamul twilight. ■

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### LETTERS

continued from page 15

achievement gap, but there is a force larger than life that holds back their accomplishments. Vince Riveroll is the man behind the curtain, the man who we want to believe, but who holds no real truths. Behind the facades, GCMS, GPA, or whatever you call it, you will find cracking walls, tired and hurting teachers, students who are forgotten, and a "Director" who interrupts learning (like the progress

of GCMS) at every turn.

In the years before the charter they would "[start] the school year with [teaching] vacancies, and [they] had substitutes that lasted throughout the whole year". While Riveroll might be quoted as keeping 80% of his teachers every year, I wonder how this math is calculated given the hoards of teachers that leave mid-year, and the line of teachers that left last year. While the elimination of union rights allows Riveroll to find the "better fit" teachers for his school, I

find he makes up his own rules. Without these "silly" unions, Riveroll spreads guilt like this rain, over every teacher that does not spend 12 hour days and thousands of money on their classes. There is a sense that teachers are never safe at GCMS and that their very livelihood may rely on their few interactions with the Director.

Futhermore, the ability to recite the A-G requirements does not ever mean that they are in fact in place or successful. Riveroll has changed the face of learning at GCMS to focus on presentation rather than content. While I promote learning through a variety of modalities, I find that his POL's are not meant to function as demonstrations of learning; rather, they are opportunities to show off to his guests, just like the author of this article. GCMS has become a kind of Disney attraction, where every guest gets the same tour, visits the "good" classes, and the teachers plaster on their smiles so as to not be treated to a public chastising by the Director himself.

While the teachers are treated with disrespect, I feel that it is the students who are suffering the most in the end. This 6 - 12th grade school serves a population of students who are tenacious, genuine, talented, and wonderful. It seems that living below the poverty line has given students in our nation a ticket to a low performing school, and unfortunately, GCMS is not a solution. I believe that as long as this school is under the guidance of this principal, Gompers will continue its legacy as a low performing school.

### T.G.I.F. Published Dec. 9

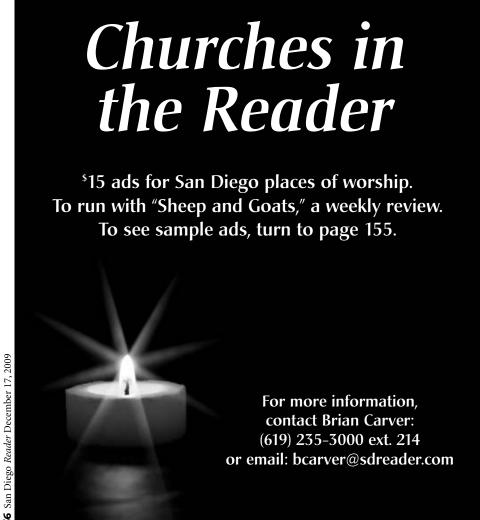
By Fred\_Williams 9:10 p.m., Dec. 11, 2009

John, I don't get it...

Are you saying that because this man prayed "as thoroughly as his obstructing intellect would allow" his son sold two paintings and the man was given a ride and twenty bucks?

I don't mean to be dis-





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Reader

dainful or contemptuous, but what is your point? That prayer works?

Come on...

The invisible angry sky daddy must have also caused Burnham's heart problems and abandonment, made the police arrest him and then dump him on the streets again. This "god" is great,

Even to get a ride and twenty lousy bucks the poor man had to endure the rantings of an insane Jesus freak...

No, John, this story does NOT illustrate the loving kindness of a deity who intervenes in our lives. What it shows is that carrying around a bible and thinking that's going to help you out of your problems is just plain foolish.

If there were any "god" or if "Christianity" were real, then San Diego with it's religious right Board of Supervisors would have fully funded programs in place to help people like Mr. Burnham.

Instead, our local government only helps a Burnham when his first name is "Malin".

So, again John, what is your point? You've illustrated that life is unfair, bad things happen to good people, and some people feel the need to rant about their imaginary friends instead of just providing help where they can.

Certainly there is no cause and effect relationship between prayerful begging and real-world outcomes... you've shown that clearly.

So what is your point? By refriedgringo 9:36 p.m., Dec. 11, 2009

Fred,

My friend, I think that you have to look into this story beyond prayer and see

what the author is attempting to reveal about his own life. In nature, a caterpillar hatches and eats and then builds a cocoon and emerges as a butterfly and then mates and has eggs from where a caterpillar hatches. And so

Human beings are much more complex; this cycle often repeats itself until it's finally successful.

#### Blurt Published Dec. 9

By jayefurlonger 3:24 p.m., Dec. 11, 2009

"This time around, I found the right people, people who could play and who wanted to have fun," said Jerman during a December 1 interview. "This time around it's about the songs, the right amount of reverb. This time, I didn't have to settle."

Nice. After three years on hiatus, one of only two quotable things that Ben had to say is a direct dig on his former Daffodils band mates.

So, since I am one of those two other people who were in the Daffodils, and since Ben failed to make any exceptions in his statements, I assume he's talking about me as much as he is talking about anyone else.

In my defense, I would like it to go on record that, contrary to Ben's inaccurate recollections, I actually do like having fun. I'm actually a pretty good bass player too. In fact, I have about twice as many years experience playing bass as Ben does guitar, and I have been involved in playing music with groups of people in a variety of situations from rock bands to

symphony orchestras since I was about 8 years old that's 30 years... So, Ben, you were "settling"? Whatever.

I would also like to call attention to the statement about the "right amount of reverb." Ben was the only guitar player in the band, so if he was unhappy about the reverb, then that was strictly his own fault.

And also, we weren't about to record an EP, we had just finished recording an awesome EP with Gar Woods of Beehive and the Barracudas and The Nightmarchers (among other awesome bands). 'Too bad the cd never got to see the light of day; it was great! I even still listen to it from time to time, although I probably won't be doing that for a while now...

So, if crapping on his former bandmates is how Ben is going to hit the ground running with his new band Little Fowl, why not just call themselves "Little S\*\*\*hawk" instead?

Jave Furlonger

P.S. To Ben's new band: Make sure to keep up with your side projects! As one Casbah bartender casually informed me right after the Daffodils spontaneously and unceremoniously broke up, starting bands and breaking them up right when things start getting good is Ben's long-running "M.O." I wish I'd known that sooner.

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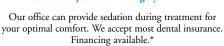
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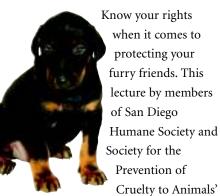


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# Your Welcome TO IT

### Thursday | 17

#### ANIMAL CRUELTY LECTURE



investigations department covers animal-related laws and what kind of actions you can take to help victims of animal abuse. See **LECTURES**, page 81.

### WHERE'S THE HIDDEN GARDEN?

See designs from the next generation! High Tech High Media Arts' 12th-grade class premieres its "collection of compelling art and media projects in conjunction with the launch of their new community garden." Students have installed art "among the newly tamed flowers and fruits they cultivated over the fall." See **SPECIAL**, page 76.

### Friday | 18

#### **VEILS, FANS, SWORDS!**

Go Greek in Chula Vista, as Zorba Stars dancers perform a belly-dance stage show. Greek buffet (think feta, olives, and spanakopita), a

full bar (where you may order the traditional Greek liquor, ouzo), live music, and open dancing after the show.

See DANCE, page 77.



#### RHYTHMIC UPRISING

How are Afro-Brazilian performing arts used to "fight racism and inequality in Bahia, Brazil"? See for yourself at the Centro Cultural de la Raza in Balboa Park at the screening of this documentary, followed by live performances by local transcenDANCE Youth Arts Project and Centro de la Raza musicians and dancers. See FILM, page 78.

### Saturday | 19

### FISHING THROUGH THE AGES

Learn about past and present fishing practices and marine ecology during the SEA Days program at Birch Aquarium at Scripps. Practice the method fishermen used in the early 1800s to record their catch, take home a reusable grocery bag imprinted with your day's catch, and meet Scripps scientists.

### DRINK BEER, SAVE THE WORLD!

See **SPECIAL**, page 74.

Stay warm and fuzzy this holiday season by donating a toy and riding on a sustainable bus! This brewery tour begins at Oggi's Pizza & Brewing Co. and heads to Stone Brewing, Karl Strauss, and Ballast Point in a "retired 1978 school bus that has been restored and converted to run on biodiesel and is powered by solar panels on the roof." See **FOOD & DRINK**, page 78.

### Sunday | 20

#### THE NUTCRACKER

Scripps Performing Arts Academy presents "child-size" performances of *The Nutcracker*, complete with narration and sign-language interpretation and preceded by "family-friendly holiday tea." The cast of junior stars ranges in age from 3 to 18. See **DANCE**, page 76.

### THE EIGHT: REINDEER MONOLOGUES

This show, presented by Compass
Theatre, is a "dark, dark Christmas
comedy" in which one of Santa's reindeers accuses him of sexual harassment. "As mass media descends…a
horrific tale of corruption and perversion emerges." Directed by Jerry Pilato.
See **THEATER**, page 120.

### Monday | 21

### IT'S GINGERBREAD SEASON!

Children (and an accompanying adult) can learn about gingerbread, read a holiday story, and decorate their own gingerbread-man cookie to take home during this "History for Half-Pints" program for kids three to five. See FOR KIDS, page 78.

### Tuesday | 22

### HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS!

The Old Globe Theatre stages its annual Christmas show in which the Green Meanie (played this year by Jeff Skowron) tries once again to hoodwink Whoville. Directed by Benjamin Endsley Klein. See **THEATER**, page 120.

### Wednesday | 23

#### UP

If you missed Pixar's latest feat in filmmaking in the theater, take your family to catch it for free at the Schulman Auditorium at Carlsbad

City Library. Pre- and post-film discussions will be led by Ann Zivotsky of the North County Times. See FILM, page 78.

an Diego *Reader* December 17, 2009



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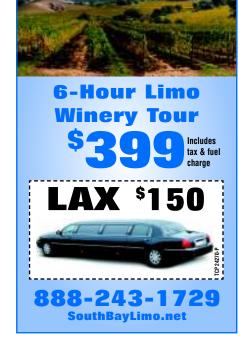
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### **Gather No Moss**

TRAVEL STORIES AND TIPS FROM OUR READERS



### Tour the California Redwoods

By Michael Mullenniex

Touted as California's toughest "century" (a 100-mile bicycle ride), the Tour of the Unknown Coast lives up to its appellation. Held annually in early May, the TUC attracts both sightseeing tourists and serious cyclists who relish the challenge.

The event starts in Ferndale, located in the heart of Northern California's redwood country. Rolling just after sunrise, riders wind their way through small picturesque valleys before diving into the redwoods. Twenty-five miles later, they enjoy a rest stop at the Immortal Tree Gift Shop in the Avenue of the Giants. Climbing westward over 2700 feet, Panther Gap awaits the riders before the plunge down toward the Pacific. Postlunch at A.W. Way Park (mile 63), the confines of the forest give way to panoramic vistas of the breezy coast.

Riding north along the coast into a prevailing 20 mph northwest wind makes the flat road feel hilly. At the 80-

mile mark, the Wall (a 22 percent grade) is negotiated and the route turns back inland over the coastal mountains. The grand finale is a welcome four-mile downhill swoop back to Ferndale.

While the masochistic riders are toiling throughout the day, more intelligent visitors can relax and sightsee in Ferndale, a turn-of-the-century Victorian village. Replete with antique shops and art galleries, Ferndale is an ideal base from which to tour the historical sites of Humboldt County.

Link for lodging, registration, and other TUC info: *tuccycle.org*. Ferndale visitor information: *victorianferndale.com*.

### Venice, Italy By Bonnie Maffei

Want to relive 18th-century Venice? If you visit Venice along with thousands of other tourists during Carnival, you'll experience one of the world's irresistible attractions. Walkways are filled with crowds of mask-wearing characters headed to the next party.

The mysterious, beautiful Venetian mask is a 300-year-old tradition. Take a gondola to the San Basilio Vaporetto stop to visit Carta Alta Laboratorio. Watch artisans at work, making each mask by hand.

At Campo Santa Margherita, you can shop for freshly baked olive bread,

continued on page 72

#### **Other Adventures**



**chendri887:** Coastal trail that runs along the beach near the Asilomar Conference Grounds, Monterey Peninsula



kimrescate: This photo was taken in Laguna Yaxhá in Parque Archeologico during my visit in August 2009. This Guatemalan lake is situated in the northern part of Peten.



**spooks69:** The Plimouth Plantation in Plymouth, MA, was created to look like a 17th-century pilgrim village.









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

Winter Solstice, the moment when the sun reaches its southernmost point on the celestial sphere, occurs this year at 9:47am, Monday, December 21. This event signals the beginning of winter in the Northern Hemisphere and the beginning of summer in the Southern Hemisphere. With only about ten hours of daylight, San Diego must endure its darkest and gloomiest nights this week and next. During the day, the sun struggles to an altitude of only 34 degrees (as seen from San Diego), then quickly sinks toward the horizon

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

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

"Discover Daley Ranch" Meet naturalist William Sherrard for moderately paced seven-mile hike. 760-839-4680. Tuesday, December 22, 7am; free. Daley Ranch — La Honda trailhead, 3024 La Honda Drive. (ESCONDIDO)

Bird Watching Easy walk with variety of birds and views of salt marsh habitat hosted by Friends of Famosa Slough starts at first bench on Famosa Boulevard. Bring binoculars if you have them. 619-224-4591. Saturday, December 19. 1pm; free. Famosa Slough, West Point Loma Boulevard and Famosa Boulevard. (OCEAN BEACH)

Cowles Mountain Winter Solstice Hike Ascend the mountain in near-darkness to see sunrise on first day of winter at Kumeyaay solstice observatory about halfway up mountain with Canyoneers. Directions: 619-255-0203. Monday, December 21, 6am; free. Cowles Mountain staging area, Navajo Road and Golfcrest Drive. (SAN CARLOS)

Cowles Mountain Solstice Sunrise Hike Bundle up for journey to Kumeyaay solstice site, halfway up San Diego's highest peak, during hike led by Mission Trails Regional Park Trail guides. See "the rays split in half by the far Lyon's Peak boulders" as sun rises. 619-668-3281. Sunday, December 20, 6am; Tuesday, December 20, 6am; Tuesday, December 22, 6am; free. Cowles Mountain staging area, Navajo Road and Golfcrest Drive. (SAN CARLOS)

**Discover Magnificent Beauty!** Nature walks led by trained naturalist. "Marvel at the reawakening vegetation throughout the reserve and be enchanted by fabulous flowers along the trails." 760-436-3944. Saturdays, 10am; free. San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve, 2710 Manchester Avenue. (CARDIFF)

**Explore Silverwood Sanctuary**Audubon Society offers guided walks on Sundays, 10am and 1:30pm. 619-682-7200. Silverwood Sanctuary, 13003 Wildcat Canyon Road. (LAKESIDE)

Lake Murray Bird Walk Resident trail guide birder leads adventure along lakeshore path populated by variety of birds. Meet at east parking lot off Kiowa entrance. 619-668-3281. Saturday. December 19, 8am; free. Lake Murray Reservoir, 5540 Kiowa Drive. (LA MESA)

More Walk, Less Talk Naturalists Simone Green and Barbara VanHorne lead moderately strenuous four-mile hike on Ranch House and Sage Trails and back via Interpretive Trail. 760-839-4680. Saturday, December 19, 8:30am; free. Daley Ranch — La Honda trailhead, 3024 La Honda Drive. (ESCONDIDO)

Mystery Walk Naturalist Kathleen Flanagan leads fast-paced, strenuous walk of about seven miles based on makeup of the group. Expect "a lot of map reading." Bring a minimum of two liters of water, layer your clothing. 760-839-4680. Friday, December 18, 7am; free. Daley Ranch — La Honda trailhead, 3024 La Honda Drive. (ESCONDIDO)

Restoration and Planting Mission Valley Preserve is a 52-acre open space, home to many rare, endangered plants and animals. Volunteers beckoned to remove invasive plants, rescue and plant native flora, nature tail maintenance, more. Tour, educational talk, tools and supplies provided. Meet at west end of YMCA parking lot. 619-297-7380. Saturday, December 19, 9am; free. Mission Valley YMCA, 5505 Friars Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

**See Stars!** Resident star gazer "sets up his enormous telescope for all to view...Jupiter over the Fortunas, the Andromeda Galaxy, Pleiades, and a huge supporting cast of stars." Meet in day-use parking lot. 619-668-3281. Saturday, December 19, 5pm; free. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junípero Serra Trail.

**Shamanic Hike** Take short hike to "power spot to explore shamanic traditions of indigenous people of the Americas." Learn about saging, calling the directions, creating sacred space, accessing energies of nature for healing, insight, and

## ROAM-O-RAMA

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

#### LAS VIRGENES CANYON

Discover sylvan splendor in Upper Las Virgenes Canyon near Los Angeles.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 150 miles Hiking/biking length: 5.4 miles round trip • Difficulty: Moderate



Oaks of Upper Las Virgenes Canyon

Upper Las Virgenes Canyon, near Calabasas at the edge of the San Fernando Valley, is one of those places where you can make the sight and sound of a huge metropolitan area simply disappear after a short drive from a major freeway and only a few minutes' walk. The area even seems quite

removed from the flight paths of

major aircraft.

The out-and-back jaunt into the upper canyon is a great one for kids, too. What creatures might they discover? Cottontail rabbits, for sure. A frog perhaps, or (as I did) a scorpion. If the kids get tired at some point, you can turn back anytime. Expect to encounter two or three foot-wetting and possibly muddy stream crossings in the early part of the hike, depending largely on how much rain has

To get to the trailhead from

San Diego, drive through L.A. and head west through the San Fernando Valley on the Ventura Freeway (Highway 101). Exit at Las Virgenes Road and go 1.4 miles north to the end of that road, where you will find the Las Virgenes Trailhead. The area ahead is public "open-space parkland" that until 2003 was part of the private Ahmanson Ranch.

From the trailhead, simply head north on the main trail (an old dirt road), which imperceptibly gains elevation in the canyon's initially wide flood plain. In a couple of places ahead, narrow side trails higher on the canyon slope exist, but they may be too overgrown by vegetation to follow. All

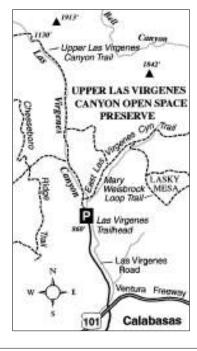
along the way, enjoy the toasty, pungent fragrances of wild grape vines and riparian vegetation baking in the sun. There are enough oaks, sycamores, and willows around to keep much of the trail decently shaded, even during the middle of the day

the day.

After about 2.5 miles the ascent into the upper canyon quickens, and you go sharply up and sharply down twice. Afterward, you bend right and transit a gorgeous gallery of overarching coast live oak limbs. The trail then executes a hairpin turn and starts to climb out of the canyon at a point below Peak

1913. You've come 2.7 miles from the start and gained about 400 feet of elevation. This is a good place to turn back — for this casual hike, at least. If your goal is to connect to the extensive trail systems lacing through the Cheeseboro and Palo Comado open-space areas to the west, then press on.

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



#### Venice continued from page 70

fish, fresh fruit, herbs, and your choice of the best pizza in the city. Follow the college students to Pizza al Volo, with prices averaging 2 euros. Nightlife? Hang out at one of the hip cafés or bars until the early hours

Located in a quiet area in Venice's historic district, recently renovated Residenza Ca' San Marco (Calle de le Balote),



built in part of an ancient monastery near San Marco Square, offers air-conditioned double rooms from 60 Euros, including breakfast, wireless internet, and friendly staff.

#### Haleakala Crater, Maui

#### By Jan Austin

I'm not much of a morning person, so if I'm going to get up at 3:00 a.m. and trek up a 10,023-foot dormant volcano to watch a sunrise, it better be worth it.

Watching the sunrise at Haleakala



Crater on the island of Maui will live in my memory as an ethereal moment — standing above the clouds and watching the day being born at my feet was like having a view from heaven.

Known for its stunning sunrises and sunsets, Haleakala means "house of the sun." With a circumference of 22 miles and a depth of 3000 feet, Haleakala last erupted in 1790.

You can venture up via car, bicycle, horseback, on foot, or on a guided tour that will pick you up at your hotel. The drive up takes about 2 ½ hours. It's chilly in the mornings (around 40 degrees), so be sure to bundle up. (The visitors in shorts and sandals were shivering.)

Fees: vehicles, \$10; hikers and bikers, \$5. There are no gas stations or convenience stores on the road to the summit, so fill up the car and bring snacks and water.

While in the park, you'll have a chance to see the rare silversword plant and the Hawaiian state bird, the nene.

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\* Spend \$50 or more at any Vans store between 12/4-12/24/09 to get a discount card for \$20 off your purchase of \$50 or more between 1/8/10-1/24/10. Discount applies to Vans brand merchandise only at Vans US locations and applied prior to sales tax. Please see store for complete details.

> Check out www.vans.com for Vans store locations near you!

## Calendar

#### **HOW TO SEND US YOUR**

**LISTING:** Contributions must be received by 5 pm 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.

wisdom. Bring blanket to sit on, drum or rattle. 858-484-3219. Sunday, December 20, 3pm; free. Peñasquitos west-end staging area, 4300 Sorrento Valley Boulevard. (SORRENTO VALLEY)

Take a Nature Break Slow down from holiday bustle with trail guide-led hike. Admire nature's seasonal decorations with "clusters of red toyon berries, floating chaparral snow, magical mistletoe, and holly leaf cherry." 619-668-3281. Saturday, December 19, 9:30am; Sunday, December 20, 9:30am; Wednesday, December 23, 9:30am; free, Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

'4 San Diego Reader December 17, 2009

Where Was Wyatt Earp's Favorite Oyster Bar? Find out when San Diego Architectural Foundation hosts tours of historic Gaslamp Quarter. Learn about area's architectural evolution from 1880s dirt streets and saloons to current restorations and adaptive reuse projects. Tours begin at Arts Tix kiosk, 619-232-1385, Saturday, December 19, 9:50am; \$8-\$15. 10 and up. Horton Square, 225 Broadway. (DOWNTOWN)

Work Party in Silverwood Sanctuary Help build trails, remove invasive plants. RSVP: 619-443-2998. Saturday, December 19, 9am; free. Silverwood Sanctuary, 13003 Wildcat Canyon Road.

#### SPECIAL

"An Evening of a Thousand **Lights"** Mission San Luis Rey will be illuminated with a thousand lights, luminaries. Carolers perform in Old Mission Church; gourmet offerings from local restaurants. Warm attire advised. Required reservations: 760-757-3651 x127. Saturday, December 19, 6pm; \$35. 21 and up. Mission San Luis Rey, 4070 Mission Avenue.

"Christmas at the Zoo" It's theme for 38th annual San Diego Bay Parade of Lights, beginning with fireworks (5:30pm). More than 80 vessels decorated for holiday season take part in parade.

Island into downtown waterfront and Coronado areas. 619-224-2240. Sunday, December 20, 5:30pm; free. Embarcadero, Along Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

"Concentration, Visualization, Meditation" Learn techniques for stress reduction, relaxation during meditation classes, as well as advanced breathing techniques, "essence of yogic philosophy." 619-640-4438. Tuesdays, 7:30pm; free. Pilgrimage of the Heart Yoga, 3301 Adams Avenue, (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

Fables, Friends, and Fruitcake! The "citizens of 19th-century San Diego would like to take you with them as they tell stories, gossip about each other, visit each other's homes, attempt to dispose of a fruitcake." These "comedic performances" are "immersive" tours where audience strolls about Old Town, meets characters who lived there. Reservations: 619-220-5422. Friday, December 18, 6pm; Saturday, December 19, 3pm and 6pm; \$5-\$10. Old Town State Historic Park, 4002 Wallace Street. (OLD TOWN)

"Fishing through the Ages" Learn about past and present of fishing practices and marine ecology during "SEA Days" program. Practice the method fishermen used in early 1800s to record their catch, take home reusable grocery bag imprinted with your day's "catch," and meet Scripps scientists. Included in regular admission. 858-534-FISH. Saturday, December 19, 11am; free-\$12. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

"Orbs and So Much More"

Reverend Donna Lopez focuses on "Exploring Spirit Photography" in Healing Temple. "Many different energies including orbs, light beings, and elementals can now be seen." Digital cameras welcome but not required. 760-471-7304. Sunday, December 20, 4pm; free. Harmony Grove Spiritualist Association, 2975 Washington Circle. (ESCONDIDO)

"The Last Health and Fitness Expo of 2009" Sirius Fitness hosts expo with "health and wellness guest speaker," fitness exhibition, vendors. 619-819-6493. Thursday, December 17, 5:30pm; free. Upaka Center, 6875 El Cajon Boulevard. (COLLEGE AREA)

"The Picture Show" Fashion show "constructed, organized, and planned by fashion show production students" of Art Institute of California, San Diego. Show pays homage to 1920s-1940s style in clothing, fashion, history. 619-600-2923. Friday, December 18, 9pm; \$5-\$10.18 and up. West Coast Tavern, 2895 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

(Ice) Skating by the Sea Enjoy outdoor ice-skating on rink overlooking Pacific Ocean. Two-hour session on weekends (11am, 2pm) and weekdays (2pm); three-hour session on weekdays (6pm). Schedule changes on December 19. 619-435-6611. Thursdays, 2pm; Fridays, 2pm; Saturdays, 11am; Sundays, 11am; Mondays, 2pm; Tuesdays, 2pm; Wednesdays, 2pm; through Sunday, January 3, \$10\$20. Hotel del Coronado, 1500 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

Star Wars Holiday Special Trista poses as Princess Leia for Dr. Sketchy's Anti-Art School. Sketchers in Star Wars costumes admitted for \$5. Bring your art supplies. 619-299-7372. Saturday, December 19, 3pm; \$5-\$10. 21 and up. Ruby Room, 1271 University Avenue. (HILLCREST)

Board Game Nights Enjoy "oldschool gaming" nights; bring your favorite board game or use one at the shop, from checkers to poker. 619-523-5540. Thursdays, 5pm; free. Reds Espresso Gallery, 1017 Rosecrans Street, (POINT LOMA)

Craft a Snow Globe! Make a snow globe using a photo strip from museum's photo booth. Activity is free with purchase of photo strip. 619-238-7559. Saturday, December 19, 1pm; Sunday, December 20, 1pm, Museum of Photographic Arts, 1649 El Prado.

Crave Feedback? Bring photocopies of original works in progress for audience and reader reactions during writing feedback group led by Maureen Pierre. All genres, experience levels welcome. 760-753-7601. Mondays, 6pm; through Monday, December 28, free. 18 and up. Encinitas Library, 540 Cornish Drive. (ENCINITAS)

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 entertain-

ment, marshmallow roasting, children's activities (visit Santa), food (for sale). Additional fees for some activities. 760-436-3036 x206. Thursday, December 17, 5pm; Friday, December 18, 5pm; Saturday, December 19, 5pm; Sunday, December 20, 5pm; Monday, December 21, 5pm; Tuesday, December 22, 5pm; Wednesday, December 23, 5pm; \$4-\$12. San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Gem Faire Over 100 manufacturers, wholesalers, importers offer iewelry, gems, beads, crystals, silver, minerals. Classes, demonstrations for all skill levels. Weekend pass: \$5. 760-390-3599. Friday, December 18, noon; Saturday, December 19, 10am; Sunday, December 20, 10am. Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino del Rio South. (MISSION VALLEY)

Get the Skinny on Grants World Vision Support Network grants committee meets weekly to discuss, work on grant proposal development. Required reservations: 619-674-7713. Saturdays, 1pm; free. National City Library, 1401 National City Boulevard. (NATIONAL CITY)

Hammer, Cut, Bend! Create a copper holiday ornament when Sharon Novak leads class with copper and brass sheets. Learn to twist, coil, sew wires and attach glass beads to add detail to design. Materials fee: \$12. Required advance registration: 619-223-0058. Saturday, December 19, 10am; \$62-\$72. 14 and up. Bravo School of Art at NTC Promenade, 2690 Decatur Rd., studio 206, (POINT LOMA)

Holiday of Lights More than 400 lighted, holiday-themed displays for viewing from visitors' cars. Holiday hayrides (\$10; December 18). Admission: \$14 per vehicle (up to five people), \$19 per vehicle with six or more people, \$49 per bus, 858-792-4252, Thursdays, 5:30pm; Fridays, 5:30pm; Saturdays, 5:30pm; Sundays, 5:30pm; Mondays, 5:30pm; Tuesdays, 5:30pm; Wednesdays, 5:30pm; through Sunday, January 3. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Icy in San Diego? "Fantasy on Ice" promises ice-skating outdoors adjacent to Horton Plaza, Skating sessions last two hours. Fee includes skate rental. Closed on Christmas. 619-234-1031. Thursdays, 10am; Fridays, 10am; Saturdays, 10am; Sundays, 10am; Mondays, 10am; Tuesdays, 10am; Wednesdays, 10am; through Sunday, January 10, \$10-\$12. Horton Square, 225 Broadway. (DOWNTOWN)

KnitNight Gather with fellow fiber artists for social knitting, crochet, spinning. 760-806-6744. Tuesdays, 7pm; free. 18 and up. Clever Knits, 214 South Indiana Avenue. (VISTA)

Knitting Circle Knitters! Make new friends, share ideas and techniques every Saturday. No "outside yarns." 858-509-9276. Saturdays, 3pm; free. Knitting by the Beach, 616 Stevens Avenue, Suite B. (SOLANA BEACH)

Knitting Made Easy Do you knit? Join "a very relaxed group of

## New Year's Eve Karaoke and Dancing in the Gaslamp

Enjoy our all-inclusive package offering one night's accommodations for two, hors d'oeuvres, party favors, midnight champagne toast and entertainment provided by "Musically Yours."

> For reservations, call 619-231-4040 and ask for the New Year's Eve Package or book online at www.hiltongaslamp.com

Hilton San Diego Gaslamp Quarter

local taxes (currently 12.6%) in effect at the time of check-in.





## STILL NEED PLANS FOR

## NEW YEAR'S EVE?

# HURRY, THE CLOCK'S TICKING! FOR IDEAS, LOG ON TO: SDREADER.COM/2010

#### **BONITA**

Sapphire Lounge: 18+ Nightclub. \$50 per couple includes: Entrance, combo appetizer and champagne toast. DJ Peligro spinning Old School, Hip-Hop and R&B. Bottle service for 21+ and booth reservations available. (619) 470-8000. Myspace.com/sapphirelounge08.

#### CARLSBAD

Sheraton Carlsbad: Family-friendly festivities, buffet dinner, live music & dancing all night. Kids' party zone. Legoland fireworks. \$75 per adult. Social hours 10 pm-1 am \$25. Reservations recommended. Call (760) 827-2440.

#### **DEL MAR**

Fortune's NYE 2010 at the Del Mar Marriott: North County's premiere event with over 20 of San Diego's finest DJs playing in 4 areas from 8 pm-4 am. For more info, to purchase tickets, and to book hotel rooms visit www.421newyears.com or call (619) 269-9713.

#### DOWNTOWN

4th & B: Ministry of Sound with Yves LaRock, Jabba and Zoo Brazil. Dance.

The Field Irish Pub: Double New Year's Party Irish Style. Irish New Year's at 4 pm. No cover. American New Year's Eve dinner packages available. Live Irish music.

Hard Rock Hotel San Diego: NYE 2010 – 3 floors, 4 venues, 12 DJs, 1 all-access ticket. VIP room packages available. Visit www.hardrockhotelsd.com/nye2010 or call (619) 702-3000 for more information.

Hilton Gaslamp: Karaoke and dancing. All-inclusive package: 1 night accommodations for 2, hors d'oeuvres, party favors, champagne toast and entertainment provided by "Musically Yours". \$299 per couple. For reservations call (619) 231-4040.

House of Blues: NYE 2010. Presented by Victory Nightlife.

Onyx/Thin: Featuring DJs: Rags, RJ Diggs, Ramsey and special guests. Three rooms of music, huge midnight celebration and champagne toast, dancers, high-tech visuals, hosted cocktail hour. For more info, bottle service and VIP reservations contact Charlissa Dodge at (619) 235-6699 or Charlissa@onyxroom.com. Early arrival and advance tickets suggested. Pre-sale tickets: onyxroom.com / clubzone.com / newyearseve.com. Mileage in P.B. Doors open at 8 pm. 21+.

Patrick's II: New Year's Eve Blowout. Ring in 2010 on the dance floor with the Dennis Jones Blues Band. Hats, horns, noisemakers, food, fun, and a champagne toast at midnight. \$25 in advance.

Rock Bottom Gaslamp: Kahi Lofa's Island Reggae, Reminisce's Hip-Hop. Complimentary champagne toast at midnight. The best NYE party's pre-sale tickets selling fast at Rock Bottom. Call (619) 231-7000.

Café Sevilla: New Year's Eve Flamenco Dinner Show Extravaganza, Tapas Bar: 2 seatings. Restaurant: 3 seatings. Club Sevilla dinner show and dance party.

Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina: Kaskade with Christopher Lawrence, Mark Farina, Joachim Garraud and guests. Electronica/Trance/House.

The Shout! House: Prime Rib Buffet, dessert, guaranteed seat, champagne toast, souvenir champagne glass, party favors, live entertainment all night long! Dinner, party packages and bottle service available.

#### **EAST VILLAGE**

Jewel Box: No cover. Free party favors. Champagne toast at midnight. (619) 236-8685

#### EL CA ION

VFW Hall: New Year's Eve Mobster Bash. Featuring Dannicus live. Acoustic/Metal/Rock.

#### **LA JOLLA**

The Steakhouse at Azul La Jolla: USDA prime steaks, fresh seafood and more. All 100 feet above La Jolla Cove. Reserve now: (858) 454-9616 or azul-lajolla.com.

#### LITTLE ITALY

Little Italy Spaghetteria: Live performance by NovaMenco, 7-10 pm. DJ 10 pm-2 am. 2 dance floors. Dinner package included with ticket. Tickets: www.novamenco.com.

#### **MISSION VALLEY**

In Cahoots: Masquerade Party-\$500 in prizes. \$20 advance cover, \$20 advance dinner buffet. \$25 admission day of per person. \$2.50 You-Call-It 6-9 pm.

#### **PACIFIC BEACH**

T23 Hotel hosts JRDN NYE 2010: DJ Coop Da Loop, DJ Smoke, DJ Quendi and DJ Flesch. Ticket includes dinner buffet and dancing. Dinner 8-11 pm. \$75/person before December 30. Reserve tickets at (858) 270-5736.

Tango Del Rey: Just off I-5. Mardi Gras party, two bands, Cajun food, samba dancers, lots of beads. (858) 794-9044 or www.tangodelrey.com.

#### **POINT LOMA**

Humphrey's by the Bay: Backstage LIVE – Detroit Underground performs. Party favors and champagne toast. \$49/person. Humphreys Restaurant – Five-course dinner, dancing to T Fox and the Fox City Band, party favors, champagne toast. \$149/person. Room packages available.

The Pearl: Party at the Pearl Hotel. Dinner for two for \$99 or 10 pm-1:30 am no cover party with DJ Dex Diego. Champagne toast at midnight. Room packages available. (619) 226-6100 or www.thepearlsd.com.

#### RAMONA

Molly Malone's: Coldfire. Rock.

#### **SOUTH PARK**

Alchemy: Seasonal menu and a special three-course menu. Two seatings: 6 and 8:30 pm. Call for reservations.

#### **VALLEY CENTER**

Harrah's Rincón: "Hit It Big in 2010." Featuring Diva Soul, Federal Funk and the Superfreaks. Covers/pop/rock.

To advertise, call 619-235-3000

## Calendar LOCAL EVENTS

people" meeting every Saturday to knit or crochet. 858-573-1396. Saturdays, 9:30am; free. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library, 9005 Aero Drive. (KEARNY MESA)

Merry and Magical See 50 gingerbread houses created by students from Kimbrough Elementary, Monarch School, Nativity Prep Academy working with Hyatt chefs. Vote for your favorite house. Bring an unwrapped gift for Toys for Tots donation. 619-232-1234. Thursdays, 5am; Fridays, 5am; Saturdays, 5am; Tuesdays, 5am; Mondays, 5am; Tuesdays, 5am; Wednesdays, 5am; through Sunday, December 27, free. Man-

chester Grand Hyatt, One Market Place. (DOWNTOWN)

Middle-Eastern Drum and Belly-Dance Class Doumbek drumming class for all levels taught by Frank Lazzaro (6-7pm), followed by tribal belly-dance class taught by Sabrina Fox with live drumming (7-8pm). \$12 per class. 760-703-1487. Mondays, 6pm; \$12. WorldBeat Cultural Center, 2100 Park Boulevard. (BALBOA PARK)

Paint-Out Paint/draw/explore Balboa Park, whether you work in oils, acrylics, watercolor, digital, charcoal, pencil, pastels, or mixed media. All artists, amateur to professional, encouraged to participate. Co-hosted by Maura McHugh and Lee Sautereau. At noon, meet back at SDAI for group discussion of work created, potluck meal (bring food and/or drink to share). 619-236-0011. Saturday, December 19, 9am; free. San

Diego Art Institute: Museum of the Living Artist, 1439 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Poinsettia Bowl Battle of the Bands Bands of competing Poinsettia Bowl football teams line up at opposite ends of Fifth Avenue (at Market Street) and face off to "battle," surrounded by cheer squads, college sports enthusiasts. 619-233-5227. Monday, December 21, 6pm; free. Gaslamp Quarter. (DOWNTOWN)

Psychic Fair and Metaphysical Conference Lectures, tarot, palmistry, numerology, other psychic arts featured. Admission is free; \$20 per reading. 619-298-3422. Saturday, December 19, noon; Sunday, December 20, noon; free. Alexandra's Bookstore, 3545 Midway Dr., Suite G. (MIDWAY DISTRICT)

Rooftop Yoga Yoga One leads vinyasa flow mixed-level classes for hotel guests (free) and public (\$15 per class). 619-544-0164. Thursdays, 5:30pm; Fridays, 9am; Sundays, 5:30pm; Mondays, 9am; Tuesdays, 5:30pm; Wednesdays, 9am; free-\$15. Porto Vista Hotel & Suites, 1835 Columbia Street. (LITTLE ITALY)

**Should Three Strikes Be Struck?** Consider the question when P&R Discussion Group gathers. 619-370-1027. Thursday, December 17, 7pm; free. Filter, 4096 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

**Time-Tested Techniques!** Weekly meditation classes led by Sujantra McKeever, taught to him by his teacher Sri Chinmoy. "Techniques are simple and effective." 619-640-

4438. Tuesdays, 7:30pm; free. Pilgrimage of the Heart Yoga, 3301 Adams Avenue. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

**Ukes and Hula** Ukulele Society of America gathers to play, teach ukulele. People hula as well. 760-729-4131. Thursdays, 6pm; free. Ocean House, 300 Carlsbad Village Drive. (CARLSBAD)

Whale- and Dolphin-Watching Adventures Hornblower Cruises leads 3.5-hour outings in search of migrating gray whales, with captains and naturalists from San Diego Natural History Museum on hand to help spot tails and teach guests more about the marine wildlife offshore. Reservations: 619-686-8715. Thursdays, 9:30am and 1:30pm; Fridays, 9:30am and 1:30pm; Saturdays, 9:30am and 1:30pm; Sundays, 9:30am and 1:30pm; Mondays, 9:30am and 1:30pm; Tuesdays, 9:30am and 1:30pm; Wednesdays, 9:30am and 1:30pm; through Sunday, April 4, \$16-\$37. Hornblower Cruises, 1066 North Harbor Drive.

Where's the Hidden Garden? High Tech High Media Arts' 12th-grade class premieres "collection of compelling art and media projects in conjunction with the launch of their new community garden." Students have installed art "among the newly tamed flowers and fruits they cultivated over the fall." Exhibits include "The Experience of Environment," "Shine," "Stay Golden." Find garden at 2700 North Woodworth Way, at NTC Promenade. Dress warmly for this

outdoor exhibition. 619-398-8620. Thursday, December 17, 5pm; free. NTC Promenade, 2640 Historic Decatur Road. (POINT LOMA)

Winter Solstice Celebration Spirit mediums Uki MacIsaac and Elivia Melodey lead ceremony to welcome return of light. "Move into sacred space through ceremony, crystal sound, guided meditation, and messages from the spirit realm for all." Potluck (5pm), Crystal Vibrations concert (6pm), meditation and readings (7pm). Reservations: 800-883-2840. Saturday, December 19, 5pm; \$20-\$25. Center for Spiritual Development, 4323 Seabright Drive. (CARLSBAD)

#### DANCE

**"Tangralaa"** Argentine tango music played for dancing community. 858-565-9575. Thursday, December 17, 9:30pm; \$8. Dance for 2, 7528 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)

Tis the *Nutcracker* Season West Coast Ballet Theater's production of *The Nutcracker* features cast of more than 200 performers. 800-988-4253. Friday, December 18, 7pm; Saturday, December 19, 1pm and 7pm; \$12-\$39. California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard. (ESCONDIDO)

The Nutcracker Scripps Performing Arts Academy presents "child-size" performances of *The Nutcracker*, complete with narration and sign-language interpreter, preceded by "family-friendly holiday tea." Cast of children ranges in age from 3 to 18. 858-586-7834. Saturday, December 19, 11am and 1pm; Sunday, December 20, 11am and 1pm; Monday, December 21, 11am and 1pm; Tuesday, December 22, 11am and 1pm; \$25-\$47. Grand Del Mar, 5300 Grand Del Mar Court. (CARMEL VALLEY)

Argentine Tango Class Introductory Argentine tango classes, ongoing, 9-10pm. (free). No partner required. Social dancing follows, 10pm-1am. (\$7). 619-393-1974. Fridays, 9pm; free. Pattie Wells' Dancetime Center, 1255 West Morena Boulevard. (BAY PARK)

Ballroom Dance Mary Manzella hosts ballroom, Latin, swing dance. Each dance begins with lesson, followed by two and a half hours of dancing. 858-565-9575. Wednesdays, 7:30pm; \$8. Dance for 2, 7528 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard.

Belly Dance with Valentina Learn belly dance fusing "American tribal style," Egyptian cabaret, jazz, hip-hop, modern dance. Classes include drills, choreography. 858-344-2774. Tuesdays, 7:30pm; through Tuesday, December 29, \$10-\$12. Mind Body & Soul Dance Studio, 2971 India Street. (LITTLE ITALY)

**Cajun and Zydeco Dancing** Zydeco lesson and dance. Beginners' dance lessons at 7pm; open dancing to recorded tunes 8pm in the Skies Lounge. 619-857-8409. Tuesdays,

7pm; \$5. Four Points by Sheraton, 8110 Aero Drive. (KEARNY MESA)

Clara and Company California Ballet Company tackles Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* with cast of 160 — including 35 professional dancers and apprentices. 858-560-5676. Saturday, December 19, 2:30pm and 8pm; Sunday, December 20, 1pm and 5:30pm; Tuesday, December 22, 2:30pm and 7pm; \$25-\$80. San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

Contra Dance Steve Barlow calls, Flight Path makes music for contra dancing hosted by San Diego Folk Heritage. Beginners' dance workshop 7:30pm; dances taught and called to live music 8-11pm. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-283-8550. Friday, December 18, 7:30pm; \$7. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. (NORTH PARK)

Dance Like No One Is Watching

DanceJam hosts "barefoot boogies" every Friday. Contact improvisation classes on second and fourth Friday (8-9pm); improvisational jams with live music and dancers on first and third Fridays. DJs spin dance mixes 9-midnight. Fee: \$10 for class/jam and barefoot boogie; \$5 for barefoot boogie before 9:30pm, \$7 for after 9:30pm. 760-758-8270. Fridays, 8pm. Eveoke Dance Theatre, 2811 University Ave., Suite A. (NORTH PARK)

Holiday Dancing Enjoy live chamber music, calling by Sharon Green, during English country dancing. Beginners' instruction at 6pm. All ages. 858-676-9731. Sunday, December 20, 6pm; \$8. Jean Hart Academy of Dance, 12227 Poway Road. (POWAY)

Hula Hoop Has Evolved! Hoop dance classes with Unity teach muscle control and tone. Beginning: 7-8pm; intermediate: 8-9pm. 858-344-2774. Thursdays, 7pm; \$10-\$12. Dance Place San Diego in NTC Promenade, 2650 Truxtun Rd., Suite 108. (POINT LOMA)

Hustle Fever Dance Party DJ plays hustle, nightclub two-step, and requests for singles and couples of all ages. Hustle lesson: 8pm. First time free. 619-275-3533. Saturday, December 19, 8pm; free-\$7. Pattle Wells' Dancetime Center, 1255 West Morena Bouleyard (BAY PARK)

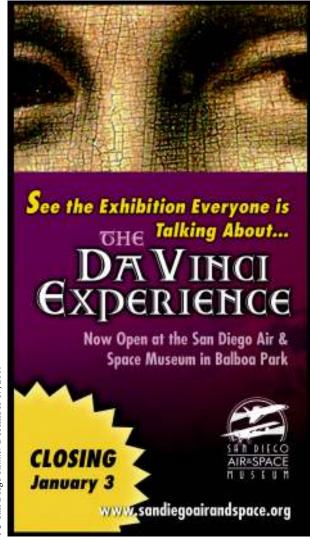
Jam Swing Dance "Best place for all things swing in San Diego," hosted by 2 to Groove. 858-565-9575. Friday, December 18, 8pm; 88. Dance for 2, 7528 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard (KEARNY MESA)

Java Jive Swing dancing in Claire de Lune's Sunset Ballroom. Beginner lesson 9-9:30pm, followed by dancing (9:30-midnight). All ages. 619-255-1319. Thursdays, 9pm; \$5-\$8. Claire de Lune, 2906 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

**Learn to Belly Dance** Leilainia of Shimmy Sisters teaches mixed-level belly-dance classes. 619-884-7707. Thursdays, 7pm; through Thursday, December 17, \$10. 12 and up. California Ballet, 4819 Ronson Road. (KEARNY MESA)

**Learn to Line Dance** Country line-dance classes for beginners through intermediates. 858-459-0831. Thursdays, 12:30pm; free. 18







and up. Riford Center, 6811 La Jolla Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

Legions of Rats! Flurries of Snowflakes! San Diego Ballet Company performs *The Nutcracker* with over 100 dancers reveling in Tchaikovsky's score. Direction by Robin Sherertz-Morgan and Javier Velasco. 619-294-7311. Thursday, December 17, 7:30pm; Friday, December 18, 7:30pm; \$20-\$50. Mandeville Auditorium at UCSD, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

**Salsa Central** Dance to salsa, along with some merengue, chacha, bachata, and cumbia every Monday. 858-735-4159. Mondays, 8pm; free. Ciao Bella Caffe Bar e Ristorante, 5263 Baltimore Drive. (LA MESA)

Salsa Lessons Salsa lessons for beginners and intermediates. No partners needed. Lessons followed by open dancing with music by Luna Llena (8:30pm). 619-200-7124. Thursdays, 7pm; \$10. 18 and up. Miami Grille, 4545 La Jolla Village Drive. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

**Salsa Parties** Beginners tango lessons (7pm), followed by lessons for intermediates and beginners (7:45pm). Open dancing with DJs La Mafia, Victor, and Jose "Timbalero" (8:30pm). Dance performances by professional dancers. 619-200-7124. Fridays, 7pm; \$8. 18 and up. Tango Del Rey, 3567 Del Rey Street. (CLAIREMONT)

**Nutcrackers and Sugar Plum Fairies** City Ballet of San Diego performs *The Nutcracker*, with Tchaikovsky's score performed by City Ballet Orchestra, with choreography by Elizabeth Wistrich, after Lev Ivanov, Vassily Vainonen, Rudolph Nureyev. 858-272-8663. Fridays, 7:30pm; Saturdays, 2pm; and 7:30pm; Sundays, 2pm; through Sunday, December 20, \$29-\$59. Spreckels Theatre, 121 Broadway. (DOWNTOWN)

**Tango?** Tango lessons — performance and social — led by Florentino Guizar. Open dancing: 8pm. 858-735-4159. Mondays, 6:30pm; \$10. 21 and up. Four Points by Sheraton, 8110 Aero Drive. (KEARNY MESA)

**Veils, Fans, Swords!** Zorba Stars dancers perform belly dance



TWENTY/10 KIDS-INCLUDED NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY Family-Friendly Festivities, Buffet-Style Dinner, Live Music & Dancing all night

KIDS' PARTY ZONE

Movie Rooms, Ping Pong, Activities, Wii Challenges and more!

\$75 PER ADULT

Up to 2 kids FREE per paid adult. 7 pm-1 am.

#### LEGOLAND® FIREWORKS AT 6 PM

Free transportation for all Grand Pacific Palisades,
Carlsbad Inn and Seapoint guests to any of the
New Year's Eve events at the Sheraton Carlsbad. 7 pm-1 am

Sheraton

5480 Grand Pacific Drive Carlsbad, CA 92008 twenty10nye.eventbrite.com 760.827.2500



#### Christmas Sunday

December 20, 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. • String Quartet, Choir and Organ

#### Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

5 p.m.

Family Worship and Christmas Pageant with Children's and Youth Choirs

7 p.m.

Lessons and Carols, The Contemporary Singers • Dr. Jim Standiford

9 p.m.

Lessons and Carols, The Chancel Choir • Dr. Jim Standiford

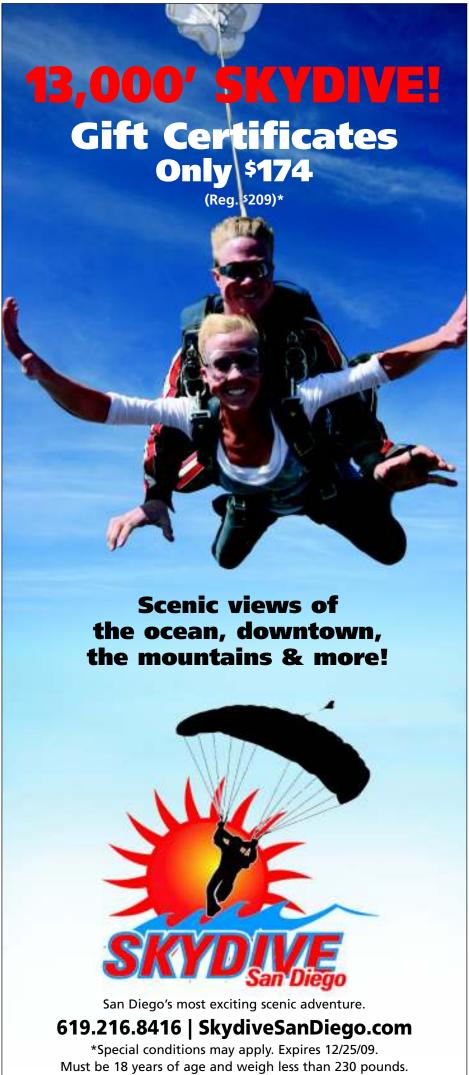
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Communion, Carols, Christmas Story, Band, Choirs • Rev. Molly Vetter



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## Calendar LOCAL EVENTS

stage show. Greek buffet, full bar, live music, open dancing after show. Reservations recommended: 619-422-8853. Friday, December 18, 6:30pm; Saturday, December 19, 6:30pm; \$15. Zorba's Greek Buffet, 100 Broadway. (CHULA VISTA)

#### FILM

In the Loop Armando Iannucci's 2008 "saucy satire of statecraft," based on the BBC series British series *The Thick of It*, screens for Film Forum. 619-236-5800. Monday, December 21, 6:30pm; free. San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

Rhythmic Uprising Documentary screens following live performances by local transcen-DANCE Youth Arts Project and Centro Cultural de la Raza musicians and dancers. Film explores how "Afro-Brazilian performing arts are used to fight racism and inequality in Bahia, Brazil." 619-235-6135. Friday, December 18, 7:30pm; \$5-\$10. Centro Cultural de la Raza, 2125 Park Boulevard. (BALBOA PARK)

**The Drummer** Triad gangsters and zen drumming! Kenneth Bi's

2008 film screens in Mandarin and Cantonese with English subtitles for Sunday Matinee series. 619-236-5800. Sunday, December 20, 2pm; free. San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

**Up** Voices of Ed Asner and Christopher Plummer enliven this 2009 Disney/Pixar film, screening for ongoing Carlsbad Library film series. Pre- and postfilm discussions led by Ann Zivotsky. 760-602-2026. Wednesday, December 23, 6pm; free. Schulman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane. (CARLSBAD)

What Would Jesus Buy? Documentary about street performer "Reverend Billy" and his choir of activists from the "Church of Stop Shopping." Group sets off on a November cross-country trip "to spread their message against what they perceive as the evils of patronizing several retail outlets of large corporate chains." Donation. 619-282-0437. Tuesday, December 22, 7pm. Lestat's Coffee House, 3343 Adams Ayenue. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

**Latest and Greatest!** SDSU Filmmakers Showcase features work by undergraduate and graduate film students, with "multitude of short films representing the body of new work created...over the course of the semester." 619-594-6884. Thursday, December 17, 7pm; \$10. Don Powell Theatre at SDSU, 5500 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

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Mars Movie Night! Mars Society-San Diego hosts screening of "world premier" of *Princess of Mars* (based on novel by Edgar Rice Burroughs), starring Antonio Sabato Jr. and Traci Lords. Also promised: movie preview trailers, an episode of *Duck Dodgers*. Required reservations: 619-723-3456. Friday, December 18, 7pm; free. Eco Center for Alternative Fuel Education, 4100 El Cajon Boulevard. (CITY HEIGHTS)

## FOOD & DRINK

"Drink Beer, Save the World!"

Brewery tour starting at Oggi's heads to Stone Brewing, Karl Strauss, Ballast Point in "retired 1978 school bus that has been restored and converted to run on biodiesel and is powered by solar panels on the roof." Required: bring a gift for a two- to six-year-old child. 858-213-2526. Saturday, December 19, noon; \$35. 21 and up. Oggi's Pizza & Brewing Co., 10155 Rancho Carmel Drive. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN)

Winemaker's Dinner Barona Steakhouse hosts meal paired with wines from Mahogany Mountain Vineyard and Winery. Winemakers will offer tastes of their wines, then join guests for meal. Reservations: 858-248-1612. Friday, December 18, 6pm; \$60. 21 and up.

Barona Valley Ranch Resort & Casino, 1932 Wildcat Canyon Road. (LAKESIDE)

#### FOR KIDS

"Bullets Outta Guns" City Heights poet Jim Moreno offers after-school poetry workshop for middle and high school students. Participants learn "craft of poetry, microphone skills, and performance skills." 760-802-2449. Tuesdays, 4pm; through Sunday, June 6, free. 12 and up. Upaka Center, 6875 El Cajon Boulevard. (COLLEGE AREA)

"Just for Kids!" Naturalist D.J. Summers leads easy hike for parents and their children. Craft session at picnic area follows. Bring a snack if you want. 760-839-4680. Friday, December 18, 10am; free. Daley Ranch — La Honda trailhead, 3024 La Honda Drive. (ESCONDIDO)

"Natural Materials" Family drop-in day program encourages exploration, learning about "Oceanic Art: A Celebration of Form" exhibit through variety of child-friendly activities. For families with kids 6-12. Included in museum admission (\$12 adults). 619-231-7092. Sunday, December 20, 1pm. San Diego Museum of Art. 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

"Natural Materials: Oceanic Art: A Celebration of Form" Explore, learn about museum's art through child-friendly tours, story-telling, art making during Family Drop-In Day for those with children 6-12 years old. Included in regular admission (\$12 general). 619-232-7931. Sunday, December 20, 1pm; 6 and up. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

"Our Naturehood" Learn facts about deer and other herbivores during "Reindeer? No, Mule Deer" class for kids aged 5-12 (with an adult). Craft, trail hike promised. 619-582-6261. Thursday, December 17, 3pm; free-\$5. 5 and up. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

**"Wii Get Crafty"** Meet new friends over Wii, crafts, snacks. For ages 6-17. 858-538-8159. Fridays, 4pm; 6 and up. Rancho Peñasquitos Library, 13350 Salmon River Road. (RANCHO PEÑASOUITOS)

The Merry Christmas Show Puppet Express performs (December 17-20), followed by Eva Kvaas (December 21-23 and December 26-27). 619-544-9203. Thursday, December 17, 10am and 11:30am; Friday, December 18, 10am and 11:30am; Saturday, December 19, 11am, 1pm and 2:30pm; Sunday, December 20, 11am, 1pm and 2:30pm; Monday, December 21, 10am and 11:30am; Tuesday, December 22, 10am and 11:30am; Wednesday, December 23, 10am and 11:30am; \$3-\$5. Marie Hitch-

cock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan

American Road West. (BALBOA PARK)

Family Festival Holiday Pops Enjoy holiday concert by San Diego Symphony, San Diego Master Chorale, San Diego Children's Choir, and Mariachi Champaña Nevin. Reservations: 619-235-0804. Sunday, December 20, 2pm; \$100-\$25. Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. (DOWNTOWN)

It's Gingerbread Season! Children (and an accompanying adult) learn about gingerbread, read a holiday story, decorate a gingerbread man cookie to take home during "History for Half-Pints" program for kids three to five years old. Reservations: 619-232-6203 x129. Monday, December 21, 10am; \$5. 3 and up. Museum of San Diego History, 1649 El Prado.

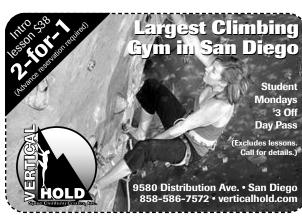
Wacky Science Sundays Explore wild and wacky worlds of mysterious creatures, fascinating habitats, and phenomenal science with Ms. Frizzle and the Magic School Bus. Included in regular museum admission. 619-232-3821 x110. Sundays, 12:15pm and 2:15pm; free-\$13. San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

#### **GALLERIES**

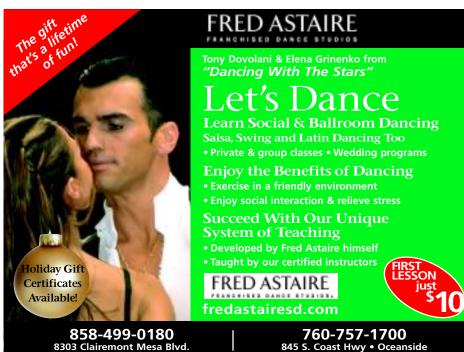
"Celebrate the Season" Reception for exhibition of work by Kris deYoung, Sharon Ford, Theresa Early Newbern, and Judy Judy Judy. Show closes Sunday, December 20. 858-459-1196. Friday, December 18, 5:30pm; free. La Jolla Art Association Gallery, 8100 Paseo del Ocaso, Suite B. (LA JOLLA)

"Monkeys, Puppets & Music" Opening reception for "The Art of Brandon Roth" and group art exhibition "Get In Where You Fit In." Through Tuesday, January 5. 858-354-6294. Saturday, December 19, 6pm; free. Thumbprint Gallery, 2637 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

**"Stripping the Myth"** Reception for exhibition of paintings by Brian Dombrowsky and "Thierry Chatelain: 1952-2008: A Celebra-











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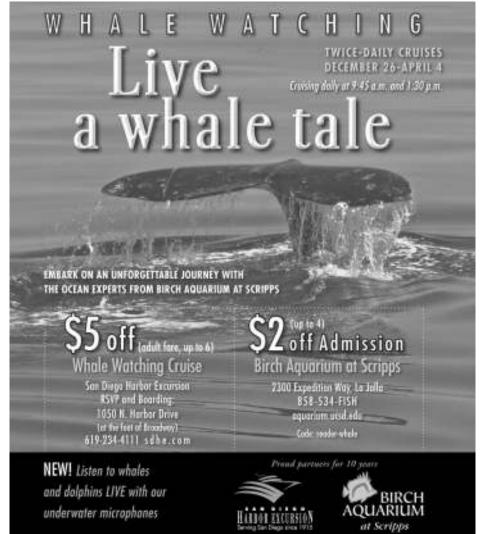
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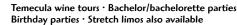
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tion of His Life and Work." Also on view: juried, awarded artwork from "Outstanding Visual Artists" of region. Through Sunday, January 17. 619-236-0011. Friday, December 18, 6pm; \$3. San Diego Art Institute: Museum of the Living Artist, 1439 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

#### **IN PERSON**

"Home for the Holidays" Seasonal story slam hosted by So Say We All. 619-887-2856. Saturday, December 19, 8pm; \$5. Lestat's Coffee House, 3343 Adams Avenue. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

"Impossible Visions" Magic show by Sebastian, with guest J. Sanchez. Dinner not included in fee. Reservations. 858-344-6981. Wednesdays, 6pm; \$10. Comedy Palace, 8878 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)

"Live Comedy Live!" Headliner is Erik Knowles (fresh from performing with Sarah Silverman and Zach Galifianakis), joined by Christian Spicer, R.J. Dharni, Billy Bonnell. Preshow music by Chad Cavanaugh (7:30pm), show at 8pm. No drink minimum. 760-595-5466. Sunday, December 20, 7:30pm; \$3-\$5. 21 and up. Kensington Club, 4079 Adams Avenue. (KENSINGTON-TALMADGE)

"Messages from Beyond" Medium, healer, clairvoyant Lisa Williams brings her show to the stage. Williams "discovered her...ability to communicate with loved ones and friends who have passed onto the 'other side' as a young child." 877-946-7252. Thursday, December 17, 8pm; \$35-\$85. Pala Casino, 35008 Pala Temecula Road. (PALA)

Official Book Club Selection Self-described "d-list superstar," Emmy-winning comedienne Kathy Griffin signs her new memoir. What really happens at the star party after the show? In order to have books signed, at least one copy must be purchased from Warwick's. Further information: 858-454-0347. Wednesday, December 23, 8pm; free. Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

A Must-Have for Music Fans! Les Paul expert Robb Lawrence discusses, signs his new book, The Modern Era of the Les Paul Legacy: 1968-2009. Book continues journey of an American icon's recording career and coveted instruments bearing his name. 858-456-1800. Saturday, December 19, 7pm; free. D.G. Wills Books, 7461 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Belly-Dance Showcase Jennifer, Genevieve, Salome, Zahra perform to live music by Middle-Earth Ensemble. Donation: \$5. 619-699-9845. Thursday, December 17, 8pm. Claire de Lune, 2906 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

Belly Dancing — With Fire! Annamarie and Raine perform belly dance and fire show to live music by Middle-Earth Ensemble. Open dancing. Cover: \$10. 858-488-4200. Sunday, December 20,

8pm. Turquoise, Café-Bar Europa, 873 Turquoise Street. (PACIFIC BEACH)

#### **Conscious Comedy Explosion**

Fourth anniversary celebration begins with Lady Rose and Company playing jazz, rhythm and blues, Caribbean grooves. Comedy by Pretina McNeil, headliner Marc Howard, RSVP: 619-564-4425, Friday, December 18, 7pm; \$7-\$12.18 and up. Upaka Center, 6875 El Cajon Boulevard. (COLLEGE AREA)

Sight & Sound Preview night with MC Flow promises musical performances by Shark Attack and "man and robot duo" Satanic Puppeteer Orchestra. Interactive art installation and sculpture display from Newfangled Collective; indoor video projection from Christian Michaels; outdoor video projection by Greg Lloyd. Proceeds benefit Green Scene Gallery, Complimentary beverage with paid admission before 8pm, 619-846-7180. Saturday, December 19, 7pm; \$5. 21 and up. Zagrodnik & Thomas Architects, 3956 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

Standup Comedy Mal Hall hosts variety show with music by John Hull Trio (7:30pm), comedy featuring Dan Smith (8pm). 619-338-9300. Thursday, December 17, 7:30pm; \$10. 21 and up. Bitter End, 770 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

Wine and Cookbook Night Authors on hand to sign their books: Carole Bloom (Bite-Size Desserts: Creating Mini Sweet Treats, from Cupcakes and Cobblers to Custards

and Cookies), John Alonge (The Wine Heretic's Bible: Plain English Advice for the Casual Wino), chef Kamal Al-Faqih (Classic Lebanese Cuisine: 170 Fresh and Healthy Mediterranean Favorites), and Ianene Roberts (Wine Tasting in Southern California and Beyond). 858-454-0347. Thursday, December 17, 6pm; free, Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

#### **LECTURES**

#### "Animal Cruelty Lecture"

What can you do for an abused or neglected animal? Find out during lecture by members of San Diego Humane Society and SPCA's investigations department. Talk covers animal-related laws, what kind of actions can be taken to help victims of animal abuse. Registration: 619-243-3424. Thursday, December 17, 6:30pm; \$12. San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, 5500 Gaines Street. (LINDA VISTA)

**Explore Your Creativity** Learn simple clay hand-building techniques to make sculpture, vessels for your home or garden when Cheryl Tall leads clay classes (Tuesdays, 10:30am or 2:30pm). Tall also plans painting and mixed-media classes divulging techniques such as acrylic painting, glazing, stippling, stamping, collage (Thursdays). Fee: \$140 for four classes. 760-479-0399. Thursdays, 2:30pm; Tuesdays, 10:30am and 2:30pm; through Thursday, January 28, 18 and up. Cheryl Tall Art Studio, 1114 N. Coast Hwy. 101, Suite 2.

Pay for College Without Going Broke? Author Ron Caruthers

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## Calendar

divulges "where to get free money for college, even in today's economy." Learn steps, strategies to receive financial aid. 760-438-9095. Thursday, December 17, 7:15pm; free. Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane. (CARLSBAD)

Writing Practice "Connect with your creative self through timed writing practice exercises and round-table discussions" led by Maureen Pierre. 760-753-7601.

Thursdays, 6pm; through Thursday, December 17, free. 18 and up. Encinitas Library, 540 Cornish Drive. (ENCINITAS)

#### **SPORTS**

Big Lagoon Ride Join San Diego Bicycle Touring Society riders for 50-mile fun ride. 619-647-3212. Saturday, December 19, 8:45am. Doyle Park, 8175 Regents Road. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

**Bolts and Bengals!** Cincinnati Bengals arrive for football against San Diego Chargers. Game broadcast on CBS. 800-745-3000. Sunday, December 20, 1:05pm; \$54-\$98. Qualcomm Stadium, 9449 Friars Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

Meander to Mesa Grande Join San Diego Bicycle Touring Society riders for 80-mile ride through Valley Center, Rincon, Lake Henshaw, and Mesa Grande. Meet up with bicyclists in southernmost parking lot. 619-561-3846. Sunday, December 20, 8:45am; free, Kit Carson Park, 3333 Bear Valley Parkway, (ESCONDIDO)

Poinsettia Bowl Fifth annual San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl promises gridiron competition between University of Utah Utes and University of California Golden Bears. 619-220-TIXS.

Wednesday, December 23, 5pm; \$38-\$60. Qualcomm Stadium, 9449 Friars Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

Run for Fun Locate new routes in the city, "test-drive" latest Nike footwear, run with motivated people. Runners, walkers of all levels meet to run their choice of three-, five-, and seven-mile routes, starting from Nike Fashion Valley. 619-294-9385. Wednesdays, 6pm; free. Fashion Valley Mall, 7007 Friars Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

Six Bernardos Ride Knickerbiker bicyclists will travel on six roads with "Bernardo" in their name during 25-mile ride starting in parking lot. Bring money for (optional) lunch at Greek eatery near end of ride. 858-243-4662. Sunday, December 20, 9:30am. Albertsons Market - Rancho Bernardo, 12475 Rancho Bernardo Road. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

Year-Round Waterskiing Convair Waterski Club provides ski boats for waterskiing. Group meets at south end of Crown Point Beach. 858-863-4755. Sundays, 8am; \$8-\$15. Crown Point, 3700 Crown Point Drive. (PACIFIC BEACH)

#### MUSEUMS & **PUBLIC ART**

#### Chula Vista Heritage Museum

"The Way We Learned: Education in the South Bay" illustrates history of buildings, campuses, and people attending school through photographs, artifacts, school annuals, student memorabilia.



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from the original Star newspaper building, and relics from the Otav Watch Company. 360 Third Ave., 619-427-8092. (CHULA VISTA) Craftsmanship Museum The Joe Martin Foundation hosts this museum and machine shop with displays of projects in metal and wood at the small end of the sizescale, including working miniature gas and steam engines, aircraft models, cars, trains, clocks, miniature tools and guns. Machinist mans the shop (Tuesday-Friday)

The museum features glimpses

of Chula Vista's past; exhibits fea-

ture lemon packing-crate labels,

photographs of downtown Chula

Vista, doors and adobe blocks

Kellogg Library at CSU San Marcos "Earth from Space" features 20 satellite images from the Smithsonian Institute. Pieces offer "rare views of events such as dust storms, wildfires, volcanic eruptions, and hurricanes...accompanied by text explaining satellite imagery and remote-sensing technology." Closes Saturday, December 19. 333 South Twin Oaks Valley Rd., 760-750-4378. (SAN MARCOS)

for machining demonstrations.

Museum is also open on first Sat-

urday each month (10am-3pm).

3235 Executive Ridge, 760-727-

Mingei International Museum North County "Rite and Ritual: Ceremonial Art Across the Cultures" focuses on beauty of objects used for special familial, tribal, community events in traditional cultures such as birth, childhood, initiation, marriage, death, and festivals and in various religious expressions among the world's peoples. Closes Saturday, October 16. 155 West Grand Ave., 760-735-3355. (ESCONDIDO)

#### Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown

"Tara Donovan" features sculptures and installations from past decade. Show traces "ambitious process of this young artist," who takes mass quantities of a single everyday item (tape, plastic cups, straws, pins, toothpicks, buttons) and "assembles them in different ways." Closes Sunday, February 28. 1100 and 1001 Kettner Blvd., 858-454-3541. (DOWNTOWN)

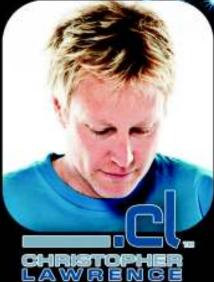






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## **Just Shy of a Symphony**

Next up was "Funeral March of a Marionette," better known to most as Alfred Hitchcock's theme.

CLASSICAL

**MOSS GROPEN** 

onductor Robert Zelickman hopped on the podium and performed an impromptu jig — or was it the twist? With that, he fiddled with the microphone and an-

nounced the night's first selection, "Suite of Seven Dances" from *Faust* (the ballet) by French composer Charles

Gounod. The affable maestro — a jolly, rumpled sort whose lack of pretense belies his serious musicianship — radiated enthusiasm. For their part, the audience — an age-eclectic, casually clad gathering of perhaps 150 — seemed to take to his warmth and energy.

"We have ten rehearsals, and the concert — we do one per quarter — is the culmination of those rehearsals," said Zelickman, who has conducted the UCSD Wind Ensemble since 1990. "I hope the audience will enjoy the fruits of our labor, but it's really the rehearsals I stress. That's where the teaching goes on."

With that thought in mind, I settled in on a recent Thursday evening, December 3, for the fall quarter's offering at Mandeville Auditorium, UCSD's somewhat dated, cavernous 714-seat mainstay.

During the gentle cacophony of the preshow tuning up, I took inventory of the wood-paneled walls, the old-fashioned, crimson stage curtains — the standard accoutrements of a mid-'60s vintage concert hall. As the warm-ups waned, I looked up from the linoleum-tiled floor to watch the ensemble welcome the conductor. Then, the auditorium was suffuse with the strains of a melodic waltz, the first of seven movements punctuated by bright brass and lively percussion. The overall impression was of a pleasant, sentimental approach to the classics — perhaps more "old-timey" and more accessible than symphonic fare.

Throughout the concert, Zelickman conducted with verve, and, at times, near-abandon. During one passage, he swung his arms wildly as if gleefully sweeping a scythe through wheat. The

all-French program, made up of compositions penned from roughly 1860 to 1880, continued with two works by Camille

Saint-Saëns. The first, "Bacchanale," from the opera Samson and Delilah, resonated with a Middle Eastern motif filtered through the strainer of 19th-century French sensibilities. Next was "Danse Macabre," which Zelickman termed a tone poem in the manner of Liszt. Not particularly dark by modernist standards, it allowed the ensemble to showcase the oboes and bassoons, as well as precisely arranged stanzas with flutes alternating with brass. As intermission approached, the ensemble launched into "Cortège de Bacchus" from Léo Delibes's ballet Sylvia.

Post-intermission began with Jacques Offenbach's "La Belle Hélène Overture." Next up was "Funeral March of a Marionette," a whimsical Gounod piece better known to most as Alfred Hitchcock's theme. This was followed by another selection whose familiarity — at least among modern-day audiences — can be traced, in part, to the movies: Claude Debussy's "Claire de Lune," popularized recently in the teen fave *Twilight*. The program concluded with Saint-Saëns's "Marche Militaire Française," a percussion-infused number reminiscent of — if a bit less stirring than — John Philip Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever."

I asked the conductor, who's led the band since 1991 (and has taught at UCSD since 1983), how he'd characterize the group to classical music tyros. For example, what exactly *is* a "wind ensemble"? Sure, it's got woodwinds — a 17-strong battery of flautists, a 22-member clar-



Charles Gounod



Camille Saint-Saëns



Jacques Offenbach



Claude Debuss

inet section, as well as oboes and bassoons. But it also sports a punchy array of brass — saxophones, trumpets, trombones, tuba, and euphonium (more about that later) — and a versatile percussion squad whose weapons range from an enormous bass drum to a dainty trian-



gle. All told, the UCSD Wind Ensemble typically numbers from 60 to 80 players in a given quarter, so it's a large group just shy of a symphony.

Zelickman, who also leads a much smaller outfit — the Second Avenue Klezmer Ensemble — explained that the Wind Ensemble is akin to a symphony, minus the strings. He terms it simply as "a concert band," one that plays not only traditional symphonic pieces transcribed for the stringless but also works composed specifically for the quasi-symphonic organizations that acquired (classical) legitimacy with the advent of Sousa.

Although the UCSD Wind Ensemble exists under the aegis of the UCSD Music Department, it's not solely the province of UCSD students. While most of the players do emanate from the ranks of UCSD undergraduates and grad students, members from the community have always been a vital part of the mix. According to John Wyman, the band's arranger, the unifying factor is simply the love of music. No one in the ensemble exemplifies this better than Wyman, who has played the euphonium (a baritone horn resembling a mini-tuba) with the conglomeration since its inception in 1978. Wyman, who first picked up his instrument of choice in 1948 — and kept on a-blowin' in the Marine Corps Band — told me that 8 of the ensemble's 65 musicians are die-hard devotees, longtime practitioners from San Diego at large whose presence has been a constant in a band whose roster fluctuates in size from quarter to (academic) quarter.

I asked Wyman: Why the UCSD Wind Ensemble? And why would someone practice daily and rehearse weekly, over decades, for a band that pays nothing and garners scant attention? He replied, "Challenging music."

#### CLASSICAL LISTINGS

**"A Holiday Celebration"** Orchestral program featuring Masterworks Chorale boasts "mixture of light classical music and seasonal selections." Program includes brass ensemble presenting "A

Canadian Brass Christmas"; "Hallelujah" chorus from Handel's "Messiah," audience sing-along of holiday songs, carols with choirs and orchestra. 760-795-6815. Saturday, December 19, 7:30pm; Sunday, December 20, 2pm; \$8-\$10. MiraCosta College Theatre, One Barnard Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

**"Sounds of Ascension"** Choir, bell choir, sacred and popular music promised during Christmas concert. Reception follows. Offering. 619-582-2636. Sunday, December 20, 4pm. Ascension Lutheran Church, 5106 Zion Avenue. (ALUED GARDENS)

"Tudor Polyphony: John Sheppard and Flock" La Jolla Renaissance Singers perform sacred music by John Sheppard, Parsons, Byrd, Vaughn Williams, along with various English carols. Donation. 619-463-6629. Sunday, December 20, 2:30pm. Santa Sophia Catholic Church, 9800 San Juan Street. (SPRING VALLEY)

A True Avatar of the Piano Marc-André Hamelin plans concert for Frieman Family Piano Series hosted by La Jolla Music Society. Program includes Haydn's "Variations in F Minor," "Sonata in A Minor" by Mozart, Liszt's "Venezia e Napoli," the "Nocturne No. 6 in D-flat Major" by Fauré, and the "Symphonie for Solo Piano" by Alkan. 858-459-3728. Friday, December 18, 8pm; \$25-\$75. Sherwood Auditorium at Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, 700 Prospect Street. (LA IOLLA)

**Christmas Sing-Along** Civic organist Carol Williams in concert. 619-702-8138. Sunday, December 20, 2pm; free. Spreckels Organ Pavilion, 2211 Pan American Road. (BALBOA PARK)

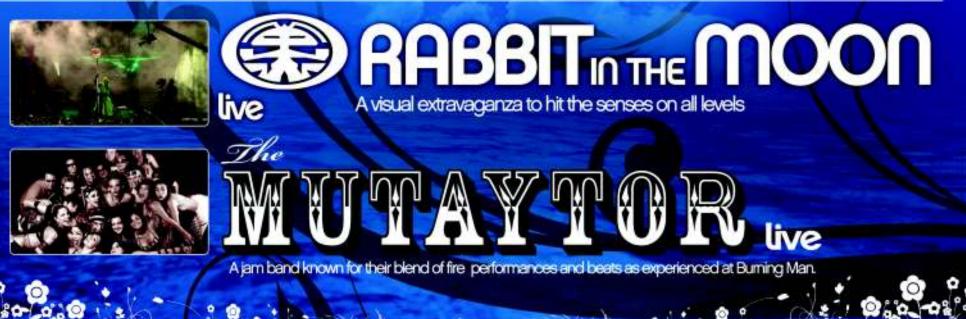
Holiday Brass San Diego Chamber Music Society concert promises arrangements of many carols, songs, selections from Handel's "Messiah," Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*, plus classic popular holiday tunes. 858-552-1657. Sunday, December 20, 3:30pm; free. La Jolla Library, 7555 Draper Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Holiday Pops Favorite holiday music tradition returns with performance by San Diego Symphony, host Michael Cavanaugh (piano, vocals), San Diego Master Chorale, San Diego Children's Choir, and Mariachi Champaña Nevin. Reservations: 619-235-0804. Thursday, December 17, 7:30pm; Friday, December 18, 8pm; Saturday, December 19, 2pm and 8pm; Sunday, December 20, 7:30pm; \$20-\$85. Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. (DOWNTOWN)

Music for Advent and Christmas Musica Vitale Chorus, joined by organist Geoffrey Graham and harpist Elena Mashkotseva, performs Benjamin Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" for "Music on the Point" series. Reception follows. Donation: \$5. 619-223-6394 x13. Sunday, December 20, 4pm. All Souls' Episcopal Church, 1475 Catalina Boulevard. (POINT LOMA)











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## DY DUGUID 🕸 🖦









GABRIEL LUHOSZ



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HURSDAY DECEMBER 31ST 2009





















The Entire Known Universe? "Apparently, Golden Track Studios thinks it's okay to steal the song Matt Commerce and I wrote for the San Diego Your Song Competition," read Alyssa Jacey's Facebook post on December 2. "They used

formance on Sophie 103.7, and sessions to record the tune at Golden Track Studio in Linda Vista, where "Traa from P.O.D., owner of Ryot Entertainment, will produce the winning song."

"Matt's schedule didn't allow us to get in the studio

the inside track

another singer and are going to pretend it's their song.... I feel like throwing up."

The Jacey-Commerce

together," says Jacey. "Then I went on tour. Finally, I get back, we pick a date, and that one date I ended up having a



GET MY SONG OUT OF YOUR MOUTH (JACEY)

song, "San Diego," won the 2009 Your Song Competition in August. Prizes included a full-page profile in *San Diego Magazine*, an in-studio perlast-minute emergency I had to do instead. They got pissed.... [They] said they'd have me come in and record on December 13, when

instead they had Matt come in and do his parts and behind my back, without asking me, decided to get some random chick — no idea who she is — to do MY parts."

Notwithstanding dozens of sympathetic Facebook posts ("Shoot them from behind the kneecaps," etc.), Jacey's entertainment lawyer at Higgs Fletcher & Mac LLP notes that Your Song rules seem to support contest operators:

"Artist grants to Licensee the sole and exclusive rights to use the master described above, in any manner or in any media it deems appropriate, in the Licensed Territory which includes: the entire known Universe."

Asked about the song's cowriter, Matt Commerce, Jacey responds, "He said that he absolutely does not agree with what they did.... From now on, we need to read in detail what the rules entail before submitting to a contest."

After a flurry of emails between Jacey, Miss Elliott at Ryot Entertainment ("This woman has been a capital Bword"), and Maureen Sullivan at *San Diego Magazine*, Jacey received this final message from Sullivan:

"I am sorry to hear that you were unable to attend the Your Song recording at the last minute. Miss Elliot and her team put together the resources and expense to make this happen for you

and Matt. It is clear to me that their efforts and support of your recording was there, and by your decision, they were left with no choice but to move forward."

"We are honoring your request not to release the CD.... You are a very talented artist and we all hope that you learn from this experience as you grow in your career."

Jacey adds, "They're still going to give me credit that I cowrote the song."

— Jay Allen Sanford

My Bono Guitarist-vocalist Adam Gimbel has been performing under the name Cover Me Badd since 1995 and uses the name as an umbrella "brand" for his tributes to pop groups Depeche Mode, Oasis, and Weezer, along with his karaoke and music-trivia nights at local venues.

A Google search of Cover Me Badd gets several hits of tribute acts with the same name from around the world. "Cover Me Badd is a great name," Gimbel says, "and if I were one of the guys that thought of it one night, I'd think, 'This is awesome. Let's see if anyone has that name.' Oops. Ten other bands already have that name. What they've all said is, 'Eh, they're in San Diego and we're in London or New York. No one is going to care."

After diving into the tribute subculture with his rotating groups — Blasphemous Guitars (a guitar-based tribute to Depeche Mode), the Fookin' Wankers (Oasis), and Geezer, where Gimbel and his they're so serious. You can't even look for more than a minute because it's so creepy how much they're into it." But despite the name



BLASPHEMIN' DEPECHE TRIBUTE BLASPHEMOUS GUITARS

bandmates dress as cantankerous old men and perform Weezer tunes — Gimbel says the world of tribute acts is a strange but lucrative scene filled with musicians trying to get famous pretending to be other people.

Gimbel said he gained some insight to the tribute mindset when Blasphemous Guitars shared a bill with a U2 tribute band named Joshua Tree.

"We were going to have a girl do this burlesque thing, and Joshua Tree's manager told us, 'I can't have her near my Bono because his girl-friend gets really jealous.' Just hearing the manager refer to the singer as *my Bono* was good enough for me! Then the band comes out and

controversies and dealings with rock-star imposters, Gimbel is publicly announcing his next Cover Me Badd tribute project.

"I've always wanted to do the entire Specials record and call it .38 Special Education."

The group, featuring members of Buck-O-Nine and Cash'd Out, are scheduled to open for the English Beat at the Belly Up in February.

— Larry Harmon

#### We Won the Gong

**Show** "The African American Musicians Heritage Foundation was formed to recognize the life and legacy of local African-American jazz musicians," says Hollis Hassell. "It's a part of the

(continued on page 90)





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dynamic ministry," he says, "of the Church of Christ of San Diego."

Hassell, a drummer and a singer, is 87. He was president of the AAMHF from 2002 to 2009.

Fro Brigham was the first inductee in 2000. "And Walter Fuller...those two," says Hassell. "And then each year,

vou know, we select one or more African-American musicians who have displayed ongoing musicianship and leadership in the San Diego community. That person — or persons — is inducted into the Hall of Fame." Along with the honor, "You get a little trophy," he says.

This year's inductees are blues guitarist Tomcat Courtney, Eddie Ellis, and jazz singer Deejha Marie Pope.

"John Kearse," says Deejha Marie, "called me and said that I was being inducted into the AAMHF, and I was, like, me?"

John Kearse is the Foundation's acting president and secretary. He is also a deacon at the Church of Christ. He says that the selection

Thursday, December 17

**NITZER EBB** 

TRAGIC TANTRUM

**DJ ROBIN ROTH** 

Saturday, December 19

**SPRUNG** 

MONKEY

**FUZZ HUZZI** 

**ELECTRIC DYNAMITE** 

**MONKEYS IN SPACE** 

<u> Etix</u>

process is made via ballots that are sent out to previous inductees as well as area musicians. A panel of AAMHF officers totals the ballots.

"Then, we ask for a bio who they are, what they did. We take all of that into consideration," Kearse says, "before we make our decision."

Lead vocalist in Sue Palmer's Motel Swing Orchestra for nearly a decade, Pope says her professional career was launched years ago after she and her all-vocal



HONORED VOCALIST DEEJHA MARIE POPE WITH SUE PALMER

group Pieces sang their way to victory on a now-defunct network television game show.

"We won The Gong Show. I still have the trophy at my house."

On December 12, Pope, Ellis, and Courtney were inducted in a ceremony at the Elementary Institute of Science in San Diego and joined an artist roster of honorees that includes local luminaries Hollis Gentry, Jimmie can't work around."

**OVERHEARD IN SAN DIEGO:** SPORTS ARENA

RIDE!

THE BAND AND I NEED

LREADY LEFT.

Drank has been in bands for 17 years. "Every actor wants to be a musician, and every musician wants to be an actor." He says growing up in a church where people spoke in tongues and flailed around on the floor helped him with both music and acting. "My mom was a strict Pentecostal. I could walk into a Baptist church right now and preach a revival and have you dancing in the aisles in 20 minutes. I left the church when I was 20, but I could still preach you a sermon that would blow your mind."

Drank, 38, stumbled into acting in 2007 when he responded to an ad on craigslist asking for extras. "There were, like, seven dudes who were supposed to be there, and I was the only one who showed up. They started giving me lines the first day." That pilot "never went anywhere," but his biker looks helped him land an agent. He now gets residuals every time his commercials air for AT&T ("I'm riding away with Bill

NEED TO

GET INTO THE

IMO BIZ

Curtis in the sidecar") or

FRANK DRANK, THE SINGING BARTENDER

Heinz ketchup ("I'm the singing bartender"). He's done three sketches with Conan O'Brien, played a backvard wrestler on Reno 911! and was Paris Hilton's cellmate in a Lewis Black Comedy Central special.

As for his music career, Drank says, "The outlook in the music industry is bleak. I have never made money from music. I've always spent money to make music. If someone gets their hands on a CD, a million people can have a [bootlegged] copy of it in one day. Labels are losing money. It is a sinking ship. If you are in this business to make money, you have to have rocks in your head."

Genghis Con-Job made its Casbah debut last Tuesday. Drank says he would have loved to play the popular rock club before then. "We opened for Danko Jones. It took the president of their record label — Bad Taste Records — to call from Sweden to get us on that bill." – Ken Leighton

#### CONTRIBUTORS

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

#### **What's in Your Wallet?**

and Jeannie Cheatham,

dozens more.

thing in my life."

Cynthia Hammond, Barbara

Jamerson, Charles McPherson,

James Moody, Jesse Davis, and

"I used to go sit in their

audiences," Pope says, "and

just, like, dream of being up

onstage with them.... I feel

like I've accomplished some-

– Dave Good

When Genghis Con-Job singer-songwriter Frank Drank filmed his part as a Viking in a Capital One commercial, he had to show up an hour early. "Visigoths don't have tattoos," says the 6'4", 290-pound tough guy who often gets cast as a bank robber or a bouncer in movies, TV shows, and commercials. "They airbrush all the tattoos off me. If they like what you do, there isn't anything they

Sunday, December 20 • Doors 6 pm **ACOUSTIC ALLIANCE** 

Saturday, December 26

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Saturday, January 2

**AIZEN • ONE THEORY DESPITE THE WOLVES** 

Wednesday, January 6 SUMMER CIRCUS **VOICE IN THE DARK** 

Friday, January 8 PARKER & THE NUMBER MAN AS THE SUN SETS FIRE

> **DAYGO PRODUCE DOOMTRAIN**

Sunday, January 10 **SILENT CIVILIAN BLIND WITNESS** 

Wednesday, January 13

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**SCIENCE FICTION** 

Friday, January 15 <u> Etix</u> **ADEMA** (All original members)

UNSET

**SILENCE BETRAYED** 

Saturday, January 16

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Sunday, December 27

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**JUST** ADDED!

1/21 Pure Prairie League 1/24 An Evening with Stanley Clarke Band 1/28 Reggae Nights with Stranger 2/7 The Thermals 2/19 Steve Poltz's 50th Birthday Bash • 2/25 Willie K 3/3 Galactic – feat. special guest Cyril Neville 4/27 Rogue Wave

1/2 Bayou **Brothers**  1/1 Buick Wilson Band

12/18 Candye Kane 12/31 NYE Happy Hour w/ Atomic Groove



**UPCOMING SHOWS:** 1/27 Alyssa Jacey **Album Release** 1/29 Stepping Feet 1/30 Atomic Punks 2/3 Rhett Miller

2/10 St. Vincent **Brotherhood Tour** w/Alejandro Escovedo & Carrie Rodriguez

2/17 Henry Rollins **Frequent Flyer Tour** 2/27 The Mother Hips 3/3 Galactic featuring Cyril Neville 3/6 Pine Mountain Logs 3/7 Blind Boys of Alabama

2/13 Los Lonely Boys Acoustic & The Serial Lady Killers Wine, dine & skip the line next door at the Wild Note Café • 858-720-9000

2/5-6 The English Beat



# This Week In Music

Thursday

You say night-zer, I say nit-zer... Industrial dance band Nitzer Ebb flows into Brick by Brick tonight. The trio has experienced resurgent interest in their throwback beats and dark clang on the turntables of today's DJs. The Brits are here to deliver tour-



only originals Industrial Complex. Career retrospective Body of Work (2006), though, gives you the band's original '80s recordings and current club-kid remixes, if that's your bag.... Traveling troubadour Jake Smith, aka the **White Buffalo**, roams into Casbah behind his latest Hogtied Revisited, a heavy-hearted acoustic-rock resurrection of his debut full-length Hogtied Like a Rodeo. Blackout Party and Rachael Cantu up first.... U.K. trip-hop duo Zero 7 conjures new t'do Yeah Ghost at House of Blues. The Grammy nominees for Best Electronica/Dance Album will be supported on tour by singers Abimaro and Olivia Chaney. I guess the guys don't sing. New York band **Phantogram** will set the downtown stage.... L.A. post-rockers **El Ten Eleven** land the mechanized dance jams of last year's These Promises Are Being Videotaped at Bar Pink. Dude shreds a doubleneck guitar.... Radio Room dials up an alt-rock triple bill with Angelinos Los Hollywood and local border bands Meluplus and Rodeo Drive.

Friday

It's time for **Gary Shuffler**'s birthday bash at Casbah, when the man of a thousand voices (and a smashing wardrobe) dons this year's itch. Will it be Ziggy? Queenly? Fat, bald Axl? No matter, it's always a good time. Go spill one with Gary, the Cats from Japan, and D Pain down at the Middletown mainstay.... Indie kids Writer and Black Mamba pull into Whistle Stop for the South Park bar's annual Christmas sweaters and long johns party.... Uptowners: shine up your skids, kids, you're in dance-band land Friday night, as Latin lounge lizards **Agua Dulce** heat up Ken Club and nu-wave crew Bobby Fantasy brings the beats off their debut, Can't Stop the Night, to Hillcrest hideaway Ruby Room.

Saturday

El Vez and the Lovely **Elvettes** join Los Straitjackets to celebrate Mex-mas at Casbah. El Vez is Robert Lopez of local punk perennials the Zeros, who have enjoyed an active reunion year. If you've never seen Lopez shake his kitschrock moneymaker, don't miss these Saturday-night sets to get to. ¡Viva Christmas!... O.C. superheroes

the Aquabats flock to House of Blues Saturday night. The pop-punk quintet stashes just enough ska in their utility belts to keep the party bouncing. The uninitiated should check out the Charge! CD/DVD for what's in store. **Suburban Legends** and **Supernova** hit it first.... Soma stages Newport hardcores Saosin, who are out in sup-

port of their second studio set In Search of Solid

out. Possible that Honest John's hittin' both bars?.. Downtown, House of Blues has your daily allowance of power pop, kids, with Poway punks

Radio at Ruby Room.

Sunday

LOS STRAITJACKETS AT CASBAH

Unwritten Law headlining and Buckfast Superbee, Chaser, and So Long Davey warming the room.... Riverside ska-punks the **Voodoo** Glow Skulls light up Soma's side stage after likeminded locals Bucket of Fish waft a CD-release set.... Speaking of CD releasers, Nautical

Ground. Minneapolis rap-core crew P.O.S. plays

as the Bay Park bar stages party bands Sprung

Anybody else do a double take when they saw

'70s Brit punx the Boys (aka the Yobs) listed at

lode: it's Honest John Plain, formerly of the

Stitches and Crazy Squeeze at the Doll Hut

(Linda's Doll Hut?) in Anaheim. Don't plan vour

road trip yet, diehard, wait and see how this plays

Radio Room Sunday night? Far as I can tell it's not them and it's not there. Here's the (current) web

Boys, who's supposedly playing with O.C. acts the

Monkey and Monkeys in Space.... Country-fried rock-n-soul rowdies the Desert Diamonds

shine on Ken Club.... And there're a couple of cool cover groups tonight, too, with Pink Froyd playing Winstons and Hedwig tribute **Midnight** 

too.... Apparently, it's simian night at Brick by Brick,

lunatics." I think.) Ladyfingers and Behind the Wagon in support.... And Christmas at the Casbah continues with a full-on fun 'n' funky freebie, featuring Lady Dottie and the Diamonds and the **Styletones**. The letter of the day is f.



C.L.A. AT CASBAH

This week's Anti-Monday meet-up hosts folk-punk pub rockers the Downs Family and C.L.A. (née Carnivorous Lunar Activity). C.L.A. is a quartet of stately scenesters — Steve Poltz, Dennis Borlek, Sam Chammas, and Sharon Daddi — who do this annual reunion in honor of their late pal and bandmate Steve Foth. This year is the ten-year anniversary of Foth's tragic death.... Uptown,

Soda Bar taps a draught of Nothingful, a one-man band with an experibental ment. Taste this: myspace.com/nothingful.

Tuesday

The indie kids of Republic of Letters, Hotel St. George, and funnin' acoustipunks Canton Mudders fill a Tuesday-night bill at Casbah.

Wednesday

Do you like to boogie? Belly Up books the Greyboy Allstars for a night full of funk'd-up dance jams...and, for you vinyl fetishists, the Jivewire DJs will be spinning hits at Casbah. Remember: friends don't let friends dance drunk

— Barnaby Monk



#### THE WHITE BUFFALO **BLACKOUT PARTY RACHAEL CANTU**

Disaster will sink one at Bar Pink for their

'newest musical recording Amantes Amentes."

(Amantes sunt amentes is Latin for "lovers are

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QUEENLY
TO QUEEN) **D PAIN** 

**CATS FROM JAPAN** SATURDAY • DECEMBER 19 VIVA CHRISTMAS!

**EL VEZ** LOS STRAITJACKETS THE LOVELY ELVETTES

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## Time and Space

"I saw a UFO once. It was after band practice, and we all saw these things flying in the air."

xperimental electric-soul songsmiths Children of Nova came together in summer 2007, featuring members of Atlas of Id and Temperature Delete. After releasing a three-song EP, they bought a van and spent much of 2008 touring the West Coast.

Their debut full-length, *The Complexity of Light* — recorded at SCM Studios with Brian Grider

(Lower Definition, Fight Fair) — is a sci-fi concept album that shows off the band's experimental side with lofty themes, ambitious production, and a wide range of instrumentation. According to percussionist-singer Teo, "The story, although sci-fi in nature, parallels our world and the lives of the band members in many ways. I've always liked taking things we can all relate to and applying them to a different time and place in the universe."

The album's first single, "Arcaedion," was a Local 94/9 Recommended Pick of the Month, and the band was asked to perform at one of X1FM's *Open Door* sessions. In September 2009, Children of Nova won Best Hard Rock at the San Diego Music Awards. They appear Sunday, December 27, at the Casbah.

#### HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MUSIC?

Pozzi: "Fast then slow, loud then quiet, crazy then calm."

Mario: "Melodic-effected guitars, with powerful

drums and soaring vocals."
Teo: "A combination of beautiful, epic landscapes,

and pure classic rock."

Nick: "Progressive, epic, soul rock." Colin: "Roller-coaster rock."

#### **FAVORITE CDs?**

Pozzi:

1. Wax on Radio, Exposition. "One of the best-

flowing albums that nobody knows about."

2. La Dispute, Somewhere at the Bottom of the River Between Vega and Altair. "The lyrics are incredible, and the CD is completely unpredictable."3. Joanna Newsom, The Milk-Eyed Mender.

"Soothing and relaxing."

4. The Gaslight Anthem, *The '59 Sound.* "Honest rock."

- 1. Mastodon, *Crack the Skye*. "Sometimes you just need to rock out."
- 2. Muse, The Resistance. "Bad ass."
- 3. Herbie Hancock, *Speak Like a Child*. "Really good jazz to chill out to."
- 1. Dredg, *The Pariah, the Parrot, the Delusion.* "Their latest release is nothing short of a masterpiece."
- 2) Björk, *Vespertine*. "This always finds its way back into my rotation."
- 3) Portugal. The Man, *The Satanic Satanist.* "A really great sound, reminiscent of CCR or Skynyrd."
  4) Rush, *2112*. "This album sets the standard for epic, nerdy, trippy sci-fi rock."
  Nick:
- 1. Dethklok, *Dethalbum II*. "Awesome metal music that doesn't take itself too seriously."
- 2. Bat for Lashes, *Two Suns*. "Such a soothing voice."
  3. The Dear Hunter, *Act III: Life and Death*. "Well composed, and very theatrical."
  Colin:
- 1. The Dirty Projectors, *Bitte Orca*. "The harmonies are amazing, with great time changes."
- 2. Ours, *Distorted Lullabies*. "Simple chord progressions, but with vocals it gets taken to levels beyond, and the simplicity works."
- $3. \, Russian \, Circles, \, Geneva. \, ``Dynamic, cinematic, \, and \, their \, recordings \, are \, always \, organic \, sounding."$



Children of Nova

writing honest, emotion-filled songs."
5. Wu-Tang Clan, *Forever*. "From my favorite era

#### **EVER SEE A GHOST OR UFO?**

Pozzi: "Ghost, nope. UFO, yep."

of hip-hop."

Mario: "I'm pretty sure I saw a UFO once. It was after band practice, and we all saw these things flying in the air, and out of nowhere they started darting around and then disappeared."

Teo: "No ghosts, but I'm pretty sure I've seen objects in the sky that were unidentified."

Nick: "I've seen floating orbs over the ocean."

#### IDEAL SUPERPOWER?

Colin: "Ghostface Killah."

Mario: "The power to have every power. I would be all-powerful."

Nick: "Having worked in a comic shop, I've had plenty of time to think about this: Flight."

#### NAME A MOVIE YOU CAN'T SIT THROUGH.

Pozzi: "I've attempted to watch *Avalon* numerous times, and I always fall asleep."

Mario: "I block them from my memory."

Teo: "Very Bad Things simply shouldn't have happened."

Nick: "I walked out an hour into the third *Pirates* of the Caribbean movie."

Colin: "The Lake House. Because it has Sandra Bullock and Keanu Reeves."

#### **WORST CHRISTMAS GIFT?**

Pozzi: "I got a sports almanac one time. Useless." Mario: "I got this knit sweater from my aunt that looked like something even Urkel wouldn't wear." Teo: "I got dumped on Christmas once."

Nick: "Extra-large fleece sweatshirt from Kohl's. What part of that doesn't suck?"

Colin: "A turtleneck shirt. Which doesn't look good with laser-beam backgrounds." ■





Happy Hour Specials Mon-Sat 5-7pm & Sun 5pm-close \$.99 Nigiri (1 piece)

Albacore • Mackerel • Salmon Snapper • Shrimp • Squid • Surf Clam

\$2.99 Rolls (8 pieces)

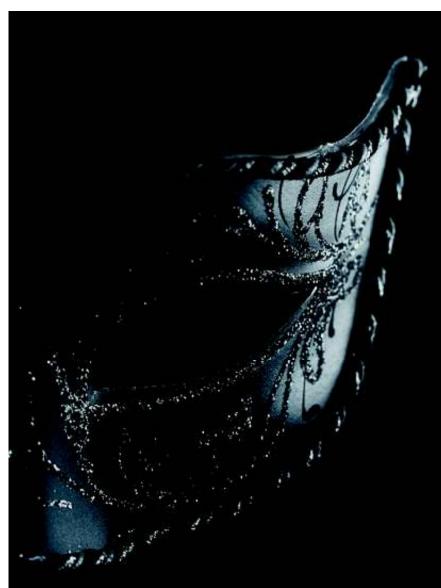
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#### Hand Rolls

Salmon Skin \$1,99 Spider Roll \$2,99 Spicy Tuna \$2,49 Shrimp Tempura \$2,49 Spicy Scallop \$2,99

Appetizers
Edamame \$.99
Miso Soup. \$.99

Seaweed Salad \$1.99 Industry Happy Hour Daily 9pm-close





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Include in-room bottle of champagne and entry for two (2) to Envy Nightclub. Book at IVYHOTEL.COM/PACKAGES.

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San Diego Reader Decen

## Calendar MUSIC SCENE

Classical listings can be found in the Classical Music Guide. Music videos, driving directions, maps, event alerts, coupons, and more available online at SanDiegoReader.com.

HOW TO SUBMIT A MUSIC LISTING: Call 619-235-3000 x405, night or day by 5pm 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 SanDiegoReader.com by clicking on the music section.

## THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

**4th&B:** 345 B St., Downtown, 619-231-4343. *Sunday*, 8pm — Reggae Sunday. Reggae. \$10. 21 and up.

**AMSDconcerts:** 4650 Mansfield St., Normal Heights, 619-303-8176. *Saturday*, 7:30pm — David Arkenstone. New age.

Anthology: 1337 India St., Little Italy, 619-595-0300.

Thursday, 9:30pm — Five for Fighting. With Howie Day. Rock.

Friday, 7:30pm, 9:30pm — Haute Chile. Covers/standards. \$15. Wednesday, 7:30pm — David Maldonado. Flamenco/acoustic. \$12.

Bar Leucadian: 1542 N. Coast Hwy. 101, Leucadia, 760-753-2094. Friday, 9pm — Manic Diffusion. Rock. With SO3, Rock, Free.

**Bar Pink:** 3829 30th St., North Park, 619-564-7194.

Sunday, 9pm — Nautical Disaster. With Behind the Wagon and Ladyfingers. Rock. Free. 21 and up.

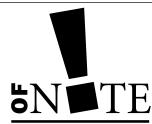
**Beauty Bar:** 4746 El Cajon Bl., Kensington-Talmadge, 619-516-

Friday, 9pm — BLVD. With Apaulo & Osal8 and DJ Carlo.
Hip-hop/rap. \$5. 21 and up.
Friday, 9pm — The Helen Earth
Band. With the Color Turning and
the Feelings Mutual. Alternative/
rock. \$5. 21 and up.
Wednesday, 9pm — Westfire.
Alternative. 21 and up.

Belly Up Tavern: 143 South Cedros Ave., Solana Beach, 858-481-8140. Thursday, 9pm — Venice. Rock. \$15-\$17. 21 and up. Monday, 8pm — Timothy B. Schmit. Blues/rock. \$20-\$22. 21 and up.

**BlueFire Grill:** 2100 Costa del Mar Rd., Carlsbad, 800-854-5000. *Thursday*, 7pm — David Patrone. Blues/jazz/lounge.

Brick by Brick: 1130 Buenos Ave., Linda Vista, 619-275-5483. Thursday, 8:30pm — Nitzer Ebb. Gothic/industrial. \$20. 21 and up. Friday, 8:30pm — X-Mas Party. Featuring Chelsea Girls and guests. Rock. \$15. 21 and up. Sunday, 6pm — Acoustic Alliance. Featuring Conner Cecil, Billy Anne



BY WILLIAM CRAIN

Producers **Henry Binns** and **Sam Hardaker**, with their project **Zero 7**, have long been leaders in the field sometimes called downtempo music. The genre mixes the electronic and the organic, the modern and the retro, and usually features intimate vocals in slow songs that are melodic but can quite easily blend into the background for your romantic dinner date or trip to a trendy furniture store. Zero 7's vocals have been supplied by a number of singers, including José González, Tina Dico, and Sophie Barker, but most notably by Sia Furler, who sang on the duo's first three albums

before turning full-time to a successful solo career.

Binns and Hardaker say they have been reinvigorated by new guest singer Eska Mtungwazi, who sings lead on four tracks on their fourth album, Yeah Ghost. There is a more pop and R&B sound to Zero 7 this time around, and whether that's a good thing or bad is a matter of taste. Check out the comments on Amazon to get a load of the outrage — most of which is directed at Mtungwazi — com-

ing from Zero 7's disappointed longtime fans. "Can I have my money back?" asks one fan.

To a neutral listener, the new Zero 7 doesn't sound much different than the old. I agree with the fans who say that Mtungwazi engages in a little too much of the kind of vocal histrionics that have marked female R&B singers in recent years...but, frankly, so did

ZERO 7

Dico and some of Zero 7's other singers. Even Furler hams it up from time to time. The real difference with *Yeah Ghost* is that Zero 7's music is stepping out of the background.

**ZERO** 7: House of Blues, Thursday, December 17, 7 p.m. 619-299-2583. \$22.50.

Crews, Aja Alycean, Yael, Jon Lall, Grace Ellen, Lorelei, Nick Z, Christopher Dallman, Jimmy Lewis, Chad Farran, Liz Grace, and the Scott Wilson Band. Acoustic. \$8. 21 and up.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido: 340 North Escondido Bl., Escondido, 760-839-4438.

Sunday, 3pm — The Alley Cats' Holiday Show. Covers/doo-wop. \$20-\$23.

**Carvers:** 11940 Bernardo Plaza Dr., Rancho Bernardo, 858-566-2400. Friday, 8pm, Saturday, 8pm — Laguna.

**The Casbah:** 2501 Kettner Bl., Little Italy, 619-232-4355. *Saturday*, 8:30pm — Los Straitjackets. With El Vez and the lovely Elvettes. Rock. \$20. 21 and up.

Cosmos Coffee Café: 8278 La Mesa Bl., La Mesa.

Saturday, 7pm — Ricky Ruis and Kenny Eng. Alternative/pop/rock.

**Dirk's Niteclub:** 7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove, 619-469-6344. Saturday, 9pm — The Bulldogs. Covers/standards.

**Don's Cocktail Lounge:** 13321 Business Highway 8, El Cajon, 619-443-2444.

Friday, 8:30pm, Saturday, 8:30pm — The Taylor Harvey Band. Acoustic/covers/rock.

**Downtown Café:** 182 E. Main St., El Cajon, 619-440-5687. *Thursday*, 6pm — Chet and the Committee. Open blues jam. Free.

**Encinitas Library:** 540 Cornish Dr., Encinitas, 760-753-7376. *Saturday*, 1pm — Benefit for Steve White. Featuring Dave Pike, Jack

Tempchin, Candye Kane, Nathan James, Semisi, Zosia, Kev Rones, Luisa Corredor, Ben Powell, Vladimir, and more. Jazz/folk/rock. \$25-\$50.

**The Flying Bridge:** 1105 N. Coast Hwy., Oceanside, 760-722-0081.

Saturday, 10pm — Steel Foundation. With Lady Cellie & Faith Faward. Reggae/ska. \$10.

**The Harp:** 4935 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach, 619-222-0168. *Tuesdays*, 7pm — Chet and the Committee. Blues. Free. 21 and up.





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\$10 Cover Charge\* on the Night

\* Cover Charge subject to change



Harrah's Rincón: 777 Harrah's Rincón Way, Valley Center, 760-751-

Friday, 8pm — Smooth Tran Zition. Pop/rock.

Saturday, 8pm — Chinese Concert. Featuring Eric Moo and Mindy Quah. World.

Saturday, 8pm — 6 Hot Live. Pop/rock.

Sunday, 10am — Nova Modern. Jazz.

Sunday, 6pm — Chinese Concert. Featuring Eric Moo and Mindy Quah. World.

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill: 5500 Grossmont Center Dr., La Mesa, 619-713-6900

Friday, 9pm — Tony Cummins.

Saturday, 9pm — Lynette & the Crosstown Hurricanes, Covers/

House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-299-2583. Thursday, 8:30pm — Zero 7. With Phantogram. Trip-hop. \$22-\$40. 21 and up.

Saturday, 8pm — The Aquabats. With Suburban Legends and Supernova. Ska/pop/punk. \$15-\$16. Sunday, 8pm — Unwritten Law. With Buckfast Superbee, Chaser, and So Long Davey. Alternative/ punk/rock. \$20-\$37. 21 and up.

#### Java Joe's at Café Libertalia:

3834 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-9360.

Thursday, 8pm — Rob Deez. With Nick Z and Lavelle. Acoustic. Friday, 8pm — Get Back Loretta. Performing an acoustic set. Acoustic/rock, \$10.

Saturday, 8pm — The Gregory Page

Sunday, 7:30pm — Happy Ron's

Open-Mike Night. Featuring local bands. Free.

Lake San Marcos Resort: 1750 San Pablo Dr., San Marcos, 760-744-

Friday, 6:30pm — Joey and the Sting Rays. Blues/country/rock.

#### The Lake Wohlford Café:

25484 Lake Wohlford Rd., Escondido, 760-749-6585. Saturday, 7pm — North County Cowboys. Country/covers. Free.

Last Call: 4977 El Cajon Bl., City Heights, 619-287-9505. Wednesday, 7pm — Taters Invaders. Blues/covers/rock. Free.

Lestat's Coffee House: 3343 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, 619-282-0437.

Sunday, 8pm — The Robin Henkel Band. Blues/funk/jazz. \$10.

McCabe's Beach Club: 1145 S. Tremont St., Oceanside, 760-439-

Saturday, 5pm — Live Wire Band. Covers/rock. Free.

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

Thursday, 8pm — Harmony Road. Rock.

Friday, 9pm — The Elevators. Rock. Saturday, 9pm — Bordertown Blues. Blues.

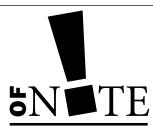
Tuesday, 8pm — Gene Warren. Blues/folk/rock

Wednesday, 8pm — Tommy Price.

#### MiraCosta College Theatre:

One Barnard Dr., Oceanside, 760-Thursday, 7:30pm, Friday, 7:30pm

— The MiraCosta College Latin Jazz



BY DAVE GOOD

In 2002, someone planted some homemade bombs — dry-ice sealed in plastic jugs — at the apartment of Unwritten Law guitarist Steve Morris. MTV's website said that the bombing was the result of a feud between Morris and a neighbor over noise coming from the guitarist's apartment. Morris suffered a concussion and temporary hearing loss from the blast, damage enough to pull the plug on a number of shows. This is the worst thing that has happened to Unwritten Law, but that's not saying much: this is a band that got kicked off one of the Warped Tours for inciting a crowd-level food fight and on another occasion caused thousands of dollars in damage to a home they were renting.

San Diego was home to a strong punk-pop scene in the early 1990s, and Unwritten Law, blink-182, and Sprung Monkey were among the biggest players. Each band, to varying degrees, got national attention. Like blink, Unwritten Law was a Poway band with sophisticated songwriting skills and a worldview made-to-order for Vans and Warped tours. They nailed the concept of the three-minute power ballad and had a hit early on with "Seein' Red" and, later, "Up All Night,

There was a formula behind that music: sensitive vocals and scorching guitars playing big, orgiastic power chords at the chorus. Guitar solos were avoided. A surprise: every so often, Unwritten Law lyrics would shed some insight into life situations, "And nothin' matters/ 'Cause there's no one here/ And I've lost my fear." That's from "Teenage Suicide," and hardly the

**UNWRITTEN LAW** 

sort of progressive Jungian thinking one might expect from a band of pleasure seekers. Live and Lawless from 2008 is the band's best record by far. And proof, I think, that like all party units. Unwritten Law is best experienced live.

UNWRITTEN LAW: House of Blues, Sunday, December 20, 7 p.m. 619-299-2583. \$20.

Ensemble. Performing compositions by Los Van Van. Cuban/jazz. \$8-\$10.

Molly Malone's: 1270 Main St., Ramona, 760-789-9050. Friday, 9pm — Johnny Favorite.

Saturday, 9pm — Moxie. Rock.

**Neurosciences Institute: 10640** John Jay Hopkins Dr., La Jolla. Sunday, 2:30pm — "The Whole World Is Singing." Featuring Eunice Williams, Vicki Heins-Shaw, Naomi O. Hobbs, Pacificaires and Cedar Center Choruses, Rob Thorsen, Jon

Crick, Nancy Hupp, and Ondrej Lewitt. World. Free.

#### North Bar Sports and Spirits:

200 West El Norte Parkway, Escondido, 760-480-8228. Thursday, 6pm — Mike Gardner. Rock. Free.

#### O'Connells Pub and

Nightclub: 1310 Morena Bl., Linda Vista, 619-276-5637.

Friday, 9pm — Eken Is Dead. With 3rd Rail, Canobliss, Silence Betrayed, and Beneath Lanston. Rock. 21 and

Saturday, 9pm — The Go-Sheilas.

With Ass to Mustache, Puffington, and guests. Punk. 21 and up. Sunday, 9pm — End of Power, With Caskets on Parade and Ad Seg. Hardcore/punk. 21 and up. Monday, 8pm - Mystery Train. Proinvitational blues jam. Tuesday, 9pm — Wreks. Hip-hop. 21

Wednesday, 9pm — The Paragraphs. With Kira and the Lesbians, Owl

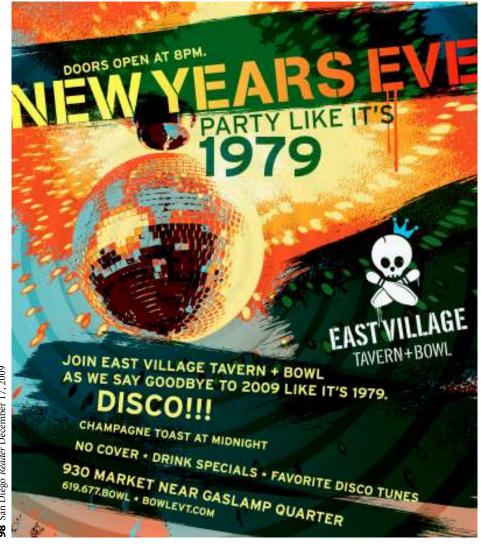
Eyes, and DJ Savvy. Rock. 21 and up. Patrick's II: 428 F St., Downtown, 619-233-3077. Thursday, 9pm — The Buick Wilson

Band. Blues/soul.

Friday, 9pm — Michele Lundeen & Blues Streak. Blues/funk/rock. Saturday, 9pm — The Bill Magee Blues Band. Blues. Sunday, 9pm — Delta Heat. Blues/swing/R&B. Monday, 9pm — Chet and the Committee. Blues. Wednesday, 9pm — 145th Street. Blues/funk.

#### **Performing Arts Workshop:**

1105 Second St., Encinitas. Saturday, 7pm — Annual Sound Healing Yuletide Concert. Featuring Richard Rudis and Diane Mandle. World, \$25.













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Chargers vs Bengals

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10es. 12/22 Think 'N' Drink Trivia

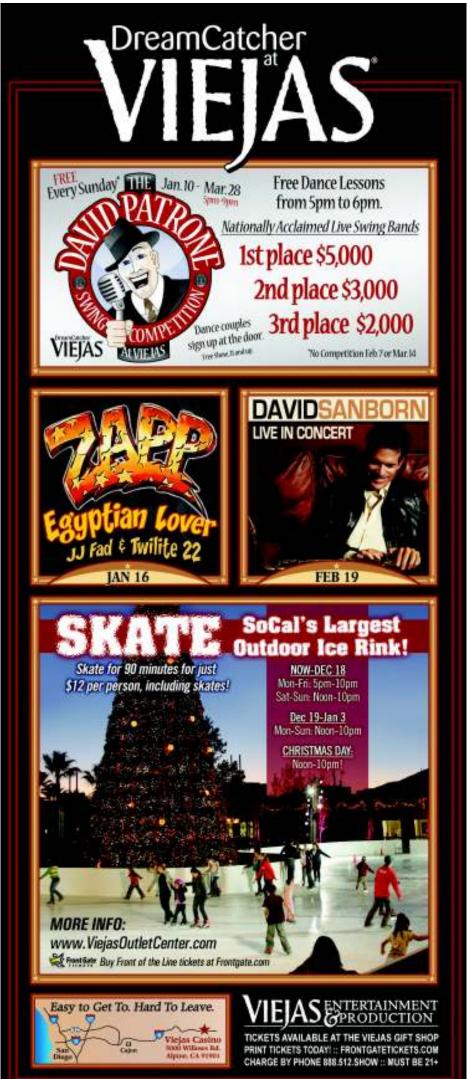
NO COVER NIGHT: Alternative Rock/Hip-Hop

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(Santee)

## Navajo

8515 Navajo Road • 619-465-1730 (Albertsons shopping plaza at Navajo & Lake Murray)

Thursday, December 17

#### **Double Standard • IDS Hocus • Three Fifths Human**

Friday & Saturday, December 18 & 19 • 9 pm



Classic Rock

5 Miles High

Monday, December 21

#### Karaoke

Upcoming: Saturday, December 26

**Outta Sync** 



## Santee

8528 Magnolia Avenue • 619-596-8350 (Corner of Prospect & Magnolia)

Friday & Saturday, December 18 & 19 • 9 pm



Classic Rock

Ramshackle

Wednesday, December 23

#### Sergulath • Perditon Ruins ov Abaddon

Upcoming: Friday & Saturday, December 25 & 26

**5 Miles High** 

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Pure Platinum: 4000 Kearny Mesa Rd., Kearny Mesa, 858-278-2230.

Saturday, 9:30pm — Caustic Felon. Rock. \$10.

RT's Longboard Grill: 1466 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-270-4030

Friday, 9pm — Helicopter. Rock. Saturday, 9pm — Big Fat Soul. Soul.

#### Ramona Mainstage

Nightclub: 626 Main St., Ramona, 760-789-7008. Saturday, 7pm — Grandview. Rock. 21 and up.

Ruby Room: 1271 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-7372. Thursday, 8pm — Broken Dreams. With Soul Ablaze and Burnes Brothers Acoustic/hip-hop. Free. 21 and up.

San Diego Sports Arena: 3500 Sports Arena Bl., Midway District, 619-224-4171.

*Saturday*, 7pm — Lady Gaga. Pop.

Seaport Village: 849 West Harbor Dr., Downtown. Sunday, 1pm — The Cat-illacs. Rock. Free.

Soma: 3350 Sports Arena Bl., Midway District, 619-226-7662. Saturday, 6:30pm - Saosin. With POS, Innerpartysystem, and Eye Alaska, Metal/rock,

South Park Bar & Grill: 1946 Fern St., South Park, 619-696-0096. Sunday, 6pm — A Shift to the Left. Jazz.

Stage Saloon: 762 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-696-9436. Sunday, 9pm — Jon Goodhue. Rock. Swedenborg Hall: 1531 Tyler Ave., University Heights. Friday, 7pm — "Songs of Peace." Featuring James Lee Stanley, Michael Tiernan, Peter Bolland, Mountain Ghost, Cahill and Delene, and Ioe Rathburn, Acoustic, \$15.

Tango Del Rey: 3567 Del Rey St., Clairemont, 858-794-9044. Friday, 4:45pm — High Society. Swing. \$10. Friday, 7:30pm — Espiritu Flamenco. Flamenco. \$23-\$38. Saturday, 8pm - Holiday Cabaret. Featuring Betty Anderson and Ric n' Eric. Standards. \$25-\$40.

Tio Leo's: 6333 Mission Gorge Rd., Grantville, 619-280-9944. Friday, 9pm — "Santa's Rock-A-Mole." Featuring Bedford Grove, Intransitaudio, and Science Fiction. Rock, \$5-\$10.

Winstons: 1921 Bacon St., Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822. Friday, 10pm — Jet West. With Dubluva and Dirty Modelo. Funk/punk/rock.

#### Woman's Club of Carlsbad:

3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. Friday, 7pm — "An Old-Fashioned Christmas." Featuring Joni Harris, Bill Ims, Carolyn Mickelson, Eliane Weidauer, Vicki Hamilton, and Dmitriy Demidov performing holi day standards. Donations of toiletries, toys, gift cards accepted as admission. Reservations: 760-945-1162.

#### WorldBeat Cultural Center:

2100 Park Bl., Balboa Park, 619-230-

Friday, 8pm — Higher Minds. With Daze and Lifted Muzik, the Habit, and guests. Hip-hop. \$12-\$15.



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san Diego Reader December 17, 2009

2

December 30 — Rock Odyessy. December 31 — Ministry of Sound. March 26 — Andre Nickatina.

AMSDconcerts: 4650 Mansfield St., Normal Heights, 619-303-8176. *Ianuary* 7 — Al Kooper. January 8 — Tom Rush. January 14 — David "Honeyboy" Edwards.

January 23 — Barry McGuire. January 29 — Tom Chapin. January 30 — The California Guitar

February 6 — Eric Bibb. February 9 — Fred Eaglesmith. February 12 - Chris Smither. February 20 — Jack Tempchin. March 5 - Ellis Paul. March 12 — Lucy Kaplansky. May 1 — Neil Innes.

Anthology: 1337 India St., Little Italy, 619-595-0300. December 26 — Wild Child. January 2 — The Squirrel Nut

Zippers. January 7 — Abrina. January 8 — Eric Sardinas. January 8, January 9 — The Pete Escovedo Orchestra. January 14 — The John Jorgenson

Ouartet. January 28 — Janiva Magness. Ianuary 29, Ianuary 30 — The Legendary Count Basie Orchestra. February 4 - Dave Davies. February 5 — Mark Hummel's Harmonica Blowout.

February 11 — Tommy Emmanuel. February 12 - Al Stewart.

#### ERYONE'S A CRITI



The Fall **CD Review** 

by Karen Hawley

On the eve of the release of Norah Jones's latest album. The Fall, Jazz 98.1 played a syndicated interview with the iazz-pop artist in which she discussed the disc song by

song. Jones said that the theme of the collection is relationships.

Compared to her debut record, it's a graduated sound and style. At close listen, piano keys can be heard, but not as much as one has come to expect from Norah Jones. Comparatively, her previous CDs were more eclectic, with a little twang from collaborative artist Dolly Parton here, and a blues shuffle there. You'll find The Fall in the pop-rock bins at your local shop.

Her writing style also takes a different tack than her previous efforts: there's no emotive "toes just touched the water," no abstract "spoiled son of a poet." This time, the content is concrete, simple, with the exception of one song, the last track, "Man of the Hour," which definitely required the explanation from the radio interview. Jones said, "in the end, she chooses her doa.'

#### Music Reviews from Our Readers

#### 6lbs. of Sound

**CD Review** by Michael Caldwell

Feel free to judge Taintstick's debut 6lbs. of Sound by its track list. Much like Spinal Tap and Tenacious D. the quartet line up the clichés of rock, slip them a Mickey, and have their crude way with them.

Jason Ellis leads the vulgar parody on vocals, setting the tone on opening track "Balls": "Welcome to

the show/and listen as we tell you all you need to know/about chicks and fighting and moto/but mostly, check out these balls!" With 6lbs., Ellis and

crew take the piss out of screaming, helium-huffing, heavy-metal acts such as 3 Inches of Blood and Judas Priest. (Ellis does a passable job reaching the castrated heights of Rob Halford.) "Apple Juice" is a homoerotic lampoon of pop-punk acts like blink-182. The track's radio-ready music could dupe a programmer who wasn't paying

There are a few smirks to be had with Taintstick's brand of shock rock. However, the group more often settles for crude over clever, which narrows their audience and the desire for repeat listens.

attention to the lyric to include it on their play list.

\$50 for your concert review, \$20 for your CD review. Submit at SDReader/critic.com

February 14 — Anthology House Band: Motown Revue. February 23, February 24 — Al DiMeola.

February 25, February 26 — Dave Mason.

March 3 — Mike Doughty. March 5 - Mark Hummel's Harmonica Blowout. March 13 - Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

April 23 — Benny Golson.

4 FREE

Athenaeum Music and Arts Library: 1008 Wall St., La Jolla,

858-454-5872.

January 27 — Ignacio Berroa. February 10 — Holly Hofmann and

Bill Cunliffe. February 18 — The La Paz Trio. February 25 — The Eric Vloeimans

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

December 26 — Cash'd Out. December 27 — Hepcat.

December 29 - Cracker and Camper Van Beethoven. Ianuary 1 — Del tha Funky

Homosapien. January 2 — 40 Oz. to Freedom. January 6 — New Acoustic

January 7 — Robben Ford.

Ianuary 8 — Pato Banton. January 15 — Keb' Mo'

January 20 — Cowboy Mouth.

January 22, January 23 — Ozomatli. January 30 — Atomic Punks.

February 3 - Rhett Miller. February 11 — ALO.

February 13 — Los Lonely Boys. March 3 — Galactic.

#### **Birch North Park Theatre:**

2891 University Ave., North Park, 619-239-8836. February 27 — Arturo Sandoval.

April 30 — Eddie Palmieri. Mav 15 — Poncho Sanchez Latin Jazz Band.

Brick by Brick: 1130 Buenos Ave., Linda Vista, 619-275-5483. December 26 — Balian. January 13 — Holdsworth, Bozzio, Levin, and Mastelotto.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido: 340 North Escondido Bl., Escondido, 760-839-4438

April 14 — Arlo Guthrie.

**Copley Symphony Hall:** 750 B St., Downtown, 619-235-0804.

December 29 — The John Mayer

January 28 — Harry Connick Jr.

March 3 — Tegan and Sara.

**Cricket Wireless Amphitheatre: 2050** 

Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista, 619-671-3600. June 4 — Tim McGraw.

**East County Performing Arts** 

Center: 210 East Main St., El Cajon, 619-440-2277. January 17 — Kris Kristofferson.

Harrah's Rincón: 777 Harrah's Rincón Way, Valley Center, 760-751-3100.

December 26 — Federal Funk December 27 — Patrick Yandall. December 31 — "Hit It Big in 2010".

House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-299-2583. December 26 — "80s Christmas Hangover Party."

December 29 — Reel Big Fish.

December 31 — NYE 2010.

January 7 — Sonic Youth. January 8 — Where's the Band Tour.

TAINTSTICK

January 14 — State Radio.

January 15 — Umphrey's McGee.

January 16 — Between the Buried

and Me. Ianuary 30 — Tainted Love.

January 31 — Nile.

February 3 — The Anvil Experience.

February 5 — Badfish.

February 9 — The Editors.

February 17 — Medeski Martin & Wood

February 20 — Winter Blackout

February 28 — George Thorogood & the Destroyers.

March 4 — Rebelution.

March 11 — Brandi Carlile.

March 13 - Black Rebel Motorcycle

Club.

March 19, March 20, March 21 —

Bad Religion.



#### Friday & Saturday, December 18 &19 8 PM & 10:30 PM



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Thursday, December 17 DJ Fish Fonics • DJ Digital Opinion DJ Frankie Lektro

> Friday, December 18 **SO3**

Saturday, December 19

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#### **Friendly Fires Ablaze**

Concert Review by Tracy Ibarreta

U.K. alt-pop trio Friendly Fires jolted the sold-out crowd at the Casbah from the dreamy shoe-gaze spell of the opening bands. Starting with the infectious disco beat of "Lovesick," vocalist-programmer Ed Macfarlane, guitarist Edd Gibson, and drummer Jack Savidge made it clear that it was time to dance!

Ed Mac remarked. "It's 7 a.m. at home." but his gyrating hips

and tenor voice showed no signs of jetlag. Along with Gibson's playful riffs and Savidge's feistiness, Friendly Fires were



They were accompanied by touring bassist-percussionist Rob Lee and two horn players. Behind me. people commented on Lee's unusual percussion kit, which produced festive clacky-clangy sounds that were instrumental during drum-heavy faves "Jump in the Pool," "Kiss of Life," and "Paris." The horn section added pep to "Skeleton Boy" and the punchy "Photobooth." The crowd cheered to "On Board," the song heard in the Nintendo Wii Fit commercials

The encore was an extended version of "Ex Lover." Ed Mac climbed atop a speaker, his head touching the ceiling, and let loose with a cartoon jig. I'd seen Friendly Fires before, and their energy always leave fans wanting more.

#### The Deafening **Immortality of Beethoven's Ninth**

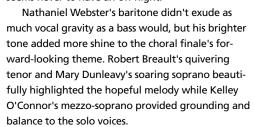
**Concert Review** by Michell Thitathan

Ludwig Van Beethoven was too deaf to hear his Ninth Symphony while he lived, but his most complex symphonic composition has acquired a deafening degree of immortality after his death.

The first weekend of December saw the third reincarnation of the piece in San Diego under the animated baton of Jahja Ling. The short-but-spirited

program benefited from the disciplined San Diego Symphony, four good solo vocalists, and the San Diego Master Chorale, which

seems never to have an off night.



Most deserving of the multiple rounds of roaring ovation from the capacity audience, however, was the utterly reliable San Diego Master Chorale. They sang like they meant every note from the softest of tones to the most imposing fortissimo in a symphony that looks behind and ahead.

\$50 for your concert review, \$20 for your CD review. Submit at SDReader/critic.com

92186. You may also submit information online, get directions, maps, event alerts, RSS feeds, club coupons, and more at SanDiegoReader.com.

#### Air Conditioned Lounge:

Sunday, 9pm: "So You Think You're a DJ?" DJ competition. \$5 for competitors. 21 and up. 4673 30th St., Normal Heights. 619-501-9831.

Bacchus House: Thursdays, 9pm: Club '80s. With DJs Bryan Pollard and Arzola1. '80s/ industrial/underground. 3054 University Ave., North Park. 619-299-2032

Bar Dynamite: Thursdays, 9pm: Dynamite Thursdays, Featuring Sound Selectors Smoovgroovs, Hobbs One, Eclektic, and Thumbprint. Hip-hop/soul/ dancehall. 1808 W. Washington St., Mission Hills. 619-295-8743.

#### Basic Urban Kitchen and

Bar: Tuesdays, 7pm: Basic Tuesdays. Featuring art, fashion, and music. Free. 410 Tenth Ave., East Village. 619-531-8869.

Beauty Bar: Tuesdays, 9pm: Trans Am Tuesdays. New wave '80s dance party with DJ Heather Hardcore, Free, 4746 El Cajon Bl., Kensington-Talmadge. 619-516-4746

#### The Brew House at Eastlake:

Saturdays: Brew 30 DJ. Dance. 871 Showroom Pl., Chula Vista, 619-656-2739.

Café Sevilla: Thursdays, 10pm: DJ New Yo Rican. Salsa. Tuesdays, 10pm: DJ Israel. Bachata. 555 Fourth Ave., Downtown. 619-233-

March 24 — Kreator. March 28 — HammerFall. April 21 — Overkill. April 29 — The Avett Brothers.

Humphrey's Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Point Loma, 619-224-3577. December 28 — Chet Cannon's Blue Monday Blues Party.

#### Java Joe's at Café Libertalia: 3834 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-

9360. December 27 — Happy Ron's Open-

Mike Night.

December 31 — Rob Deez.

La Paloma: 471 S. Coast Hwv. 101, Encinitas, 760-436-7469. January 29, January 30 — George

**Lestat's Coffee House:** 3343 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, 619-282-0437.

January 29 - Jordan Reimer. The Loft: 9500 Gilman Dr.,

UCSD, 858-534-8497.

February 9 — Justin Townes Earle. February 11 — Brooklyn Rider.

February 16 — Suzanne Vega.

February 18 - Mauger.

March 17 - Kalaman Balogh & the Gypsy Cimalom Band. April 7 — Gretchen Parlato.

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April 15 — Mark Knopfler. Rimac Arena: 9500 Gilman Dr., La Iolla, 858-534-8497.

January 13 — Weezer. San Diego Sports Arena: 3500 Sports Arena Bl., Midway District,

619-224-4171.

February 15 — Tribute to the Reggae Legends.

Soda Bar: 3615 El Cajon Bl., City Heights, 619-255-7224. January 2 — "San Diego Experimental Guitar Show.'

Soma: 3350 Sports Arena Bl., Midway District, 619-226-7662. January 23 — Anti-Flag.

**Spreckels Theatre: 121** Broadway, Downtown, 619-235-

April 21 — Pat Metheny. April 24 — Norah Jones.

Viejas Casino DreamCatcher Show Room: 5000 Willows Rd., Alpine, 619-445-5400.

February 19 — David Sanborn.

DJ

How to submit a DJ listing: Call 619-235-3000 x405, night o 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



**Brunch** 10 am-3 pm Extended hours open 'til 1 am ment • DJs & dancing • No cover Thursday, December 17 Michael Tiernan Acoustic Solo Every Tuesday Rooftop Open Stage • 6:30-9:30 pm Friday, December 18 In the Basement **Still Smoking Notas Antiquas** Every Sunday • Street Level Flamenco/Latin Duo NFL Games w/Food Specials Wednesday, December 23 In the Basement Champagne Brunch 10 am-3 pm Reggae & Hip Hop 6 pm-midnight **Steve Payne** Acoustic Solo



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or further info: 858-560-9278

Valid Tuesday, December 2





Camel's Breath Inn: Fridays, Saturdays: Live DJ. 21 and up. 10330 Friars Rd., Mission Valley. 619-281-1722.

Candelas: Fridays: Sessions at 420 Third Avenue. DJ Chris Renzulli and DJ Eric B. Adult/ contemporary, 416 Third Ave., Downtown. 619-702-4455.

Confidential: Fridays, 10pm: DJ Henry Diaz. With Tone Capone and Omar. Electronic/hip-hop/ lounge. 901 Fourth Ave., Downtown. 619-696-8888

The Covote Bar & Grill: Saturdays, 10:30pm: DJ Paul Dumesnil. 300 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad. 760-729-4695.

El Cajon Grand: Fridays, 8:30pm: DJ Neko. Spins classic rock and other hits. Saturdays, 8:30pm: DJ Chuck. Spins classic rock and other hits, 351 W. Main St., El Cajon. 619-444-0949.

Fannie's Nightclub: Thursdays, 8pm: DJ Mick B. Spins hip-hop tunes. Thursdays, 9pm: DJ Undaground. With guests Hiphop/rap/reggae. Sundays, 9pm: DJ Demond. '80s/hip-hop/pop. Free. 21 and up. Mondays, 9pm: DJ Undaground. With guests Hiphop/rap/reggae. Wednesdays, 9pm: J & Biko. Hip-hop/reggae. 9143 Campo Rd., Spring Valley. 619-698-

The Filling Station: Fridays, 9pm, Saturdays, 9pm; DI Dance Party. 9522 Miramar Rd., Mira Mesa. 858-578-0757.

The Flame: Wednesdays, 9pm: Cookies with DJ Dirty Kurty. 3780 Park Bl., Hillcrest, 619-295-4163.

The Fleetwood: Saturdays: DJ Ramsey. '80s/hip-hop/house. 639 J St., Downtown. 619-702-7700.

The Flying Bridge: Fridays, 9pm: DJ Ricardo. Reggaeton/salsa. Saturdays, 9pm, Sundays, 9pm: DJ Waistline. Hip-hop/R&B. 1105 N. Coast Hwy., Oceanside. 760-722-

Gaslamp Tavern: Thursdays, 8pm, *Fridays*, 4pm, *Wednesdays*, 8pm: C-Phish. 868 Fifth Ave., Downtown. 619-239-3339.

Harney Sushi: Wednesdays, 9pm: Hot Like Wasabi Wednesdays. With DJ Matty A. Electronic. 3964 Harney St., Old Town. 619-295-3272.

Harrah's Rincón: Thursday, 8pm: Noche Latina, With DJ Don Jose. Electronica/Latin. 777 Harrah's Rincón Way, Valley Center, 760-751-3100.

#### Hawthorn's Restaurant:

Wednesdays: DI Kiki 2895 University Ave., North Park. 619-

#### Inferno Young Adult

Nightclub: Fridays, 9pm, Saturdays, 9pm: DJ Kool T. Spins Top 40, techno, and '80s, 15 and up. 775 Metcalf St., Escondido. 760-741-1271.

Kadan: Tuesdays, 9pm: Darkwave Garden. Featuring B. Pollard, Heather Hardcore, MarieScaryMary, and guests. Gothic/industrial. 4696 30th St., North Park. 619-640-2500.

McDini's: Tuesdays, 9pm: '90s Throwback Tuesdays. Hosted by Zerland of Pali Roots. 105 E. 8th St., National City. 619-474-6771.

## as i hear it

Artist: Behind the Wagon

Song: "Have Some Fun Tonight" (from the CD 11 Songs by...)

Heard by: Beth Borwell, Austin, TX



I thought it was a little cheesy. They sound like a random 1990s band that made it into a movie. I wouldn't really equate them to another artist specifically, but it sounds like it would be on the Empire Records

soundtrack...maybe in the background while Liv Tyler is crying in the bathroom. The song was layered nicely and had a lot going on. It was kind of predictable but good. The lyrics are basically, like, "Fuck it, I'm going to have a good time tonight because I'm leaving tomorrow," but they're kind of depressing, too. I could see that song being played on the radio a couple of times. I think my mom would really like that song.

#### SAN DIEGO SONGS TAKE THE STREET TEST

Artist: The Helen Earth Band

Song: "Shakencutt" (from the CD Our

Own Ghost City)

Heard by: Clarke Wilson, Austin, TX



listen to at a bar while the sound guy is playing his music. If it were to have come out in 1993. they would have been a

I didn't like it. It

reminded me of some-

thing I'd be forced to

popular band but not.

like, "radio" popular. It was like an emo band, but they're kind of edgier than that. From the CD artwork, I thought it was going to be emotional coffee-shop music like Lilith Fair. There was one part where he was talking about walking underwater, and I just thought. Man. that would be terrible. They're probably really nice guys. The ideal activity to go along with that song would be taking off the headphones.

Artist: Steam Powered Giraffe

Song: "Sound of Tomorrow" (from the CD

Album One)

Heard by: Mike Bova, Austin, TX



Honestly, I really liked it. I would give them an A+ for production, which was second only to a band like U2. The harmonies kind of reminded me of the Beach Boys. They were singing about "who am

I tomorrow," and I don't know what that means. The bridge was kind of crappy. but they had a great piano part. They seem really earnest in their packaging. In the CD booklet they describe what their band used to be called, and they refer to their listeners as "audio adventurers." I don't listen to much radio, but they could be on there.

#### 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

#### Pacific Beach Bar & Grill:

Wednesdays, 10pm: DJ Tony. 860 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach. 858-272-7278.

#### Pierview Pub/Bub's Whiskey Dive Bar: Mondays, 6:30pm

Metal Mondays, Metal all night long. 301 Pier View Way, Oceanside. 760-757-2827.

#### RT's Longboard Grill:

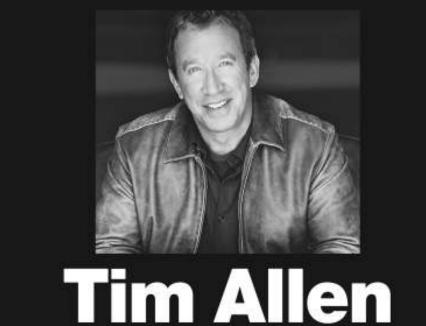
Mondays, 9pm, Wednesdays, 9pm: DI Famous Dave, Mixes music videos. 1466 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach. 858-270-4030.

HUMPHREYS BACKSTAGE | IVE

#### Sapphire Mediterranean Cuisine & Lounge: Saturdays, 9pm: Rasta Nation Posse. Reggae. 4076 Bonita Rd., Bonita. 619-470-

humphreysbackstage.com 2241 Shelter Island Drive

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Sunday, December 20 8 pm • Smooth Jazz

Thursday, December 17

8 pm • Original Rock

9:30 pm • Motown & Dance

## Underground



## Reggie

**Smith** with **DJ John Phillips** 

#### Monday, December 21 7 pm • Scorchin' Blues

Michele Lundeen

Tuesday, December 22 7 pm • Zydeco & Variety

#### **Bayou Brothers**

Wednesday, December 23 8 pm • Sweet Soul Music

#### The Soul **Persuaders**

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Saturday, January 9

#### **Candye Kane**

Sunday, January 24

#### Nils

Friday, January 29

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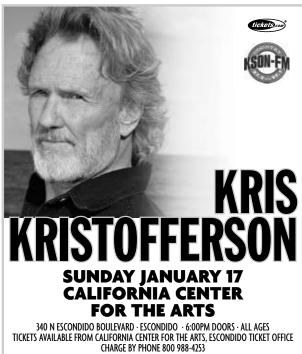
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Satin Lounge: Thursdays, 9pm: Hot Latin Beats. Reggaeton, salsa, and meringue. 18 and up. Fridays, 8pm: Funky Fresh Fridays. Hiphop/mash-ups. 18 and up. Saturdays, 9pm: DJ Dizzy D. Spins hip-hop, old skool, and techno. 18 and up. Wednesdays, 9pm: Blazin' 98.9 Night. With guest DJs. 6195 University Ave., College Area. 619-544-1177.

**Seau's:** *Thursdays*, 7pm: DJ FOS. Hip-hop/jazz. 1640 Camino del Rio North, Mission Valley. 619-291-7328.

**Side Bar:** *Thursdays*, 9pm: Ruby Thursdays. 536 Market St., Downtown. 619-696-0946.

#### Sixty-Seven Bar and Grill:

Thursdays. Tattoo Thursdays. With DJ Viktor and DJ KB. Fridays: DJ Tony Sleeze. Spins Top 40 and hiphop hits. Saturdays: DJ Girth. Spins hip-hop and rock hits. Sundays: Soul Glo Sundays. With DJ Girth and friends. Wednesdays: Beer Pong. With DJs. 10109 Maine Ave., Lakeside. 619-561-6767.

**Soda Bar:** *Thursdays*, 9pm: Expressway to Yr Skull. Punk/rap/rock. Free. 21 and up. 3615 El Cajon Bl., City Heights. 619-255-7224.

**Static Lounge:** Saturdays, 9pm: Club Backbeat. Hip-hop/rap. \$15-\$20. 18 and up. 634 Broadway, Downtown. 619-544-1609.

**Stout Public House:** *Fridays*, 9pm: DJ CC. 1125 Sixth Ave., Downtown. 619-702-7933.

**Tavern at the Beach:** *Thursdays*, 10pm: DJ D-Skwiz. *Fridays*, 10pm: DJ BDP. *Saturdays*, 10pm: DJ BDP. With DJ MIC-E. *Wednesdays*, 10pm: DJ WhO. Hip-hop/rock. 1200 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach. 858-272-6066.

**The Office:** *Sundays*, 10:30pm: Club '80s. Featuring DJs Bryan Pollard, Adamnation, MasterBlaster,

and Roxanne Redlight. Industrial/underground. Free. 21 and up. 3936 30th St., North Park. 619-450-6632.

**Tiki House:** *Tuesdays*, 9pm: Tunes by Joe Marson. Every Tuesday. 1152 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach. 858-273-9734.

True North: Thursdays, 10pm: DJ Bacon Bits. Fridays: DJ Ramsey. '80s/hip-hop/house. Sundays, 10pm: DJ Waly Mayhem. Mondays, 10pm: DJ Wonderbread. Tuesdays, 10pm: DJ WhO. Hip-hop/rock. 3815 30th St., North Park. 619-291-3815.

**U-31:** Thursdays, 8pm: DJ Artistic. With Cros 1. '80s and '90s hip-hop. 21 and up. Fridays, 9pm: Feel the Noise. With Gabe Vega and Saul Q. Dance/indie/rock. 21 and up. Saturdays, 9pm: Dance Party Mash-Ups. 21 and up. Sundays, 9pm: Tribe of Kings. Featuring DJs Jestor, Peril, Dash Eye, Unite, and Rashi. Reggae. 21 and up. 3112 University Ave., North Park. 619-584-4188.

Whiskey Girl: Fridays, 9pm, Saturdays, 9pm: DJ Marc Thrasher. Mixes music videos. Mondays, 9pm: U-Call-It Mondays. With DJ Marc Thrasher. 600 Fifth Ave., Downtown. 619-236-1616.

Whistle Stop Bar: Sundays, 9pm: Too Many Creeps. With DJ Mario O and guests. Post-punk. 21 and up. 2236 Fern St., South Park. 619-284-6784.

**The Wit's End:** *Fridays*, 5pm: DJ Artistic. 420 Robinson Ave., Hillcrest. 619-294-4848.

**Xavier's Bar & Grill:** *Thursdays*, 9pm: Almost Famous Thursdays. Electro/funk/house. *Fridays*, 10pm: Red Carpet Fridays. Dance/top 40. *Saturdays*, 9pm: Special Screening Saturdays. Featuring rotating DJs. 750 Fifth Ave., Downtown. 619-233-0500.





# HAPPY HOUR

More information about these establishments can be found online at **SDReader.com/drinks**, *including driving directions*, *coupons, food specials, and more.* 

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Happy Hours, P.O. Box 85803,
San Diego, CA 92186, or submit
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SDReader.com/drinks.

#### **ALPINE**

**Alpine Inn:** *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm: \$2.50 drafts, \$3.75 wells, house wine, \$4.75 calls.

**Donato's Italian Restaurant:** *Monday-Saturday*, 4-7pm: \$2.50 domestics, \$3.50 imports & house wine, \$6 Long Islands, \$3 wells.

#### **BALBOA PARK**

**The Prado:** *Tuesday-Friday*, 4-6pm, 8-10pm: \$3.50 wells, pints, house wine, house margaritas. Lounge only.

#### **BANKER'S HILL**

**Azuki Sushi Lounge:** Every day, 5-7pm: \$.50 small sake w/ large beer, \$5 house wine, sangria, saketini. Classic sushi rolls \$3.50 and up, specialty rolls \$8-\$9, appetizers \$2-\$8.

**Bertrand at Mister A's:** *Monday-Friday*, 2:30-6pm: Specially priced cocktails, beer, wine, small plates on patio.

**Pizzicato:** *Every day*, 3-7pm: \$3 pints, house wine; \$6 pizza slice + pint or wine.

#### **BAY PARK**

**Offshore:** *Tuesday-Friday*, 3-7pm: \$2 domestic, \$3 sangria, well and micro import, \$5 Tommy Bahama mojitos.

#### **BONITA**

Sapphire Mediterranean Cuisine & Lounge: Tuesday-Saturday, 5-9pm: All well drinks two for one. \$4 six-piece falafel, chicken wings, mozzarella sticks. \$5 small hummus. \$2 six-piece dolmates. Tuesdays, 1/2-off hookahs.

#### CARLSBAD

**The Alley:** *Every day*, 11am-7pm: \$2.75 wells, domestics.



Boar Cross'n: Thursday-Saturday 8-9pm: \$1 Bud & Bud Light.

**La Costa Grill:** *Every day*, 4-7pm, 9-11pm: \$4 wells, house wines, \$1 off calls & premiums. Appetizers reduced.

**The Coyote Bar & Grill:** *Monday-Friday*, 4-6pm: \$3 wells, beer, margaritas. \$3 off appetizers.

**Fenway's Sports Bar & Grill:** *Every day*, 3-7pm; 10pm-midnight: \$3 domestic, house wine. \$3.50 margarita, Cape Cod.

**Greek Village:** *Monday-Thursday, Sunday,* 4-7:30pm: 1/2-off beer, wine by the glass, wells.

**Karl Strauss Brewing Company:** *Monday-Friday*, 4-6:30pm: \$3.50 beer.

#### CARMEL VALLEY

**Tio Leo's:** *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm: \$3 pints. \$4 wells, house margaritas. \$5 appetizers.

**Twenty/20 Bar & Grill:** Every day, 4-7pm: \$2 off any drink. \$2 off appetizers.

#### **CHULA VISTA**

**El Dorado Seafood & Grill:** *Monday-Friday*, 4-7 pm: \$2 margaritas. \$1.50 tacos.

**Veni Vidi Vici:** *Monday-Friday*, 5-7pm: \$1 off all drafts, wells.

#### CLAIREMONT

**Joe's Pizza:** *Thursday*, 6-9pm:\$2 any tap or bottled beer, glass of wine.

**Viva Vino:** *Monday-Saturday*, all day: \$.99 domestic beer.

#### COLLEGE AREA

**California Kebab:** Every day, 4-8pm: \$2 Heineken, Sam Adams, \$5 Coors Light pitchers, \$6 sangria carafes.

Cucina Fresca and Sons: Every day, 3-5pm: \$1.75 domestic beer.

Marie Callender's: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$1.95 draft, \$2.50 well, \$3.50 house margarita. 1/2-price appetizers (in bar only). Saturday-Sunday, \$2 Bloody Mary/mimosa w/purchase.

**Pal Joey's:** *Every day*, all day: \$3 personal pitchers.

**Satin Lounge:** *Thursday*, 9pm-close: \$1 Bud drafts.

#### CORONADO

**Primavera Ristorante:** *Monday-Tuesday, Thursday-Friday*, 5-7pm: \$2 off all drinks; \$2 off daily food specials. *Wednesday*, 5-7pm: Wine night: 1/2-off all bottles. incl. champagne.

#### DEL MAR

**Bully's Del Mar:** *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm: \$3 bottle beer, \$3 domestic pints, \$4 microbrew pints, \$4.50 wells, \$6 wine by glass. 1/2-off appetizers.

Shimbashi Izakaya: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$5 cocktails, \$5 glass of wine, \$3 draft beer. Sake & appetizer specials. Saturday-Sunday, 12-7pm: \$5 cocktails, \$5 glass of wine, \$3 draft beer, 1/2-off Asahi & Sapporo. Sake & appetizer specials.

#### **DOWNTOWN**

**Asti Ristorante:** *Every day*, 3-6pm: 1/2-price cocktails & appetizers.

**Bandar Fine Persian Cuisine:** *Friday*, \$6 pomegranate martini. *Saturday*, \$6 cosmos.

**The Bitter End:** *Every day*, 5-7pm: All drinks, bottles of wine 1/2-price.

**Bondi Bar and Kitchen:** *Monday-Friday*, 4-7pm: \$4 select beer, wine, spirits.

**Café Sevilla:** Monday, 5-6:30pm: 1/2-price mojitos. *Tuesday*, 5-6:30pm: 1/2-price wine bottles. Wednesday, 5-6:30pm: 1/2-price martini. *Thursday*, *Sunday*, 5-6:30pm: 1/2-price sangarita. *Friday-Saturday*, 5-6:30pm: 1/2-price garabato.

**Candelas:** *Every day*, 5-7pm: All drinks 1/2-price.

**Downtown Johnny Brown's:** *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm: \$3 domestic bottled beer, \$3.50 pints of the day. 40% off appetizers.

**La Fiesta:** Every day, 5-7pm: 1/2-price calls, wells, tap beers, house wine, house margaritas. 1/2-price appetizers: ceviche, nachos, chicken pizza.

**The Fish Market:** *Monday-Thurs-day*, 3-6pm: \$3.75 draft, \$3.95 wells, \$2.95 domestic beer. \$.95 oysters, \$4 fish tacos, \$5.75 mahi mahi sliders.

**Funky Garcia's Mexican Restaurant:** *Every day*, 3pm-7pm: 1/2-off all drinks; \$1.50 carne asada and pollo asado tacos.

**Gaslamp Tavern:** *Monday-Friday,* 3-7pm: \$3 drafts, house wine, wells. *Sunday,* all day: \$3 drafts, house wine, wells.

Las Hadas Bar & Grill: Monday-Saturday, 5-7pm; 10pm-midnight: \$2 Bud Light/Coors Light drafts, \$3 margaritas, wine, wells, sangria. 1/2off seafood bar and appetizers.

Horton's Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$3 drafts, \$5 wells, \$6 house wine, \$7 margaritas/cosmopolitans; \$7 potato skins/mozzarella sticks; \$7.50 nachos grande/buffalo wings.

**House of Blues:** Every day, 2-7pm: \$1 domestic draft & bottle beers, \$2 import draft & bottle beers, \$3 house wines & wells, \$4 martinis, 1/2-price select appetizers.

Karl Strauss Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: \$3.50 beer.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant: Every day, 3-7pm; 9-11:30pm: Wine and drink specials; 1/2-lb. cheeseburgers \$2.95, other \$1.95 specials. Join us for Padres games, next to Petco Park.

**Mister Tiki Mai Tai Lounge:** *Every day*, 5-7pm: \$5 Haole mai tai, Lilikoi mojito, Coconut Kiss martini, large Sapporo, house wine. \$5 sushi roll specials, pu pu specials.

**Patrick's II:** Every day, 10am-8pm: \$2.50 bottle beer, \$3 wells, Bud Light pints, \$4 calls, margaritas, Bloody Marys.

**RA Sushi:** *Monday-Saturday*, 3-7pm: 1/2-off select sushi & appetizers; \$1 hot sake, \$2 domestics, \$3 wells, imports, \$4 specialty cocktails and wine, \$5 Kinn with sake.

**Rockin' Baja Lobster:** *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm: \$3.50 margaritas. \$4 Long Islands. \$3-\$5 drafts.

**Stage Saloon:** *Every day*, 5-8pm: 1/2-off all wells, beer, wine.

**Stout Public House:** Monday-Friday, 4-8pm: \$3 bottled beer, \$4 premium pints, \$4 wells, \$5 cosmo, appletini, margarita; 1/2-price appetizers. Saturday-Sunday, till 6pm: \$3 domestic and Canadian bottled beer, \$4 wells, Bloody Mary, \$5 mimosa.

**Suite & Tender:** *Monday-Friday*, 5-8pm: \$20 bottomless wine, 1/2-off specialty cocktails.

**T.G.I. Friday's:** *Monday-Saturday*, 3-7pm; 10pm-close: \$3 large domestics & bottled beers, \$4 well/wine, \$5 Ultimate Long Island Ice Teas & Ultimate Margaritas. 1/2-off appetizers.

**Taste & Thirst on Fourth:** *Monday-Saturday*, 3-8pm: All drinks two-for-one.

**Tivoli Bar:** *Every day*, 4-7pm: \$1 off pitchers, \$.50 off liquor.

Yard House: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$3.50 domestic pints, \$4 craft/import pints, \$4.50 goblets, \$4.25 wells, \$5.75 house martinis, \$2 off wine by the glass. \$6.50 sliders, 1/2-off select appetizers & pizzas.

#### **EAST VILLAGE**

**Basic Urban Kitchen and Bar:** *Monday-Friday*, 4-7pm: \$5 Imperia vodka, \$4 local beer, \$6 wine. Free samples of Basic pizza.

**Hive Sushi Lounge:** Every day, 5-7pm: \$2 domestic, \$4 micro, \$2.50 sake, \$3.50 well, \$4 house wine. Miso, edamame, \$.99.

**Jewel Box:** *Monday*, \$2 PBR drafts. *Wednesday*, 6pm-2am: \$5 Jäger bombs & happy hour all night w/military ID. *Thursday*, 8pm-2am: Industry Night. \$3.75 calls.

#### **EL CAJON**

**Main Tap Tavern:** *Monday-Friday*, 4-6:30pm: \$1 off 16-oz. drafts, \$2 off pitchers, \$3 calls. \$5 nachos.

**Thornton's Irish Pub and Grill:** *Wednesday-Sunday*, 11-6pm: \$2 wells, \$3 drafts.

#### **ENCINITAS**

**When in Rome:** *Tuesday-Friday*, 5:30-7pm: Two-for-one on all wines by the glass.

#### **ESCONDIDO**

**Tango Restaurant & Lounge:** *Every day*, 4-7pm: \$1 off all drinks; 1/2-off bar menu.

#### **GOLDEN HILL**

**Turf Supper Club:** *Friday-Sunday*, 12-4pm: \$5 lunch: 1/2-lb. burger, chicken sandwich, or two Louisians hot links + bag of chips. 12-4pm: \$1 off all beer/wine/spirits. All day: \$1 off sirloin steaks, surf and turf.

#### GRANTVILLE

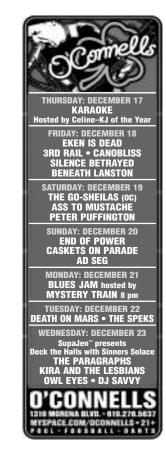
**Tio Leo's:** *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm: \$3 pints, \$4 house margaritas, wells. \$5 appetizers.

#### HILLCREST

**Bangkok Thai Bistro:** *Every day*, 4-7pm: 1/2-off wine, beer & appetizers.

**Cafe Eleven:** Every day, 2-6pm: \$4 house margaritas, \$3 wells, house wine, bottled beer. \$3 appetizers: shrimp cocktail, stuffed mushrooms, thai chicken skewers.











1319

Morena Blvd.

1319 619-276-1620

San Diego Reader December 17, 2009 107

94th Aero Squadron: Monday-Friday, 3:30-6:30pm: \$2.75 Bud Light on tap, \$3 wells. Saturday-Sunday, 1/2-price bottles of wine.

Carriage House Cocktails & Karaoke: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$2.50 domestic bottled beer, \$3 wells, domestic pints. Free munchies.

Khan's Cave Grill & Tavern: Monday-Friday, 3-6:30pm: \$1 off draft, \$1 off glass of wine. Saturday, 3pm-close: 1/2-off bottles of wine.

Pampas Argentine Grill: Tuesday-Saturday, 5-7pm: \$3 beer/wells. \$4 margaritas/wine specials. \$2.50 empanadas (bar only).

Shogun Kobe Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm (sushi bar only): 30% off sushi and rolls (excludes sea urchin, giant clam, toro & cocktails). 30% off sake and beer.

Totally remodeled! Now open!

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

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S3 Personal Pitchers Wifi

Sunday • Free Pool all day & night

7 pm College Night — \$1 shots all night

Monday Madness

56 steak + 2 sides 5:30 pm

Tuesday • Karaoke 9 pm-1 am

Host Ashley

Wild on Wednesday — Live Band Jam Bring your voice, sticks, guitar & talent. Feat. Danny DiCarlo & Althea.

Karaoke singers welcome.

Thursday • Karaoke 9 pm-1 am

Friday & Saturday • 9 pm-1 am

Live Music – No Cover

Friday 12/18 • West of 5

Saturday 12/19 • Slight Return

Friday 12/25 • Karaoke w/Ashley

Saturday 12/26 • Althea & Co.

Magee

Heat

Lundeen

\*2 wells & domestics

All Day & Night

32 oz. Natural Light

Warina Road, San Die

Tajima Sushi & Japanese Tapas: Monday-Thursday, 5:30-7pm: 1/2-off house sake/draft beer.

### KENSINGTON-TALMADGE

Beauty Bar: Monday, \$4 bombs. \$5 Brunettes/Blondes. Tuesday, \$4 bombs. \$5 Brunettes/Blondes. \$4 Three Olives. Wednesday-Thursday, 3-7 pm: \$5 wine, \$6 martinis, 1/2-off select wine bottles. Friday, \$4 bombs. \$5 Brunettes/Blondes. \$3 Fernet.

Kensington Cafe: Every day, 3-7pm: \$3 all beers, \$4-\$5 all glasses of wine, all tapas under \$5.25.

The Kensington Club: Every day, 10am-6pm: \$2.50 wells, drafts, domestic bottles.

#### LAJOLLA

Beaumont's: Every day, 4-6pm:



Clay's La Jolla: Every day, 4-7pm: \$3 drafts, \$4 wells, \$5 sangria, \$6

Karl Strauss Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: \$3.50 beer.

La Jolla Rancherita: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$4 wells, \$2.50 domestics, \$2.75 imports.

The Melting Pot: Every day, 5-7pm: 1/2-off cheese fondue, salads, chocolate fondue.

The Shack Bar & Grill: Every day, 3-7pm: \$1 off wells, domestic taps.

The Shores Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: Five for \$5 menu food/drink specials. Sunday, 3-7pm: \$7 glass, \$25 pitcher red/white sangria.

The Steakhouse at Azul: Every day, 4-7pm: \$1 off all beers, \$2 off all wines by the glass, \$6 Appletinis, Lemon Drops, Cosmopolitans, margaritas. 1/2-off all lounge, patio

Su Casa: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: 1/2-off wells; 1/2-off appetizers (excludes seafood & guacamole).

Whaling Bar & Grill: Monday, 4-7pm: \$5 house wine. \$7 specialty cocktails. 4-10pm: \$3 bottled beer, \$4

New Year's Eve on top of La Jolla Call for info & reservations. **Happy Hour** in our **Sky Lounge** daily 4-7 pm

3-7PM \$3 Drafts \$3 House Wines \$3 Well 868 5th Ave. San Diego 92101 www.gaslamptavern.com drafts, Tuesday-Friday, 4-7pm; \$3 bottled beer, \$4 drafts. \$5 house wine. \$7 specialty cocktails. Sunday, 12-10pm: \$3 bottled beer, \$4 drafts, 4-7pm; \$5 house wine. \$7 specialty cocktails.

Whisknladle: Every day, 5-7pm: \$9 all-you-can-eat tapas.

Hoolevs Irish Pub & Grill: Every day, 3-7pm; 10pm-close; \$1.50 off drafts, \$1 off all mixed drinks, bottled beers, glass of wine.

Riviera Supper Club & Turquoise Room: Every day, 4-6pm: \$2 off all cocktails, wine, drafts; \$2 off 8-oz. sirloin.

Coach Stop: Monday-Friday, 9am-noon, 4-7pm: \$2.50 large drafts, domestic bottles. 7-11pm: \$1.50 12oz. drafts, \$6.50 60-oz. pitchers.

### LEUCADIA

Bar Leucadian: Monday-Friday, Sunday, 4-7pm: \$2.75 wells. \$2.50 domestics. \$3 Corona, Pacifico, Imperial.

The Calypso Café: Every day, 5:30-7pm: \$4 wells, sangria, margaritas. \$4 house wine. \$3.50 beer.

### LINDA VISTA

Brick by Brick: Every day, 3-6pm: \$2.50 house wine, 1/2-off beer.

Tio Leo's: Monday, 3-7pm: \$3 pints. \$4 wells, margaritas. Tuesday-Friday, 5-7pm: \$3 wells, domestic drafts. \$4 margarita (keep shaker).

### LITTLE ITALY

Anthology: Monday-Friday, 5:30-7pm: \$6 wells, wine specials. \$8 margaritas. \$9 martinis.

P.B.'s Best Happy Hour 4-8 pm Daily & ALL DAY Mon. & Wed.! <sup>5</sup>1 Domestic Drafts **2** Import Drafts \$1<sup>50</sup> Shots/Drinks \$3<sup>50</sup> Appetizers \$12 Hookahs and 510 refills 11 am-8 pm daily **FOOTBALL** HERE! 1050 GARNET AVE. **PACIFIC BEACH** 858-866-6006

### **MIDWAY DISTRICT**

Brick Alley Bar & Grill: Every day, 3-7pm, 9pm-close: \$1 off pints, \$2 off tall beers.

Wine Steals: Wednesday, 5:30-7pm: \$5 wine tasting. Saturday, 4-6:30pm: \$10 wine tasting.

### **MIRA MESA**

Excalibur Cigar Lounge & Wine Bar: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$3 select pints, \$5 house wine.

The Filling Station: Monday, \$2 kamikazes. Wednesday, premium beer \$3.50/pint. Saturday, \$3 Bloody Marys. Sunday, \$3 mimosas.

Mira Mesa Lanes: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$2 domestic pints, \$7 pitchers. \$3 import pints, \$10 pitchers. \$2.50 wells. \$3.50 chicken strips, chicken wings.

### **MISSION BEACH**

Coaster Saloon: Friday, 10pm-

Sandbar Sports Grill: Monday-Thursday, 4-7pm: \$2.50 domestics/drafts, wells, \$1 off premium beers/wine by the glass, \$3 off pitchers. 1/2-off appetizers. Friday, 4-9pm: 1/2-off all drinks.

### **MISSION HILLS**

The Aero Club: Every day, 2-7pm: \$4 drafts, \$3 bottles.

Shakespeare Pub & Grille: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$4.95 all imported 20-oz. draught beers, \$3.75 well drinks, \$1 off all bottled beers and house wines by the glass.

Starlite: Monday-Saturday, 5-7pm: \$3 drafts, wells, \$1 off other. Sunday, all night: \$5 mules, \$15 off wine bottles.

### MISSION VALLEY

Filling

Station

Daily

Happy Hour

11:30 am to 7 pm

**Nightly Drink** 

**Specials** 

THURSDAYS

2 Pints, 6 Pitchers

& FREE Pool

after 7 pm

FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHTS

**DJ Dance Party/** 

Karaoke 9 pm-1 am

SUNDAY THRU THURSDAY

Karaoke 9 pm-1 am

9522 Miramar Rd.

858-578-0757

Northeast corner of Miramar

Road & Black Mountain Road

950 Lounge: Wednesday, \$3 wells, beer, house wine.

Bing Crosby's Restaurant and Piano Lounge: Monday-Saturday, 3-7pm: \$3 draft beer, \$5 wells, \$6 wine by the glass, \$7 house cocktails. Sunday, 11am-close: \$3 draft beer,

\$5 wells, \$6 wine by the glass, \$7 house cocktails.

The Little Fish Market Restaurant: Every day, 4-6pm, 8:30-close: \$4.25 fish tacos, \$3.75 spicy tuna roll, \$4.50 Cajun shrimp

### **NATIONAL CITY**

Café La Maze: Tuesday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$1 off all drinks; 1/2-off appetizers in the bar.

Lai Thai Restaurant: Every day, 4-6pm: \$2 Thai beer.

McDini's: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: \$2 off domestic pitchers, \$3.50 wells.

### **NORMAL HEIGHTS**

Air Conditioned Lounge: Monday-Friday, 7-9pm: Everything 1/2-off.

Triple Crown Pub: Saturday, 12-5pm: \$1 off all pints, \$2 off beer pitchers. Sunday, 12-2am: \$1 off all pints, \$2 off beer pitchers.

### **NORTH PARK**

Crazee Burger: Every day, 3-6pm: \$2.99 drafts, \$15 pitchers of beer, \$3.99 select glasses of wine. \$2.99 bratwurst, \$3.99 turkey burger.

Cricket's Pub and Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$2.50 domestic pints, \$2.75 domestic bottles, wells, \$4 margaritas.

Lips: Sunday, \$5 homojitos. \$10 build-your-own tacos.

Redwing Bar & Grill: Monday-Thursday, 11am-6pm: \$2.75 wells, do-mestic bottles. Friday-Sunday, 10am-6pm: \$2.75 wells, domestic bottles.

The Office: Every day, 5-8pm: 2for-1 prices on all drinks.

Toronado: Monday, 11:30am-5pm \$1 off drafts. Tuesday-Sunday, 11:30am-5pm: \$1 off drafts.

True North: Monday, 12pm-close: \$1 off all beer, wine, spirits. Tuesday-Saturday, 12pm-7pm: \$1 off all beer, wine, spirits. Sunday, 7pm-close: Industry Night, \$3 calls.

West Coast Tavern: Every day, 4-7pm: \$1 off all drinks. Five menu items, \$5 each.

### **OCEAN BEACH**

Blue Parrot: Monday-Friday, 2-6pm: \$2 off glass of wine, \$3 margaritas. \$2.50 tacos, \$5.25 nachos or wings. Saturday-Sunday, 10am-3pm: \$2.50 mimosas. \$5 Manmosas. \$4 screwdrivers, tequila sunrises, greyhounds.

Dream Street Live: Tuesday-Saturday, 4-6pm: \$2 wells, domestic pints, \$4 Guinness pints.

Pete's Grill: Every day, 4-7pm: \$2.50 Bud drafts, \$3 microbrew drafts, house wines, \$.99 sliders, \$1.99 fish tacos, \$5.99 for a 1/4-lb. burger, fries, small soda or Bud draft.

Portugalia: Tuesday-Sunday, 10pm-1am: \$3 domestic beer, \$5 wine; \$4-\$10 food specials.

The Vine: Every day, 4-6pm: 1/2price entire wine and specialty beer list.

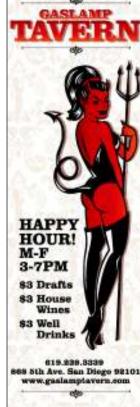
Winstons: Monday-Saturday, 1-8pm: \$3.50 wells. \$1 off all beer/wine.

### OCEANSIDE

The Flying Bridge: Every day, 4pm-7pm: \$3 beer, \$4 wine, 20% off appetizers.

Harney Sushi: Thursday, \$5 specialty cocktails.

Pierview Pub/Bub's Whiskey Dive Bar: Tuesday, 4-7pm: \$2 cans of Tecate.







The Committee

& The All-stars

**Blues Band** 

Wilson

#### OLD TOWN

**Harney Sushi:** *Wednesday*, \$5 specialty cocktails.

Wine Cabana: Monday, till close: \$5 off Malbec. Tuesday, till 7pm: 1/2-price appetizers. Wednesday, Girl's Night Out: complimentary chocolate fondue. Thursday, till 7pm: \$3 beers, 1/2-price appetizers. Friday, Cabana Magic Show (usually monthly). Saturday, till 7pm: \$3 beers, disco with DJ & PJ. Sunday, till close: \$4 Sangria, live jazz at 5pm.

### **PACIFIC BEACH**

**Big Kahuna's:** *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm: \$2.50 beer, wine.

**Costa Brava:** *Every day*, 4-7pm: 1/2-price sangria. 1/2-price tapas.

**The Dog:** *Monday-Thursday, Sunday,* \$6 pitchers.

**Hennessey's Tavern:** *Monday-Friday*, 4-7pm: \$2.50 domestic drafts, \$1 off house wine, wells, \$3 well shot/\$4 call shot, \$5 drink specials. *Saturday-Sunday*, till 1pm: \$3 Bloody Marys.

**Moondoggies Pacific Beach:** *Tuesday-Sunday*, 3-7pm: \$2 wells, house wine. \$3 imports, microbrews. \$2 off all drafts.

**Moray's Lounge:** Every day, 4-7pm: \$2.50 drafts, \$3.50 wells, \$4.50 house wine. 4-6pm: \$4 appetizers: spicy chicken wings, fried calamari, potato skins.

**Pacific Beach Ale House:** *Monday-Saturday*, 3-6pm: \$3 drafts, wells, house wines. 1/2-price appetizers.

**Sinbad Café:** Every day, 4-8pm: \$1 drafts, \$1.50 wells, shots, \$2 imports. \$3.50 appetizers. 11am-8pm: \$12-\$15 hookahs.

**Tavern at the Beach:** Monday-Saturday, 12-7pm: \$3 drafts, bottles, wells, wine. Sunday, 12-7pm: Industry Night: \$3 domestic beers, \$2 make your drink a double, \$3 calls for industry. Pay stub required.

**Tony Roma's:** *Monday-Friday*, 4-6pm: \$2 house margaritas, Long Island ice teas, \$3 wells, draft beer. Appetizer specials.

**The Turquoise, Café-Bar Europa:** *Monday-Thursday, Sunday,* 5-7pm: \$3 cask wine, sangria, draft. \$3 tapas selection.

### POINT LOMA

**The Boathouse:** Every day, 2:30-5pm: \$1.99 house margaritas (\$3 Cuervo Gold), \$3 beer of the month, \$4 wine of the month.

**Humphrey's Backstage Music Club:** *Every day*, 5-7pm: 1/2-off all drinks & menu items. Excludes holiday/concert nights.

**Point Loma Sports Grill & Pub:** *Monday-Friday*, 4-7pm: 1/2-price appetizers.

#### POWAY

**Kaminski's BBQ & Sports Bar:** *Monday, Wednesday-Friday,* 3-6pm; 9-11pm: \$1 off all wells, drafts, bottles & wine. \$5 appetizers.

### RANCHO BERNARDO

**Café on the Park:** *Monday-Friday*, 5-6:30pm: \$3 wells, \$4 house margaritas, 1/2-off house wine by the glass, \$1 off beer. Complimentary cheese & crackers, 1/2-off appetizers.

**Capri Blu:** *Every day*, 3-7pm: 1/2-price drafts, wells.

**Carvers:** *Monday-Friday*, 2-6:30pm: \$2.75 beers, \$3.95 wells, \$4.25 house wines, \$4.75 well martinis.



Kelly's Public House: Monday, 3-7pm: \$2 domestic drafts, \$8 pitchers, \$3.50 wells, house wines. Free appetizer samples. Tuesday, 3-7pm: \$2 domestic drafts, mystery pints, \$8 pitchers, \$3.50 wells, house wines. Wednesday, 3-7pm: \$2 domestic drafts, \$8 pitchers, \$3.50 wells, house wines. \$1 tacos. 9pmclose: \$4 u-call-its. Thursday, 3-7pm: \$2 domestic drafts, \$3 mystery pints, \$8 pitchers, \$3.50 wells, house wines. Free appetizer samples. Friday, 3-7pm: \$2 domestic drafts, \$8 pitchers, \$3.50 wells, house wines.

### **RANCHO SAN DIEGO**

Cottonwood Golf Club Bar & Restaurant: Every day, 4-6pm: \$2 drafts. 1/2-off all appetizers including pizza, quesadillas, wings, calamari.

### **RANCHO SANTA FE**

**Cavaillon:** *Monday-Thursday, Sunday,* 5-6pm: 1/2-off glass of wine. \$19.95 two-course menu.

**Delicias:** *Every day*, 4-6pm: \$5 draft beers, house wines, wells.

#### SAN MARCOS

The Jumping Turtle: Monday, 11am-close: PBR \$2.75/pint, \$6.75/pitcher. \$5 cheeseburger w/ fries or salad. *Tuesday*, 11am-close: \$2 Corona, Pacifico, margaritas. 3pm-close: \$2 tacos. Wednesday,



11am-close: \$4 drop drinks. \$6 monster sandwich w/ fries or salad. *Thursday*, 7pm-close: \$3 Jäger, \$2.50 Bud Lime. 3-11pm: \$.50 chicken wings. *Friday*, 5pm-midnight: \$5 Long Islands. \$5 12-inch two-topping pizza. *Saturday*, 11am-close: \$3 Orange Patron, Tanqueray. \$5.75 Reuben sandwich w/ fries or salad. *Sunday*, 11am-close: \$2.50 Bloody Marys. \$5 Hole-in-One ham sandwich w/ fries or salad.

### SERRA MESA

Channel 1 Sports Bar and Grill: *Monday-Friday*, 8am-11am: \$1.50 drafts, wells.

### **SOLANA BEACH**

**The Fish Market:** Monday-Friday, 3:30-9:30pm: \$3.50 wells, discounted beer & wine. \$.95 oysters, \$4.25 smoked trout quesadilla. Saturday-Sunday, 11am-4pm: \$3.50 wells, discounted beer & wine. \$.95 oysters, \$4.25 smoked trout quesadilla.



\$3 mystery pints & free appetizer samples UFC Fights coming in 2010!

15817 Bernardo Ctr. Dr. 858-613-3649 **Pacific Coast Grill:** Every day, 4-7pm: \$5 gold margaritas, \$1 off draft, wells, wines by the glass, 25% off wine bottles.

### **SORRENTO VALLEY**

Karl Strauss Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: \$3.50 beer

### **SOUTH PARK**

**Alchemy:** *Monday-Friday*, 4-6pm: \$2 off wells, including Skyy, Seagram's, Jim Beam, Sauza Gold, \$2 off wines/glass, draft.

**Whistle Stop Bar:** *Every day*, 2-8pm: \$1 off all cocktails, pints.

### **SPRING VALLEY**

**California Comfort:** *Every day*, 4-7pm: \$2.50 domestic pints, wells, house wine. \$5 appetizers.

### **TIERRASANTA**

**Bud's Louisiana Café:** *Tuesday-Friday*, 1-2:30pm; 4:30-6pm: 1/2-

price wine and beer. *Saturday*, 4:30-6pm: 1/2-price wine and beer.

**JP's Pub:** *Monday-Friday*, 3-5pm: \$2.50 wells, domestic drafts, \$3.25 house wine.

### **UNIVERSITY CITY**

**Café Japengo:** *Monday-Friday*, 5-7pm: \$3 drafts, sake, \$4.50 wells. \$4 chicken spring rolls, duck potstickers. California rolls.

### **UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS**

**Gulf Coast Grill:** *Monday*, all night: \$3.95 wells, drafts, wine. *Tuesday-Sunday*, 4:30-6:30pm: \$3.95 wells, drafts, wine.

### **VISTA**

Jumping Bean Cafe & Mexicali Grill: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$2 domestic, imports, \$2.75 margaritas, \$3 wells, microbrews, \$4 Leaping Horse wine. 3-5pm: \$1.50 chicken or carnitas street tacos.













HAPPY HOUR SPECIALS





# **The Native Quarter**

Oh, boy, has Paris Hilton ever left the building! Khloe Kardashian (as they say in N'awlins, "Who dat?") may or may not show up at the Ivy Hotel's nightclub, Envy, but Quarter Kitchen's celeb hangout era is so over.

Restaurateur Michael Kelly had a glorious glitzy vision that came true for a few months here — and then didn't. That is, now it's one more sleek hotel dining room with lowered ambitions and relatively affordable prices for the recessional holiday and weeknight delectations of local diners. After hotshot English opening chef Damon Gordon fled (don't they all?), in came local favorite Nathan Coulon, formerly of Modus (scion of the Belgian Lion OB restaurant family, son of La Jolla fine pâtissière Michele Coulon). Bargain earlybird dinners appeared; other prices came down. Most of my posse regulars have already eaten here several times, drawn by Coulon's signature succulent braised short ribs.

I ate at Quarter Kitchen shortly after the opening, but neither my friend Sam nor I had tried its post-glam incarnation yet when, finding ourselves lone and lorn on T-Day, we headed out for an affordable turkey dinner. The opener was divine: chestnut cream soup with tender-crisp fried sweetbreads on the side, to use as "croutons." One of the most sensual things I've sampled all year, this soup deserves a regular place on the winter menu. The "holiday plate" of turkey roulades, stuffing, mash, et al. — nice, merely nice.

The soup was an inducement to return for a regular dinner, a reminder of how good Coulon can be when he lets loose. I invited another pair of Quarter neophytes, Deborah and Debbie, behind-the-scenes movers and shakers at Cygnet Theatre. (Regular readers may recall that Cygnet auctioned me off for a benefit last spring: "Oh Tempura, Oh Morels," 7/8/09.)

I meant to concentrate on the "Fashionably Early" \$30 three-course prix fixe but also had a coupon for a free entrée with another entrée at



**NAOMI WISE** 

full price, and of course the half-price deals on bottled wines before 7:00 p.m. (Sunday–Thursday) played a major role in deciding our dinner hours. But when Sam tried to reserve for 6:30, the management wouldn't let him rez until 7:00. (Wonder

what that's all about?) We showed up at 6:30 anyway and were promptly seated by a beautifully garbed hostess in the near-empty

That night, there came into that hostelry full unpopulated hinterlands, where they could easily have been segregated from smaller groups of diners (including some fun seats near the kitchen,

2417

New Year's Day

where they could have watched the chefs at work), they were put right next to us — a second strike against the way this room is managed. They probably had a pre-arranged menu, but still they were a direct danger to our dinner, as well as our en-

> joyment of it. "We'd better get our orders in fast," said Sam, "before these guys monopolize the waitstaff and the kitchen. The half-price wine discount expires

in 16 minutes, along with the prix fixe."

Mission accomplished. From the "early" menu we chose the lobster bisque and the aged French goat-cheese appetizer over a brioche crust. (The third starter is plain green salad, a masochist's pick at any restaurant.) The bisque proved light and thin, with little cream and only a hint of lobster flavor — not unpleasant but lacking in both identity and lavishness.

The goat cheese, served not quite hot, was lean

### **Quarter Kitchen**

Ivy Hotel, 600 F Street, Gaslamp Quarter, 619-814-2000, quarterkitchen.com

**HOURS:** Breakfast weekdays 7:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.; weekends until 11:00 a.m.; brunch 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. weekdays, weekends from 7:00 a.m. Lunch 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Dinner 6:00-10:00 p.m., weekends until 11:00 p.m.

PRICES: "Fashionably Early" three-course prix fixe (6:00-7:00 p.m. daily, except holidays), \$30. "Dine and Dance" three-course prix-fixe Thursday-Friday, 7:00-9:30 p.m., \$55, with VIP admission to Envy nightclub. Regular appetizers \$8–\$22; "sharing" appetizers, \$11–\$125; entrées, \$18–\$32; steaks, \$36–\$48. Sides, \$8–\$12;

**CUISINE AND BEVERAGES: Modern Amer**ican bistro cuisine mingling with classic French dishes, occasional fusion touches, Vast international wine list; bottles half-price Sunday-Thursday before 7:00 p.m. Full bar. (Corkage \$25, huge surcharge for any bottle already on the extensive wine list.)

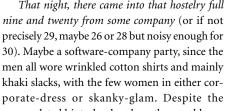
PICK HITS: Cabernet-braised short ribs; smoked free-range chicken. Other good bets: steamed mussels with frites appetizer; Loch Duart salmon with sorrel cream sauce; duck

**NEED TO KNOW:** Free valet parking, one car per entrée. Business-casual wear, but diners heading for Envy nightclub might glam it up. One vegetarian entrée, many veggie sides, including mac 'n' cheese (possible kiddie choice).

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.

and near-dry over a desiccated hard crust that resembled not an airy brioche but a day-old Georgia drop-biscuit, with a bare bit of moisture alongside from tapenade and oven-dried tomatoes. Time hardens all breads; microwaves stiffen all yeast doughs. (I assume any big hotel kitchen



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The only 24/7 restaurant in Downtown 828 Sixth Avenue, between E and F Streets in the Gaslamp | I 619-702-8410 must be nuker-armed.) Was our tartlet ruthlessly zapped — or was it just born too soon and warmed too late?

For the à la carte starters I tiptoed into luxury (skipping, of course, the cook-it-yourself Kobe strips requiring a minimal investment of \$75 — bah, humbug!). The enduring signature of the original English chef is caviar "tacos," five ultracrisp wafer-thin shells of Yukon Gold potato slices cradling horseradish crème fraîche, parsley, and top-notch paddlefish caviar (\$30, or \$125 with Iranian Osetra). I've been haunted by longings for a second sampling ever since I tried it two years ago. But it's changed. I still love the combination, but now there's so much less roe, you can barely taste it in the mix. (I verified the changed proportion by checking my review from two years ago.) Cutting the caviar, the balance is upset, the unforgettable reduced to a cute cocktail-party snack.

Ordering the Coastal Waters Tower (\$50 for "small," up to \$125 for "large"), I hoped for something like the brilliant seafood assiette I'd enjoyed at the Gaslamp's Royale Brasserie, before that restaurant turned into the current Lou and Mickey's and lost its soul. The "small" was huge but lesser. Over a pile of ice, it held six East-West oysters (three briny Atlantic Malpeques, three near-sweet Pacific Kumamotos), jumbo Mexican shrimps, raw hamachi slices, and ample quantities of cracked King crab legs and the best parts (claws and tailmeat) of a whole Maine lobster, topped by the lobster's upper shell. Alongside were lemons and four dips: mignonette, fresh housemade cocktail sauce (with coarse-chopped tomatoes), something called "tarragon aioli" that was a dense but civilized tartar sauce (with no nasty pickly stuff), and a soyscallion mixture accompanied by a tiny spoonful of grated horseradish.

For such an extravagant array to sell for \$50, there had to be a catch — and not just the daily catch. The oysters, hamachi, King crab (nearly always flash-frozen on shipboard in Alaska) were all fine, but the jumbo Gulf shrimps (so stunningly sweet at Vela a few weeks ago) were overcooked neutral nothings. And the near-tasteless lobster seemed to have all the buttery life chilled out of it. (Next day, served cool from the doggie bag, rather than frigid, the texture was softer and richer, but only the coral fingertips of the claw meat held true, deep lobster flavor.)

Deborah speculated that the lobster might have been frozen. Then I thought of "lobster pounds." In winter, lobsters move out farther and deeper into the sea and are harder and riskier to catch, so are more expensive (and actually taste better). "Lobster pounds" - giant saltwater tanks - are commercial facilities where Maine lobsters caught earlier in the season are kept alive. But their flavor deteriorates, compared to fresh-caught crustaceans. Well, whatever the cause, it's also probably the source of the bisque's unlobsterly flavor.

Despite our early arrival, the servers subtly pushed us to eat up and get gone. (In a restaurant that closes at 10:00 p.m., we were the last to leave, at 9:00.) Our waiter was cute and charm-

ing but evidently miscalculated how much we'd be talking along with eating — those noisy neighbors couldn't stop us, even if we had to yell to hear each other! He had the kitchen fire up the entrées a little too soon, about two minutes before we'd have finished with appetizers — and, like the goat cheese, all the entrées were delivered just past lukewarm.

The surprise was smoked chicken, available both on the prix fixe and à la carte. As Deborah said, "I never order chicken in restaurants: I cook it often enough at home." But this was chicken you're not likely to cook. Half a free-range bird, its snap-crackle-pop skin literally puffed off the tender flesh. The in-house smoking is gentle, just a hint. The whole array was savory. Deborah fell in love with the puffy cubes of sweet potatoes and crisp fine bacon mingling in a faintly sweet sauce. Debbie was ravished by the accompanying spinach mixed with a generous waft of sesame seeds for crunch and nuttiness

Coulon's signature dish is Cabernet-braised Prime-beef short ribs in a star anise and wine reduction (also available both early-bird and à la carte). They're rich and fork-tender, served over creamy Yukon Gold potato mash splashed with that supernal wine gravy, with seasonal vegetables: cauliflower florets; melting baby zucchinis; firm, skinny yellow string beans; and button mushrooms for depth. I stubbornly bogarted the dish until I could taste every element, while the Debs impatiently switched plates around.

Little wonder, because they'd started with two disappointing dishes. Spicy fixe and à la carte) is a carryover from the opening days, when it was one of my favorite entrées — highly spiced but an earthy-sweet red miso balanced out the fire. This time, a linechef stubbed his toe on the cayenne, producing the kind of plain, blasting heat that instantly exhausts your palate instead of exciting it. Lost under the fish (tender but overwhelmed) were sliced carrots, shiitake, zucchini, bean sprouts, snow peas, and loads of cilantro. "It reminds me of New Mexico red chile sauce," said Deborah. "Just dried red chiles cooked in stock, nothing much else to complicate it." "Whereas the complications make great spicy food," I said, "the layers of flavor coming up from below to enjoy, once you get past the heat."

blackened hamachi (both prix

From the à la carte menu we'd chosen cassoulet (\$24), a staple at Coulon's grandfather's Belgian Lion. It's a great bistro dish because its flavors get friendly with each other over time — just like its N'awlins cousin, red beans and rice, you can cook a big potful on a Monday and serve it all week long. A glorified Gallic version of baked beans, the traditional model includes white beans, duck confit, garlicky Toulouse sausage, and bites of lamb and/or pork, all slow-cooked in a meat-and-poultry stock with tomato and herbs and finished off in the oven, topped with crisp buttered bread-crumbs. Well, sorry — no crisp crumb topping this time. No deep taste of stock in the overfirm beans. Pork bits dried out. The duck was okay, if a bit tough. I did like the juicy sausage. (If it's not authentic saucisson de Toulouse,

New Year's

Eve for a

Champagne

Dinner!

it's close enough for folk-cooking.) But we've all had better. For that matter, we've all cooked better. Another victim of the nuker?

Ah, but the half-price wines! Had to skip those great fourfigure aged French reds, but the back of the list includes French regional bottlings, including undervalued Loire and Rhone choices. Aiming at the cold seafood platter, I chose a Muscadet, a crisp, insouciant Loire "oyster wine." The discount brought its price down nearly to that of bottled water. (And I was so glad for it after hitting that blackened fish! Capsaicin, the hot-pepper chemical, isn't water-soluble - needs cold alcohol!) For our "short-ribs red," we scored a gorgeous 12-yearold Côte Rôtie from reliable shipper Guigal, \$120 cut to \$60. (More affordable yet, there's a fine Qupé Syrah among the California reds for \$32 list price.)

The early dinner offers three desserts: Chocoholic Debbie chose Belgian chocolate torte, chocolate cake lavered with chocolate meringue, mousse, and cream, with ice cream on the side. This sounded like one of Michele Coulon's pastries but somehow didn't taste as exquisite. A "deconstructed" gingerbread cake with wine-poached pears (and persimmon ice cream) should be reconstructed: the drvish cake needs the fruit and ice cream right on top to moisten it. (Third choice is an ice cream sundae.)

My espresso was marginally acceptable, served lukewarm. Deborah's decaf espresso was odious (sent back and replaced by a much-better cappuccino). The regular coffees were tepid

and weak.

Given how good the good dishes are at Ouarter Kitchen. I wouldn't give up on it, I'd just order differently to replace the early-bird's unthrilling starters and sweets with better stuff for a barely higher bill. I'd get there early on a weeknight for the wine discount and, if I were set on the fabulous short ribs (regularly \$28), consider ordering one prix-fixe meal. For the rest, I'd go cannily à la carte, starting with a shareable bowl of "Steamed Mussels Social Style," sauced with white wine, fennel, and cream, with frites for dipping — just \$11, sized for two. (Coulon should manage this luscious Belgian classic handily.) For entrées, besides the smoked chicken (\$20), you could gamble on another fine French-Belgian archetype: salmon in tangy sorrel cream sauce with yummy Pommes Anna (\$22), or try "duck two ways" (\$30) (confit and grilled breast), with a riot of garnishes including tangerine foam on top. For dessert (\$10), consider sharing a pumpkin cheesecake or apple-cranberry frangipani tart. This "eat this, not that" version of a three-course dinner runs \$30-\$41 per person for two or more.

As for all the petty service annoyances, maybe these printed snipes at the front-of-the-house management lapses will make a difference — or not. Maybe they're why Paris Hilton stopped coming 'round and why Adam Lambert's not here but over at Hard Rock, probably sneaking into Nobu's sushi bar when he's done signing autographs. In any case, local diners don't need to glitter and be gay to eat at the Ivy anymore — just come as you are.





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# Sweet Smell

"You've got to make it dry enough to burn, green enough to smoke."

**ED BEDFORD** 

arbecue. It's the only cooking smell that actually wafts through the air like a well-flung fishing line, grabs you, and hauls you in by the nostrils. I mean, there

I was at sunset, hoofing it down Lake Murray Boulevard, hoping for an 854 bus to speed me to the Amaya trolley station, when...aaagh! BBQ aromas. I'm like Superman felled by kryptonite. I walk clear across

the Boulevard at El Paso Street, into a strip mall, and come upon a huddle of chairs, tables, and umbrellas outside a spot called "West Coast BBQ."

"Texas Style," it adds. It's a brown, woody storefront with lots of glass and what at first looks like a big room inside — at least until you realize that the far end is all mirrors. They have maybe a dozen tables. Decor's cream-andbrown, kinda Western. Makes you think of the Lone Star State. Place is full. Maybe because they're only open 4:00–8:00 each evening. Waitresses in maroon tunics hip-twitch past me, balancing way-big plates of brown ribs, baked potatoes, coleslaw, corn on the cob, pulled-pork sandwiches...

Most of the staff look like they eat right here — a little on the plump side. But the welcoming lady in the smart gray suit is ultra-slim. Olga. She leads me to a table by the wall. A moment later, a gal named Jennifer comes up, hands me a menu.

I see lists of barbecued beef, pork, and chicken. "Our ribs are rubbed with a secret blend of sweet and tangy spices," it says, "then slowly smoked in our custom-made BBQ pit." And, man, each dish — from ribs, to pulled pork, beef, and pork cuts, to chicken ("marinated in fruit juices and spices") — comes with two sides and bread rolls. They're mostly \$10-\$15, with sandwiches in the \$8 range. Jennifer says baby-back ribs are the most popular dish. But the starting point, the highlight, you

> might say, is the standardbearer: pork spareribs, "traditional meaty ribs we have served in San Diego for over 50 years."

"Three generations," Olga says. "The Worm family. My husband Oscar's dad Dale and

his wife Betty started this. Dale was a Navy cook on submarines during WWII. After the war, he worked at a Texas- barbecue place in North Park. Then, in 1958, he opened his own place, Roadside Bar B.Q., on Mission Gorge Road"

Twenty years later came the next generation, Oscar and Olga, and recently, their son Scott, who's 22, and Jennifer, his high school sweetheart, have taken over.

Here's Jennifer now. "Decided?" she asks. I should go for the baby-back ribs, but at \$13.99 for a small plate and \$18.99 for the large, that's pushing it. So, pork spareribs? Olga says they're the "best meat for the money." But I was impressed by the size of those beef ribs. So I order a "small" plate (\$11.99; large is \$15.99), along with sides of baked beans, a cob of corn, and an extra of french fries (\$1.99). And when they come — man alive — the ribs are huge. Four of them fight for plate-space under a big blob of Texas barbecue sauce.

"All our sauces are based on Sonny Bryan's Smokehouse in Dallas," says Olga. "That family's been in the barbecue business since 1910."

She picks up a plastic bottle from the rack on the table. It has brown sauce inside. "This is the Texas. It's got apple-cider vinegar, ketchup, paprika, onion powder, black pepper, ginger,

garlic and cloves, molasses, brown sugar, and Tang for citric acid. That gives it the taste at the back of your throat afterward. It's the secret ingredient."

She holds up a second plastic bottle, a lighter color. "This is North Carolina, basically mustard and vinegar. Yellow. Southern." She points to another. "This red one's California-style sauce. Chipotle, raspberry. Sweeter, and spicier. But the Texas is the most popular."

Yeah. I see why. It's sweet but has that tasty molassesclovey thing going on. Have to say, though, the beef ribs ain't that tender. 'Course, my teeth have been getting jerked around recently at the dentist, so I'm not in great shape to do the Serengeti-lion imitation. I

kick myself for avoiding the basic pork spareribs. That's what Jim at the table next door is having. It's what he always has. There are three other people with him. Regulars. We get to talking. Jim's wife Betty swears by the barbecue chicken. "So-o tender," she says. His buddy Chuck's having his usual carnitas (huh, don't see that on the menu), and his wife Jeanne's into pork spareribs, too. "We've been eating at this outfit since the 1960s," says Chuck. "Why change a good thing?"

I have to ask Olga about how they smoke

their meat. People always make such a big deal about smoking with hickory wood. Is it really the best? "Well, we burn oak wood," she says. "People talk up hickory. We've tried it. There's no difference to the flavor. The main thing is the state of the wood. You've got to make sure it's dry enough to burn, green enough to smoke."

I try to resist the peach cobbler, but who can? With ice cream it costs \$3.88.

Back out on the street, it's dark, cool. I don't wait for the 854. Got a lot to walk off. ■

The Place: West Coast Barbecue & Catering, 6126 Lake Murray Boulevard, La Mesa, 619-462-3663 **Type of Food:** American BBQ

Prices: Barbecue-beef sandwich and one side dish (e.g. baked beans), \$7.99; pulled-pork sandwich, \$7.99; french dip au jus, \$7.99; pork spareribs (with two sides), \$11.99 (small), \$15.99 (large); beef ribs (two sides), \$11.99/\$15.99; baby-back ribs (two sides) \$13.99/\$18.99; barbecued-beef slices (two sides), \$10.99; pulled-pork plate (two sides), \$10.99; barbecued chicken (two sides), \$9.99; combos (e.g. rib and pork — choice of rib type and pulled pork), including two sides, \$12.99; peach cobbler, \$2.29 (\$3.88 with ice cream)

**Hours:** 4:00–8:00 p.m., Tuesday-Sunday; closed Monday. Closed between Christmas Day and New Year's Day

Buses: 854, 115

Nearest Bus Stops: Lake Murray Boulevard at El Paso Street (854, closest); Lake Murray Boulevard at





### RESTAURANT LISTINGS

A complete searchable list of over 600 restaurants 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.

### Alpine

Ramon's Smokehouse BBO 1730 Alpine Bl., Alpine, 619-445-1008. The smell of mesquite burning under fresh-cut beef rib is too much to resist — the secret Texas recipe draws crowds. Go Sunday morning, when chefs in maroon aprons dance around the fat-spitting fire. Inexpensive.

### Baja

From the United States use the prefix 011-52 when calling Mexico.

Café Français La Belle Claude 7th Street #8186-A, Tijuana. A family with their own farm outside town runs this chic Parisian outpost offering farm-made jams and cheeses, panini ciabattas, an excellent French-dip sandwich, flaky dessert empanadas, and French pâtisserie to go with the gen-uine Cuban coffee. Inexpensive.

El Cid Lopez Mateos #993, Ensenada, 646-178-1809. Gourmet Mexican cuisine with unique specialties: Crisp quail with rose petal sauce proves delicious, and seasonal *chiles en nogada* (meatstuffed poblano chiles with walnut cream and pomegranate) gain refine-

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ment from greaseless ground sirloin. Moderate.

La Diferencia Avenida Sánchez Taboada #10611-A, Tijuana, 664-634-3346. Mexican haute cuisine with inventive combinations. The menu reframes the old dishes and devises new ones. Wine list centers on Baja wineries (Monte Xanic and Cetto) at reasonable prices. Inexpensive.

Fonda Roberto's Avenida Cuauhtémoc #2800 (at Agua Caliente Bl., next to CESUN Universidad), Tijuana, 664-686-4687. Unusual dishes from Chef Roberto's native Puebla include huazontle, the Aztecs' "red spinach" in chocolate mole sauce, and Dedos de Moctezuma ("Montezuma's fingers"cactus stuffed with steak). Moderate.

La Leña Boulevard Agua Caliente #11191, Tijuana, 664-686-2920. Opengrill charro food with a peaceful view. Old-style BBQ steaks, surf 'n' turf combos, and big slabs of Mexican-cut filete cabrería, which are flabby but tender. Most arrive at your table sizzling on black iron hotplates. Moderate.

Lonchería la Poca Lucha Municipal Market, Avenida Niños Héroes #105, Tijuana. Best food stall in the marketplace? Maybe. Ask for carne de puerco (pork), chiles rellenos, bistek ranchero, or higado al gusto (liver), all around \$3. Inexpensive.

Super Antojitos Fourth Street #1810 (between Constitución and Niños Héroes), Tijuana, 664-685-5070. The house special, mole poblano, has complex, delicious house-made mole sauce with an enchilada, eggs, rice, beans, tortillas. Also delicious: stuffed pastries, pork rind gorditas. Inexpensive.

### Balboa Park

Taco Rey Taco Shop 1870 Fourth Ave., Balboa Park, 619-234-6617. Everyone from garbage-truck drivers

to doctors patronizes this sidewalkseating, canopy-shaded taquería. Their breakfast huevos Mexicanos and sunset California burritos are great al fresco.

### Banker's Hill

**Extraordinary Desserts** 2929 Fifth Ave., Banker's Hill, 619-294-2132. Also 1430 Union St., Little Italy, 619-294-7001. Chef-owner Karen Krasne incorporates flavors inspired by her travels from Paris to Bali. The white cakes are food for angels. Uptown location desserts only; downtown offers light grazing meals, too. Moderate.

Hane 2760 Fifth Ave., Banker's Hill, 619-260-1411. This city branch of legendary Sushi Ota is more comfortable, with bilingual chefs at the counter exercising impeccable craftsmanship, emphasizing pristine rolls and sashimi, not party rolls. The *omakase* sashimi platter offers Ota's most popular and showy creations. Moderate-plus.

### Campo

Campo Diner 1367 Dewey Pl., Campo, 619-478-2888. The burgers are made from Black Angus beef, so they cost more. But there are deals, too, like the huge The Works omelet and the robust lunchtime homemade soup of the day. Inexpensive.

### Cardiff

Besta-Wan Pizza House 148 Aberdeen Dr., Cardiff, 760-753-6707. Their thin-crust East Coast-style pizzas are famous locally. Check for the

big-pile spaghetti or lasagna specials if you want to fill up. Inexpensive.

Trattoria Positano 2171 San Elijo Ave., Cardiff, 760-632-0111. Original recipes, wonderful fresh fish, nightly specials, excellent lamb and pastas. Upper-moderate.

### Carlsbad

Knockout Pizza 2959 Carlsbad Bl., pizza here. They make the pies with thin, crisp crusts and toppings like meatball or garlic. Maybe their best is the Bronx Special: pepperoni, sausage, onions, olives, mushrooms, pepper, and garlic. Inexpensive.

O'Sullivan's Irish Pub of Carlsbad 640 Grand Ave., Carlsbad, 760-729-4072. Above-average pub grub, especially the moist corned beef with firmtender cabbage, salads, and house-baked brown bread. Noisy interior, serene patio out back. Inexpensive.

Tip Top Meats 6118 Paseo del Norte, Carlsbad, 760-438-2620. Try German and American dishes like Big John's allvou-can-eat bacon, pork-link sausage, bratwurst, or ham breakfast with three eggs, home fries, and toast. Or the sausage plate: bratwurst, knackwurst, and smoked Polish. Inexpensive.

### Chula Vista

D'Lish Pizza and Pasta 386 E. H St., "bistro entrées." Moderate.

tic menu of good old-fashioned American food — huge breakfasts, big dinners like steak with all the trimmings, homemade desserts. Inexpensive.

Restaurant el Patio 410 Broadway. Chula Vista, 619-422-9745. Old-fashioned Cal-Mex with nothing new except the Flying Saucer (fried tortilla stacked with beef, tomatoes, and a mound of salad). Otherwise, go for the chile rellenos, enchiladas, taco combo, and open-faced chiliburgers. Inexpensive to moderate.

### City Heights

Saigon 4455 El Cajon Bl., City Heights, 619-284-4215. The menu has over 250 items on it. Default choice: pho, the filling Vietnamese beef-noodle soup meal. Another safe bet is stir-fried crispy or soft egg noodles with seafood and assorted vegetables. Inexpensive.

Trieu Chau 4653 University Ave., City Heights, 619-280-4204. The menu includes Chinese, Khmer, and Lao dishes. Over 900 more restaurant listings at SanDiegoReader.com



In the morning, ask for "djak kvai coffay dok ko"— fried bread with Cambodian coffee, the standard French-Khmer breakfast. Inexpensive.

Uncle Joe's Pizzeria 4591 El Caion Bl., City Heights, 619-584-2535. Flower-strewn patio, plush interior, with sandwiches named after navy bases, rich entrées like eggplant Parmesan, chicken with mushrooms, served until midnight weekends. Inexpensive.





www.BreadonMarket.com

Chula Vista, 619-585-1371. This chain prides itself on its Italian/California pastas, pizzas, and salads. Now it's adding marinated flank steak and a rib eye to the

Jimmy's 1198 Third Ave., Chula Vista, 619-427-7161. Also 9635 Mission Gorge Rd., Santee, 619-448-8994. Familyfriendly restaurants offer a six-page plas

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**Sky Room Tasting Menu**: \$95 per person • Seatings: 5-5:30 pm, 8-8:30 pm

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Confit of Moroccan Spiced Duck Salad; Celery Root and Honey Crisp Apple Soup; Butter-Poached Sweet White Prawns; Roasted Loin of Lamb; Meyer Lemon and Caramel Ice Box Cake

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Ocean View Buffet—Mediterranean Room, Patio, Ocean View Terrace, Whaling Bar & Grill \$75 adult, \$38 kids under 12 Seatings: 11-11:30 am, 1:30-2 pm, 4-4:30 pm, 6:30-7 pm Sky Room Tasting Menu \$95 per person • Seatings: 5-5:30 pm, 8-8:30 pm

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San Diego Reader December 17, 2009



### Clairemont

Buga Korean BBQ Restaurant 5580 Clairemont Mesa Bl., Clairemont 858-560-1010. Aside from the BBQ meats and generous free side dishes treats include simmered black cod in spicy sauce, miso soup with pork, stone ot bibimbap (rice casserole), mandoo

### Coronado

dumplings. Moderate.

Chez Loma French Bistro 1132 Loma Ave., Coronado, 619-435-0661. In a charming, historic cottage, this bistro offers classic French bourgeois cuisine, plus some lighter, modern dishes. Don't miss Normandy-style onion soup with apple cider. Prix fixe dinners moderate, à la carte expensive.

Clayton's Coffee Shop 979 Orange Coronado, 619-435-5425. The food is all American: steak and eggs, veggie omelets, old-fashioned waffles, sand-wiches both hot and cold. Dinner specials include pork chops and homemade meat loaf with gravy. Inexpensive.

Coronado Boathouse 1887 1701 Strand Way, Coronado, 619-435-0155. Fun "aloha" atmosphere with a bay view. Herbed artichoke appetizer and fresh macadamia-crusted halibut sauced with coconut milk are tasty, and the tender roast beef is USDA Prime.

McP's Irish Pub and Grill 1107 Orange Ave., Coronado, 619-435-5280. Try Mulligan stew served in a hollowed bread loaf or corned beef and cabbage

with tender, thick slices surrounding cabbage so young and sweet it ought to be carded. Raucous inside, but escape on big heated patio. Inexpensive to lowmoderate

Mistral 4000 Coronado Bay Rd., Coronado, 619-424-4000. The light, healthful, Mediterranean-style cuisine (north ern Italy and southern France) emphasizes seasonal ingredients, as local and sustainably raised as possible, including herbs and some fruits grown organically on the resort grounds. Romantic ambience with bay view. Expensive.

Peohe's 1201 First St., Coronado, 619-437-4474. Fabulous seaside venue, silly with Hawaiian decor, featuring steaks and seafood prepared with care, e.g., halibut in a lush, sassy Frangelico-touched macadamia beurre blanc. Expensive.

### Del Mar

Americana 1454 Camino del Mar, Del Mar, 858-794-6838. Casual breakfast/lunch, serious dinners, with fla vors of the American melting pot and summer veggies from the chef's home garden. Breakfast and lunch inexpensive to moderate, dinner moderate to expensive.

Del Mar Rendezvous Del Mar Plaza, 1555 Camino del Mar, Del Mar, 858-755-2669. Longtime restaurateur Mark Sun came out of retirement to try out a new concept of contemporary Asian tapas and Chinese entrées made over with prime ingredients — clean, creative, and greaseless, with a wide choice of wines. Moderate to expensive.

Iris Food and Spirits 2334 Carmel Valley Rd., Del Mar, 858-259-5878, At this comfortable but upscale "neighborhood restaurant" with patio over-looking Del Mar Lagoon's marshy beauty, chef-owner Tommy Golden (ex-Parkhouse and Beach Grass) turns out eclectic, homey-tasting Euro-Cal dishes, climaxing in stellar desserts; a well-priced wine list accompanies them. Expensive.

Kitchen 1540 1540 Camino del Mar, Del Mar, 858-793-6460. Gorgeous seaside resort (renovated in 2008) offers a modern dining room and heated patios to enjoy fine, creative cooking, combining "slow food" craftsmanship and the latest technical tricks to display the bright seasonal flavors of local veg gies, sustainable seafood, and natural meats. Expensive.

Market Restaurant and Bar 3702 Via de la Valle, Del Mar, 858-523-0007. Chef-owner Carl Schroeder is all about seasonal, local, organic - and inspired culinary imagination. Menu changes but is always exciting. The vibe is "nice neighborhood restaurant" — diners have a good time here. Expensive.

Pacifica del Mar 1555 Camino del Mar, Del Mar, 858-792-1803. Fresh fish and organic produce enliven fun list of low-priced mini-appetizers, plus great baked oysters, seared scallops, mustard catfish, and house-cured rib eye. Extremely noisy bar area. Expensive to very expensive.

### Downtown

Alambres Mexican Grill 756 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-233-2838. Specialty is the namesake Alambres Mexico City-style taco, usually meat or fish plus bell peppers, onions, and bacon.

Athens Market 109 F St., Downtown, 619-234-1955. Owner Mary Pappas serves huge portions of honest Greek home cooking (lentil soup, spanakopita, meaty gyros), in a classy white-tablecloth atmosphere. Inexpensive to moderate.

Bondi Bar and Kitchen 333 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-342-0212. Huge, raucous Australian gastro-pub with

splashy, fun decor, offering Aussie brews and amusing appetizers. Culinary style resembles California-fusion, but spicier with exotic homeland ingredients. Moderate, some entrées expensive.

Coffee and Art Photographic **Art Gallery** 777 Sixth Ave., Downtown, 619-501-8458. Come for the curry pies. This South African-run East Village neighborhood coffee place has healthy breakfasts and light lunches inside a cool art/photo gallery. But it's the ultra-flaky Brit-made "savory pot pies" that star, especially the beef or veggie curry pies. Inexpensive.

**Darband Fifth Avenue Grill** 1556 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-230-1001. Good, fresh Persian cooking, popular with local Persians. Tasty dishes include Khoresh Bademjan (baby eggplant and beef stew), Barg (marinated beef tenderloin with rice), and the vegetarian plate. Kebabs star, as do yogurt-y, cucumber-y, minty flavors. Inexpensive.

De'Medici Cucina Italiana 815 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-702-7228. Sinatra atmosphere, cool street patio. Fish dishes are exquisite, and anything with calamari (fresh local catch) is worth ordering. Moderate (simpler pastas) to very expensive.

Edgewater Grill 861 W. Harbor Dr., Downtown, 619-232-7581. Faux-fusion fare. The lighter dishes are best not a bad place to graze on appetizers or a mini-pizza when you're starved for a water view. Entrées high-moderate to very expensive.

**Gaslamp Pizza** 505 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-231-7542. This joint comes alive around 2am, serving good thin-crusted pizzas (vegetarian, BBQ chicken, and chicken pesto are best-o) plus wings, "halapeno peppers" and big salads to revelers seeking post-revel ballast. Inexpensive.

Georges on Fifth 835 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-702-0444. The menu offers Prime and ultra-Prime steaks. Some of the best items are non-beef: the cold seafood appetizers ("lobster martini," oysters, tuna tartare). Expensive to extreme.

Harbor House 831 W. Harbor Dr., Downtown, 619-232-1141. This twostory Midwesterner-friendly eatery caters to tourist families and conventioneers, but the upstairs Oyster Bar is a pretty spot to watch the sailboats over a margarita and a plateful of iced bivalves. Moderate to expensive.

Hot Dogs @ 428 428 G St., Down town, 619-544-0428. Late-night dog house for after you've drunk your fill on Fifth. Good fast dogs, always Hebrew National. Regional dogs include New York, Deep South, Texas, even the Sushi with wasabi. Also: good-value lunches. Inexpensive.

Indigo Café 1435 Sixth Ave., Downtown, 619-702-6478. Favorite of San Diego Symphony players. Specialty: New Orleans dishes like jambalaya or gumbo. Really good: oyster or shrimp po boy sandwich. Inexpensive to moderate.

JJ's Sunset Deli by the Bay 200 Marina Park Way (behind the Convention Center), Downtown, 619-237-1070. JJ's delivers one heckuva harbor view plus an ambitious menu running from rib-eye steak sandwiches to a porl chop plate and sometimes a half-rack of BBQ baby back ribs. Inexpensive.

Mediterranean Café and **Lounge** 1352 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-515-2233. They serve a panoply of Middle Eastern and Greek food until 3 or 4 am. Best deals are probably the single lamb skewer on a roll of pita bread with hummus, tomato, lettuce, and pickles, or the meat pie on pita. Inexpensive to moderate.

Napa Valley Grille 502 Horton Plaza, Downtown, 619-238-5440. This restaurant at the top of Horton Plaza offers an elegant homeyness and sense of comfort. The Cal cuisine is good, including excellent grilled calamari. Moderate to expensive.

Pauly's Pizza Station 1050 Park Bl., Downtown, 619-231-0300. Pauly hides inside a convenience store at the City College trolley stop, making flavorful, East Coast thin-crust pies with some creative toppings — plus break-fast pizzas and calzones for when Friday night turns into Saturday morning. Open late to very late. Inexpensive.

Pierre's Place 1404 Fourth Ave., Downtown, 619-727-4700. Toussaint School's student-run restaurant offers pizzas and interesting dishes like Florentine breakfast *panini*, Tuscan chicken *panini*, and the Italian Special (toasted Italian roll with salami, ham capicola, provolone). Inexpensive.

Rama 327 Fourth Ave., Downtown, 619-501-8424, Ravishing upscale decor and chefs from top Bangkok restaurants offer a special experience. The menu includes some rare authentic dishes like chicken and squid with flat noodles and caramelized palm sugar, and a wicked Thai version of Chinese twice-cooked pork. Moderate.

Red Pearl Kitchen 440 J St., Downtown, 619-231-1100. An anthology of favorite Asian dishes creatively interpreted for American palates, with touches of fusion and some original dishes. Plenty of appetizers, but main dishes and veggie side dishes tend to be tastier, High-moderate.

Rei Do Gado Churrascaria 939 Fourth Ave., Downtown, 619-702-8464. Skewer after skewer of *churrasco* (Brazilian barbecue of many meats). The buffet (included in meal price) includes side dishes, salads, fruit, and hot entrées like seafood in coconut milk, with exotic but comfortable flavors.

Sidebar Deli 225 Cedar St., Downtown, 619-525-1444. Cal Western students clamor for lunch specials like spaghetti and meatballs with garlic bread. Also breakfast burritos, breakfast sandwiches, French dip sandwiches, California wraps. Inexpensive.



### Free special roll

Buy one special roll and get a second of equal or lesser

7905 Engineer Rd. Kearny Mesa



Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR Convoy Sushi & Fish Market



Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDF

834 Kline St.

866-264-0533

La Jolla

50% off pizza Buy one pizza and get a



Extreme Pizza



50% off frozen yogurt Buy one frozen yogurt and get one of equal or lesser value 50% off. Toppings not

College Area included. No stamp cards.

5664 Mission Center Rd

Mission Valley







## Free menu item

With the purchase of a lunch or dinner plate & two beverages.

1061 W. El Norte Pkwy **Escondido** 760-480-5662



Expires 12.24.09 · Coupon code: G1FSDR



### 50% off lunch or dinner

Buy one lunch or dinner and get a second of equal lesser value for half off

Chickene Escondido 760-480-1348 Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR



### Free edamame or miso soup

With purchase of any entrée (except side & Kids' Menu) Good only at Mission Valley. One coupon per visit.

Not valid with any other offer. Dine-in or take-out only.

7710 Hazard Center Dr. #D







Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR



get a free cheese pizza any size



Free



### **Get 1 free** order of steak fries

with purchase of any large Philly Cheese Steak.

312 Ballantyne Street El Cajon 619-442-2036



Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDF



### Free bottle of water

Free bottle of water when you spend over \$3.50.

www.santanas.com



### 15% off entire check

Excludes catering and alcohol. With coupon. Not valid with any other offer

Solana Beach 3-481-FISH (3474)







\$5 off Any purchase of

\$20 or more Excludes beverages

WATAMI SUSHI



50% off entrée

Buy one entrée and get the 2nd for 50% off. 2nd entrée must be of equal or lesser value

**Miramar** 858-578-1468

Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR



Expires 12.24.09 · Coupon code: G1FSDR

Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR



Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

9978 Scripps Ranch Blvc Scripps Ranch

Reader December 17, 2009 Diego San

Soleil @k 660 K St., Downtown, 619-446-6088. The fare here is simple California cuisine that won't scare the conventioneers, but the outdoor dining patio is a nice spot for a light meal. Starters may include a seasonally available fried-calamari salad and crabby crabsticks. Moderate to expensive.

The Strip Club 340 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-231-3140. It's DIY grilling here; no minors admitted. You can take the USDA Choice steaks up a notch with spice blends and sauces. Other choices include burgers, chicken, ahi, shrimp, and kebabs. Inexpensive to

### Westgate Gourmet Delicatessen

Westgate Plaza, 1055 Second Ave., Downtown, 619-557-3698. This is where you take your Aunt Martha for a genteel lunch that looks ritzy, costs little. Best deal is the Friday cioppino a tomato-based soup filled with seafoods. Inexpensive.

### East Village

Broadway Pizza 1008 Broadway East Village, 619-232-6264. From a pizza slice to barbecue beef sandwiches to a Louisiana-style sausage-link subportions are generous if not exactly gourmet fare. Free neighborhood delivery. Inexpensive.

Dirty Del's 499 Tenth Ave., East Village, 619-677-3789. A cozy neighborhood watering hole near the ballpark has half a dozen tables and half a dozen sports screens, and serves big, interesting sandwiches. Inexpensive

East Village Tavern and Bowl 930 Market St., East Village, 619-677-2695. Big, noisy sports bar/bowling alley with creative pub grub until 2am nightly. Imagine three New York strip steaklets, caramelized onions, and melting Gorgonzola tucked into a Hawaiian sweet bun. Or try a Panino

Expires 12.24.09 · Coupon code: G1FSDR

Cubano or herb-brined chicken wings Inexpensive.

### El Cajon

Paipa's Oasis Sycuan Casino, 5469 Casino Way, El Cajon, 619-445-6002. The salad bar is surrounded by a Ushaped table laden with everything from peel-and-eat shrimp to baked cod to certified Black Angus prime rib. Moderate.

### Encinitas

The Bird House Grill 250 N. Coast Hwy. 101, Encinitas, 760-944-2882. Savory Turkish cuisine includes generous plates like Iskender Kebab (gyros, a.k.a. döner kebab with rice, tomato sauce, rich house-made yogurt) and kofte (ground meat kebab, rice, salad, pita, and tzatziki sauce). Inexpensive.

Firefly 251 N. El Camino Real, Encinitas, 760-635-1066. Spacious wine-bar/restaurant features exciting wine choices and wine-bar snacks. The most popular lunch item is the Cobb salad, and at dinner there's a bourbon-andmustard-brined pork tenderloin. Desserts and weekend brunches are strong suits. Moderate to expensive.

Firenze 162 S. Rancho Santa Fe Rd., Encinitas, 760-944-9000. Gorgeous rooms and outdoor patio, offering heaping platefuls of multiregional Ital ian cuisine (including two dozen meatselections) and affordable Italian and California wines. High-moderate.

**El Q'ero** 564 S. Coast Hwy. 101, Encinitas, 760-753-9050. The fare includes empanadas, tapas-like small plates, and full-size entrées - most from the family homeland, Peru. Be sure to try the house's chicha morada,

toppings \$1.25 each per

a tangy soft drink made from Peruvian purple corn. Moderate.

Saint Germain's Café 1010 S. Coast Hwy. 101, Encinitas, 760-753-5411. Not French, despite the name, but all-American. Omelets are the best-known dish — 14 three-eggers (or Eggbeaters by request). Sandwiches run to hearty American classics (including some veg gie choices). Inexpensive.

### Escondido

A Delight of France 126 W. Grand ondido, 760-746-2644 This French bakery is a delight indeed, offering authentic baguettes, brioches, quiches, and croissants, including true Parisian-style almond croissants studded with nuts and laced with almond paste. Inexpensive.

La Tapatía 340 W. Grand Ave., Escondido, 760-747-8282. Take a walk on the mild side at this family favorite, in business since the 1930s. You'll find standard Mexican fare done low-salt and healthy style in a comfortable dining room or, in good weather, a lovely, arbor-like stone walled patio, Moderate,

Vincent's Sirinos 113 W. Grand Ave., Escondido, 760-745-3835. French-born chef-owner Vincent Grumel serves Gallic cuisine of rich dark sauces robing fine ingredients, like a flavorful veal chop (no factory calf, that). Mushrooms and vegetables are the season's best and sensitively treated. Expensive.

### Golden Hill

Los Reyes 2496 Broadway, Golden Hill, 619-231-0716. Also 47th and Market, Chollas View, 619-262-6052. Regular Mex dishes served, but the soaring specialty is Seven Seas Soup, a big bowl of savory red broth clunking with giant crab legs, clams, fish chunks, shrimp, octopus, and vegetables. Inexpensive.

Turf Supper Club 1116 25th St., Golden Hill, 619-234-6363. Every night's an indoor cookout as patrons huddle by the communal fire-pit tending their steaks, burgers, chicken breasts, or portobello mushrooms. Inexpensive to moderate.

### Hillcrest

The Asian Bistro 414 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-296-4119. The adventurous Thai-accented pan-Asian menu is served until 3 am. Don't miss the Louisiana fried buster crab dish named Jumping Jarvis. Lunches inexpensive, dinners moderate.

Bite Bistro and Wine Bar 1417 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-2483. Modern Mediterranean tapas are most of the menu, cleverly cooked and assembled into interesting bargainprice early-bird dinners some weeknights. Individual dishes inexpensive to moderate, but they can add up.

**Busalacchi's Ristorante** 3683 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-298-0119. Nooks and crannies for liaisons dangereuses or there's the street-side casual level. Mainly Sicilian-style tomato-sauce-dominated dishes (like torta di melanzana, eggplant layered with mozzarella), but satisfying. Moderate to

Celadon 3671 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-297-8424. The entrées offer sauces (red curry, green curry, etc.) with your choice of protein, but go to the chef's specialty menu to find the rarest. Among the entrées, don't miss choo chee duck or the Queen of Thailand's favorite, pineapple fried rice. Moderate.

Chipotle 734 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-209-3688, Several San Diego

1231 Camir

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Del Mar 858-720-1168

locations. This chain that McDonald's acquired cleaves to the original vision: naturally raised tender meats in authentic marinades, including freshgrilled carne asada and carnitas. Rockbottom prices.

Islander Grill 3645 Park Bl., Hillcrest, 619-297-3929. Exotic food from Guam includes chicken kelaguen, a citric salad resembling ceviche and brilliant coconut shrimp. Stews are flavorful: The saucy pot roast is definitely not your mother's, unless Mom's from Guam. Inexpensive.

Khyber Pass 523 University Ave., crest, 619-294-7579. Fascinating Afghani cuisine. Don't miss the outstanding aushak (spring onion ravioli) and mantu (ground-meat ravioli) both with lively yogurt sauces — and zamarod chalow, a spicy lamb-andspinach stew. Moderate.

Sushi Itto 441 Washington St., Hillcrest, 619-291-6060. Also 409 F St., Downtown, 619-237-1037. This is Mexican sushi. Nearly all party rolls feature cream cheese and avocado; most include hot spice and some fake crab (surimi), too. Inexpensive.

Yakitori Yakyudori 3739 Sixth Ave. Hillcrest, 619-692-4189. Yakitori are Japan's little skewers of grilled or fried goodies, each marinated and/or garnished to flatter its nature - great for grazing. Chicken-skin salad, fried tofu, skewered pork with shiso, chicken heart, and octopus fritters are among the standouts. Inexpensive to moderate.

### **Imperial Beach**

Big Kahuna's 600 Palm Ave., Imperial Beach, 619-429-5224. A mini chain. but with true Hawaiian roots. Go for the baseball-mitt size Big Kahuna Burger or the Killer Kalua pork sand-— the pork comes straight out of

one free

Seaside

agurt

the imu, the traditional Hawaiian underground oven. Inexpensive.

### Kearny Mesa

Crab Hut 4646 Convoy St., Kearny Mesa, 858-565-1678. A local Vietnamese family runs this friendly, barebones eatery, specializing in Louisian-oid fried seafood and boiled seasoned shrimp, crabs, and crawfish. Inexpensive to moderate.

Pampas Argentine Grill 8690 Aero Dr., Kearny Mesa, 858-278-5971. Argentine specialties feature healthy. grass-fed, grilled beef, including an Americanized version (minus organ meats) of the gauchos' great parrillada mixta (mixed grill). Good beef empanada, potatoes. Moderate.

Sunrise Super Buffet 3860 Convoy St., Kearny Mesa, 858-715-1608. Apart from all the meats, fish, shellfish, lobster (on Sundays), and novelties like stuffed mushrooms, stuffed clams, and dragon rolls, raw oysters in their shells are a big draw. Beverages included in price. Inexpensive.

### Kensington-Talmadge

Bleu Bohème 4090 Adams Ave., Kensington-Talmadge, 619-255-4167. Classic French bistro, très chic but informal and noisy, emphasizes familiar favorites from the old-fashioned, French-in-America, bourgeois-cuisine restaurant repertoire. High-moderate.

### La Jolla

A.R. Valentien 11480 N. Torrev



From 2-6 pm daily. Free roll of

San Diego

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One coupon per table. Not

Carmel Valley

Downtown/Gaslamp

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# Calendar

ifornia cuisine emphasizing the natural flavors of in-season produce and top-quality meats and seafood; scenic setting. Very expensive.

The Cookie Lady Café and Bakery 7596 Fay Ave., La Jolla, 858-456-1640. It's soup-and-sandwich land, and good in both departments. A half-and-half of turkey sandwich (with real houseroasted turkey) and Italian wedding

soup will feed you all day for near

nothing. Inexpensive.

George's at the Cove — California Modern 1250 Prospect St., La Jolla, 858-454-4244. The California Modern dining room continues to serve Chef Trev Foshee's ambitious California cuisine based on seasonal ingredients and emphasizing wild seafood, local produce, naturally raised meats and poultry. Very expensive.

Harry's Coffee Shop 7545 Girard Ave., La Jolla, 858-454-7381. Downhome eatery with a pretty patio, where the ham, steak, and eggs is a favorite breakfast, as are Hot Creamy Oatmeal with strawberries, pecan pancakes, and thin, crisp waffles. For lunch, turkey burgers and the British Burger are popular. Inexpensive.

**Jai** 2910 La Jolla Village Drive/UCSD Campus, La Jolla, 858-638-7778. Chic Wolfgang Puck spinoff serves refined Asian fusion in beautiful woodsy set ting, and you don't need tickets to L.J. Playhouse to enjoy it - it's all pure, playful pleasure, Expensive.

Piatti Ristorante 2182 Avenida de la Playa, La Jolla, 858-454-1589. Reserve for the garden patio to avoid indoor din. Exquisite, creative Italian dishes include fine sweetbreads, ravioli al none, prosciutto-grilled romaine, and

key lime-raspberry tart. Moderate to expensive.

The Steakhouse at Azul 1250 Prospect St., La Jolla, 858-454-9616. The Brigantine chain's upscale branch offers surf 'n' turf with a sea view. Big, tender steaks, reliably well-treated seafood. Very expensive.

Zenbu 7660 Fay Ave., La Jolla, 858-454-4540. Sashimi and the simpler sushi are better here than the big party rolls. Don't miss the live local uni (sea urchin) served on its shell most weekends. Cooked fish entrées feature equally sparkling seafood. Upper-moderate to expensive.

### La Mesa

Antica Trattoria 5654 Lake Murray Bl., La Mesa, 619-463-9919, Exuberant Italian food in family-friendly atmosphere. NY expats will rejoice at cooking and hospitality to equal Manhattan favorites. Moderate (pastas) to slightly expensive

Ciao Bella Caffe Bar e Ristorante 5263 Baltimore Dr., La Mesa, 619-337-0238. Not your ordinary neighborhood Italian joint. Exciting dishes include Penne Ciao Bella (salmon, shrimp, and spinach in a light sauce), cartoccio (baked spaghetti with seafood) and San Remo pizza (with sunny-side-up eggs). Moderate.

GIO Bistro & Wine Bar 8384 La Mesa Bl., La Mesa, 619-462-9100. The vast garden patio is the main draw, however punishing the wiry patio chairs. The hit-or-miss menu of eclectic Cal-Ital-Asian-fusion offers "something for everyone" - but there's no "there" there. High-moderate.

Riviera Supper Club & Turquoise **Room** 7777 University Ave., La Mesa, 619-713-6777. This rambling roadhouse reincarnates the Turf Supper Club's DIY communal grill, adding side

dishes and desserts to the marinated raw steaks, portobellos, etc. Under 21 from 4 to 7 pm only; no reservations. Open late. Moderate.

Ye Olde Bicycle Place and Café 6792 University Ave., La Mesa, 619-582-4024. A bike museum with food offers tasty toasted panini and cold sandwiches. Inexpensive.

### Lemon Grove

Barnes Bar-B-Que 2625 Lemon Grove Ave., Lemon Grove, 619-462 9206 True Tennessee-style barbecue of meats and poultry slow-smoked tender over oak, plus mouthwatering Memphis-style soul food entrées and honest Deep-South sides. Inexpensive.

Taste of Polynesia 6937 Federal Bl., Lemon Grove, 619-466-6199, It's Samoan here, not Hawaiian, so be prepared for new stuff, like muli pipi (roasted turkey tail), oka (raw cubes of vellowtail with coconut milk), and corned beef with taro. Inexpensive.

### Little Italy

Fat City Steakhouse 2137 Pacific Hwy., Little Italy, 619-232-9303. In the Deco pink palace at the edge of downtown, the USDA Choice steaks (and one velvety Prime cut) are cooked over mesquite charcoal, which lends them a deliciously smoky flavor. Inexpensive to moderate.

Indigo Grill 1536 India St., Little Italy, 619-234-6802, Deborah Scott expands her original Native-American motif, with its focus on root vegetables, game, and roasted spices. Inexpensive to moderate, dinner moderate to expensive.

Pete's Quality Meats 1742-1/2 India St., Little Italy, 619-234-1684. Aficionados line up for Italian-sausage

sandwiches, steak sandwiches, and especially spitini - veal rolled around cheeses, onions, tomatoes, pine nuts, currants, parsley, prosciutto, and bread crumbs. Inexpensive.

Puerto la Boca 2060 India St., Little Italy, 619-234-4900. Uncompromised Argentine cooking here, emphasizing healthy grass-fed grilled beef but also lush seafood, pizzas, and lactovegetarian pastas. Starters include luscious beef or corn empanadas and the filling *matambre* (rolled beef galantine). Moderate.

### Logan Heights

Sister Pee Wee's Soul Food 2971-1/2 Imperial Ave., Logan Heights, 619-236-0470. The menu depends on what Sister Pee Wee feels like cooking. You might find big pork ribs with soulful sides or fried chicken or catfish fillet with trimmings or chitlins (her specialty). Inexpensive.

### Midway District

Country Kabob 3145 Rosecrans St., Midway District, 619-226-2524. Also 3375 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, 619-563-6300. The star of this reasonably priced Greek place is owner-chef Karim Latif. He's Afghan and learned Greek cooking in NYC. He always has specials, sometimes even "pay what you can." Re liable choice: Number 36, the kobeda kabob. Charbroiled. Inexpensive.

Fairouz Café and Gallery 3166 Midway Dr., Midway District, 619-225-0308. Seek out this family-owned restaurant for Lebanese and Greek food. The menu offers lamb, stuffed grape leaves, and exotic vegetarian meals, plus daily lunch and dinner buffets. Moderate.

### Mira Mesa

Buca di Beppo 10749 Westview Parkway, Mira Mesa, 858-536-2822. Additional locations in Carlsbad and Downtown. Try penne arrabiata with its spicy sausage or the chicken parmi-giana. Standard stuff in vast familyfriendly quantities, but you're having fun. Inexpensive to moderate.

### Mission Beach

Red Marlin Hyatt Regency Mission Bay Spa and Marina, 1441 Quivira Rd., Mission Beach, 619-224-1234. Blissful bay view, with hotel food enlivened by Chef de Cuisine Danny Bannister. Want Kurobuta pork medium-rare? He knows the secret. And his blue crab cake is all crab, minimal filler. Expensive.

### Mission Hills

Lucha Libre Gourmet Taco **Shop** 1810 W. Washington St., Mission Hills, 619-296-8226. Wonderful shrine to Mexican wrestling, plus really excellent tacos. It's a taco joint, but definitely gourmet. Quesotacos are a must. Book 24 hours ahead and you can be seated in the Champions' Booth, treated like El Rev.

Sausage King 811 W. Washington St., Mission Hills, 619-297-4301. The German couple who run this place make 34 sausages and luncheon meats. plus 10 smoked meats like turkey, beef, Westphalian ham, Black Forest ham, and even bacon. Inexpensive.

Starlite 3175 India St., Mission Hills, 619-358-9766. The California-Mediterranean cuisine features naturally raised meats, house-made pasta and sausages,

local produce. The Jidori chicken and Prime flat iron steak are knockouts; so is a toffee-chip ice cream sandwich. Nice back-patio seating. Moderate.

Venissimo Cheese 754 W. Washington St., Mission Hills, 619-491-0708. You can get a baguette-style sandwich stuffed with cow cheese, sheep cheese, goat cheese...fruity, moldy, runny, stinky... Any cheese in the house, same price: around five bucks. Even Boschetto cheese, with truffles in it. Inexpensive.

### **National City**

Asian Noodle 1430 E. Plaza Bl., National City, 619-477-5390. The main dish is Filipino-style chicken soup with egg noodles - a little bland, but filling. Siopao (stuffed steamed buns) make a good accompaniment - or try "sweet spaghetti." Inexpensive.

Birrias, Chivos & Cheves 2401 Highland Ave., National City, 619-477-7660. Goat is what you get here, and it's od. Guadalajara style. The taste is rich but not too gamey. Inexpensive.

Filipino Desserts Plus 2220-Q E. Plaza Bl., National City, 619-479-6748. The pride of the place is the desserts, from the *ube halea* (purple yam custard) and maja blanca (coconut-corn combo) to the sapin sapin (multicolored layer cake) and fried sweet saba banana on a skewer. Inexpensive.

### Normal Heights

Blind Ladv Ale House 3416 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, 619-255-2491. The amazing, ever-changing draft ales will bring you here, but the unusual pizzas will help you keep chugging. Original salads, too. Basic draw: the civilized craziness of the place.



# One free yogurt

With purchase of yogurt of equal or greater value. Not valid with any other offer

153 N. Highway 101 Solana Beach

Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR Desserted Island Yogurt & More



### Free lunch or dinner

With the purchase of any entrée of equal or greater value & 2 beverages. Up to a \$10 value. Not valid on holidays. One coupon per table. Not valid with any other offers.

10330 Friars Rd. #105 San Diego



Jade Thai Cuisine



### \$5 off

your purchase of \$25 .00 or more! Not valid with any other coupon. One per customer. Must bring original coupon.

12205 Scripps Poway Parkway #104 Poway 866-777-5064

Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR





# \$5 off

any purchase of \$20 or more Not valid on holidays or ds. Cannot be combined with any other offer.

5270 Baltimore Dr La Mesa

619-460-4423

THE OMELETTE FACTORY

Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

The Omelette Factory



### Free edamame or miso soup

With purchase of any entrée (except side & Kids' Menu) Good only at Scripps Poway. One coupon per visit.

Not valid with any other offer. Dine-in or take-out only.

10545 Scripps Poway #A Scripps Poway 858-536-1020



Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR



9254 Scranton Rd., Ste. 102

Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

\$1 off buffet

SHER # PUNJAB

Expires 12.24.09 · Coupon code: G1FSDR

San Diego

50% off Nigiri & Sushi rolls

23 Nigiri and 36 sushi rolls

9869 Carmel Mountain Rd San Diego SUSHIHANA 6

Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR



50% off frozen yogurt

Buy one, get the second of equal or lesser value at 50% off.

16588 Bernardo Ctr. Dr., Ste. 130 Rancho Bernardo 858-673-4204

Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

Vollerry



### A Taste of **Baja Bucket** for two \$19.99

With purchase of two beverages. Present to server at time of order. Not valid on to-go orders or with any other discounts or coupons.

See website for locations: www.rockinbaja.com



Free entrée Buv one breakfast, lunch o

dinner and get a second of

equal or lesser value free



\$10 off dinner Buy 2 entrées and 2 beverages

get \$10 off. One coupon per customer. Not valid on holidays

1441 Highland Avenu **National City** 



One free dinner

Buy one entrée with one alcohol beverage & receive a 2nd entrée FREE! Up to \$18.75 value. Limited to one coupon per table. Not valid with any other offer or on holidays.

471 Encinitas Blvd **Encinitas** 



Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

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Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR



Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

Pacific Beach

Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

Cantina Mayahuel 2934 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, 619-283-6292. Small room, short menu of fine, authentic mainland cooking including specials like complex house-made mole poblano and Oaxacan black mole, Chili Colorado (slow-cooked beef), or Yucatán seafood stew. Inexpensive.

Jayne's Gastropub 4677 30th St., Normal Heights, 619-563-1011. Clamorous interior, but you'll find sophisticated southern-European appetizers like hummus, fried calamari, and Spanishstyle shrimp with garlic. Entrées run to comfort food. Grazing dinners moderate, mains moderate to expensive.

### North Park

Alexander's 3391 30th St., North Park, 619-281-2539. A spin-off of Old Venice, serving neighborhood-style Italian with Greek touches, including interesting specials and imaginative thin-crust pizzas. Loud, bright interior; sweet, dim back patio. Moderate (pastas) to expensive.

Crazee Burger 4201 30th St., North Park, 619-282-6044. You'll find creative, made-to-order burgers from beef to buffalo, gator, and ostrich (delicious!), and even fish and veggies — each with its own individualized seasonings and sauce, plus salads, German sausages, bargain wines, and serious beers. Inexpensive to low moderate.

Hawthorn's Restaurant 2895 University Ave., North Park, 619-295-1688. When this Banker's Hill restaurant moved to new digs here, the change proved positive. Mediterranean-influenced menu choices are fewer but better, with seasonal locally grown vegetables matched to the individual entrées. Expensive.

**Heaven Sent Desserts** 3001 University Ave., North Park, 619-793-4758. Cookies, tarts, pies, custards, puddings, and intricate cakes and ice cream fantasias. The style is rich and often fancy with choices ranging from American favorites to ethereal Euro-style elaborations. Inexpensive.

Marie's Café 3016 University Ave., North Park, 619-220-0142. Old-time diner serving generous portions. Try the three-egger breakfast omelet with Italian sausage, avocado, and olives. If Erik's smokin' up some ribs (you'll smell them half a block away), grab them. Inexpensive.

### Ocean Beach

Livingston's Chicken and Mexican Grill 5026 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach, 619-224-8088. "Broasted" chicken — pressure cooked in oil — is tastier and less greasy than standard fried chicken. Or try garlicky "potato Jo-Jo's," a California burrito, or pork salsa verde plate. Until midnight weekdays; 2am weekends. Inexpensive.

Ocean Beach People's Organic Foods Co-Op Deli 4765 Voltaire St., Ocean Beach, 619-224-1387. Virtuous, mainly vegan-prepared dishes include garlic eggplant with beet and onions, tempeh loaf, sweet squash and rice, millet spinach bake, veggie shepherd's pie, "mango madness." Inexpensive.

### Oceanside

Ruby's Diner 1 Oceanside Pier, Oceanside, 760-433-7829. Additional locations in Carlsbad and Mission Valley. Ruby's is part of a themed '40s-diner chain. Red-leatherette-and-chrome booths, white walls, portholes, old Coca-Cola signs, and that view to Hawaii. Good-sized servings — try their omelets. Open daily. Inexpensive.

### Old Town



**El Agave** 2304 San Diego Ave., Old Town, 619-220-0692. Serious Mexican food highlighting mainland regional cuisines, including five different Oaxacan moles (plus a sixth from Chiapas). Moderate.

Jack and Giulio's Italian Restaurant 2391 San Diego Ave., Old Town, 619-294-2074. The traditional Italian entrées like yeal parmigiana and fettuc-

294-20/4. The traditional Italian entrées like veal parmigiana and fettucine Alfredo are there, but go for house specialties like Spaghetti New Orleans with shrimp, crawfish, and crabmeat, or the scampi dishes. Moderate.

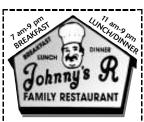
### **Pacific Beach**





Serving great burgers for 32 years! 3786 Ingraham St. 858-273-9140 Bare Back Grill 4640 Mission Bl., Pacific Beach, 858-274-7117. Also 624 E St., Downtown, 619-237-9990. The Kiwi owners guarantee healthy, hormone-free, organic beef and lamb from New Zealand — mainly in burgers, from grass-fed organic beef burgers to lamb burgers with wasabi dip. Inexpensive.

**Broken Yolk Café** 1851 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-270-9655. Additional locations in Chula Vista, Carlsbad, and Downtown. Breakfasting P.B.ers love this place for the sundeck, the 26 different four-egg omelets



BREAKFAST ALL DAY

# \$2 OFF

### Any Menu Entrée

\$6 or more. Good for up to 4 people. Excludes specials. Not valid on holidays. Dine-in only. Expires 12/30/09.

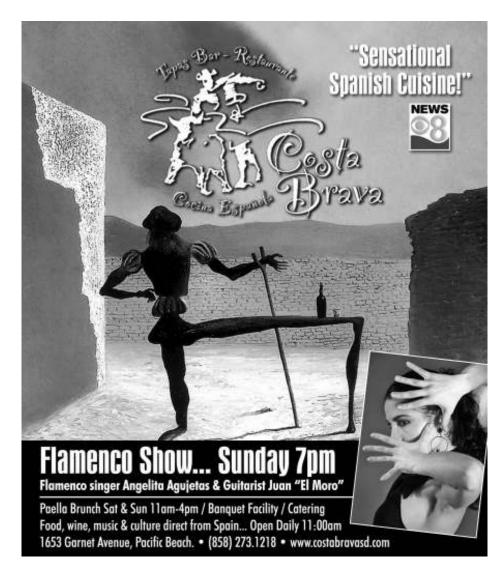
Beer • Wine Pies • Ice Cream

3 EGGS
3 PANCAKES \$ 49
3 BACON or SAUSAGE

619-291-8239 • North Park 2611 El Cajon Boulevard www.johnnysr.com







### Christmas Holiday Lunch Buffet Torreyana Grille Restaurant Christmas Day 11 am to 5 pm

### Free-Flowing Champagne

### Soups

Autumn squash-and-pumpkin soup • Artisan rustic breads with butter

### Salads

Field greens with raspberry vinaigrette and pepper-cream dressing Hearts of romaine and radicchio, Caesar dressing • Classic Waldorf salad • Holiday fruit ambrosia Farfalle-and-vegetable salad • Carrot-raisin-pineapple salad • Assorted fresh seasonal fruit Grilled vegetables with roasted red pepper aioli

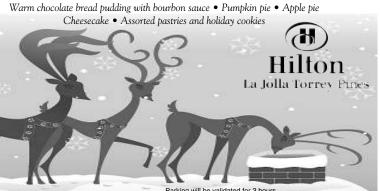
### Entrées

Carving Station: Prime Rib and Ham

Roasted turkey with apple-walnut dressing • Cranberry compote and giblet pan gravy
Orange-glazed yams with marshmallows • Roast loin of pork with port wine-peppercorn sauce
Salmon medallions with champagne-herb cream

Southwestern grilled skirt steak with ancho BBQ glaze • Mashed red-skin potatoes Orange-scented rice pilaf • Fresh fall vegetables with shallot butter

### Dessert



Adults: \$35 Children 5-12: \$14 Parking will be validated for 3 hours.

All reservations must be held with a credit card. Guests who do not wish to purch the buffet may order off a limited menu in the Lounge or from Room Service.

10950 North Torrey Pines Road • La Jolla, CA • 858-558-1500

For Reservations Call: 858-450-4504

(which you can split with your partner, no extra charge), and the challenge of omelet #27. Inexpensive.

Gringo's 4474 Mission Bl., Pacific Beach, 858-490-2877. This noisy, popular indoor-outdoor venue is better than its name implies, with fresh, skillful cook ing of slightly dumbed-down, gentled Mexican cuisine like you might find in Cabo or Puerto Vallarta, Moderate,

JRDN 723 Felspar St., Pacific Beach, 858-270-5736. Beachfront dining room and patio, with dishes covering the waterfront, ranging from mac 'n' cheese to die for to a sexy, fruited gazpacho to swoon over. Chic, relaxed atmosphere, great grazing, youngish crowd. Entrées

Joe's Crab Shack 4325 Ocean Bl. Pacific Beach, 858-274-3474. Additional locations in Mission Valley Oceanside, and Downtown. Buckets of crab or fried or grilled seafood in rau-cous, kid-friendly atmosphere. Inexpensive to low-moderate

Latin Chef 1142 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-270-8810. Peruvian and Chinese-Peruvian cuisine cooked with rare, authentic ingredients, including canchitos (special toasted corn kernels) to nibble instead of bread. Outstanding anticuchos (heart kebabs) and refreshing ceviches. Friendly owner gladly explains the food. Inexpensive.

Sushi Ota 4529 Mission Bay Dr., Pacific Beach, 858-270-5670. This renowned sushi bar offers pristine seafood, perfect tart-sweet rice, tight wraps, and disciplined creativity. And beauty, of course, like the sashimi of a whole small Spanish mackerel bent into the shape of a swelling sail. Moderate to expensive.

Rum Jungle Smoothies and Deli 4150 Mission Bl., Pacific Beach, 858-273-2227. Rum Jungle Smoothies serves up *açaí*, the flesh of a Brazilian palm nut, for breakfast, adding your choices of granola, banana

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strawberries, blueberries, mango pieces. Inexpensive.

### Pine Valley

La Posta 32337 Old Highway 80, Pine Valley, 619-478-5600. Old West atmosphere, vintage American food including hefty anytime breakfasts (bulging omelets, chicken-fried steak with eggs). Their burgers are big, their chili is legendary, and the dinner ribeye steak can make city folks swoon. Inexpensive.

### Point Loma

The Pearl 1410 Rosecrans St., Point Loma, 619-226-6100. The fare is California-eclectic and emphasizes grazing with local produce and sustainable meat and fish. Candied pork belly, "deconstructed" shrimp nachos, wings du jour, and salmon with skin are among the hits. Moderate.

Red Sails 2614 Shelter Island Dr., Point Loma, 619-223-3030. Vintage waterside eatery serves seafood and steaks of uneven quality. Start with clams on the half-shell or clam chowder. Coconut shrimp entrée is a good, guilty pleasure; finfish fare less well. Lowmoderate.

Roseville 1125 Rosecrans St., Point duck. Expensive.

Loma, 619-270-9670, Northern Italian cuisine with Asian-fusion touches like a sea bream carpaccio with lychees. The chef cooks from scratch with mainly local or organic ingredients, including Brandt beef. Pastas moderate, entrées Tender Greens 2400 Historic Decatur Rd., Point Loma, 619-226-6254. This "healthy food" chain features great soups, desserts, and local, organic produce served cafeteria style with or without mesquite-grilled natural beef, freerange chicken, or local tuna in salads or ciabatta sandwiches. Inexpensive.

Umi Sushi 2806 Shelter Island Dr. Point Loma, 619-226-1135. Japanese and Korean entrées such as teppanyaki (cooked in the kitchen) chicken/ seafood/beef, Korean ribs, and excellent beef teriyaki. Sushi highlights include lemony ama ebi, rich garlic tuna, and spicy Crazy Boy "krab" roll. Inexpensive to moderate.

### Ramona

**Kountry Kitchen Ramona 826** Main St., Ramona, 760-789-3200. They still open at 5am for the farmers. Try the Italian Sausage breakfast, a sausage with a rich, sharp flavor, with eggs and hash browns. Or the Cowpoke Country Special, a buttermilk short stack with eggs and sausage or bacon. Inexpensive.

### Rancho Bernardo

El Bizcocho 17550 Bernardo Oaks Dr., Rancho Bernardo, 858-675-8550. This deluxe resort restaurant features cutting-edge French and Asian (but not exactly fusion) dishes made with fresh, superb local ingredients and modern "molecular" techniques, producing flavor explosions to thrill culinary adventurers. Very expensive.

The French Market Grille 15717 Bernardo Heights Parkway, Rancho Bernardo, 858-485-8055. At this romantic restaurant with elegant indoor dining or a charming garden setting, the menu offers classic Gallic dishes, but ingredients and execution can be inconsistent night to night. Moderate.

Hunan 16719 Bernardo Center Dr., Rancho Bernardo, 858-487-8131. This family restaurant serves the cuisines of

two spicy Chinese provinces, Szechuan and Hunan, de-spiced for SoCal suburbanites. Tea-smoked duck, eggplant Hunan-style, and shredded potatoes with pickled vegetables are tasty. Inexpensive.

Pearl Chinese Cuisine 11666 Avena Pl., Rancho Bernardo, 858-487-3388. Authentic Hong Kong cuisine, beautiful setting. Daytime dim sum in-cludes irresistible Shanghai soup dumplings. Dinners range from folk food to "gold cup" dishes. Try the sea bass with pine nuts. Moderate, with some expensive specialties.

### Rancho Santa Fe

Rancho Valencia 5921 Valencia Circle, Rancho Santa Fe, 858-759-6216. Every bite from appetizer to dessert is prepared and presented to delight Californians, the French...actually, anyone with taste buds. Enjoy an entrée of Prime mesquite-grilled steak, fresh fish, veal, or chicken. Very expensive.

### San Marcos

Fish House Vera Cruz 360 Via Vera Cruz, San Marcos, 760-744-7346. Also 417 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad, 760-434-6777. On a recent day, 23 different fresh fish selections were available as daily specials, on top of the regular menu. The Manhattan chowder is tasty, as is their "krab" salad. Moderate.

### Santa Ysabel

The Hideout Steakhouse and Inexpensive to moderate.

### Solana Beach

California Pizza Kitchen 437 S. Coast Hwy. 101, Solana Beach, 858-793-0999. Additional locations in Mission Valley, Carmel Mountain, University City, Vista, Chula Vista. The Original BBQ Chicken Pizza, the chain's first hit, is their top seller. It has barbecue sauce, smoked Gouda and mozzarella cheeses, BBQ chicken, red onions, and cilantro. Inexpensive to moderate.

Beach Grass Café 159 S. Coast Hwv. 101, Solana Beach, 858-509-0632. Also 1476 Encinitas Bl., Encinitas, 760-942-2741. Imaginative breakfasts are the specialty (reservations vital on weekends). Lunches and dinners feature uneven multiethnic "coastal cuisine" with good veggies. Moderate to slightly expensive.

Fidel's Little Mexico 749 Genevieve and 607 Valley Avenue (two entrances), Solana Beach, 858-755-5292. Old-line place where the Del Mar race crowd goes for a "safe" Mexican experience. Yet, alluring. Look for happy hour deals. One fat taco will almost fill you up. Inexpensive to moderate.

Nobu Gourmet Japanese Restaurant 315 S. Coast Hwy. 101, Solana Beach, 858-755-7787. The friendly sushi bar of our local, not-famous Nobu offers fine classic sushi and sashimi, or settle into a booth for a standard Japanese dinner. Try monkfish liver pâté and chawan mushi (egg custard) soup. Mostly moderate; some delica-

Samurai Japanese Restaurant 979 Lomas Santa Fe Dr., Solana Beach, 858-481-0032. The sushi is ultra-fresh, and the friendly chefs make their compositions look beautiful. Also Japanese dinners, special *kaiseki* meals, and a *tep*pan room. Mostly moderate; kaiseki

cies expensive.

Tony's Jacal 621 Valley Ave., Solana Beach, 858-755-2274. Try the La Colonia combination: just about anything with rice and beans. Turkey meat is big

and some teppan items expensive.

here, and the (real) crab quesadilla is delicious. Inexpensive.

Zinc Café & Market 132 S. Cedros Ave., Solana Beach, 858-793-5436. Vegetarian menu offers dishes like frittata with cucumber salsa, and baked eggplant "pizzette" (personal-size pizza) with marinara, mozzarella, and Parmesan. The vegetarian chili and the Zinc veggie burger are tasty, too. Inexpensive.

### Sorrento Valley

Corner House Café & Pizzeria 11815 Sorrento Valley Rd., Sorrento Valley, 858-755-3183. You lunch outside in country-style gardens, hidden inside a glossy business park. Sandwiches reign: try the Ironman (chicken, avocado, cheese) or Sorrento's Choice (turkey, cream cheese, sunflower seeds). Sophisticated pastas, too. Inexpensive.

### South Park

Big Kitchen 3003 Grape St., South

Loma, 619-450-6800. Chef Amy DiBiase invokes French classics but with twists and local produce, e.g., asparagus subbing for frisée in a bistro salad with pancetta and egg or flawless duck confit that's France's answer to Peking

**Solare Ristorante Lounge** 2820 Roosevelt Rd., NTC Promenade, Point

**Saloon** 27413 Highway 76, Santa Ysabel, 760-782-3656. Colorful historic roadhouse draws Harley-riding weekend day-trippers. Cheeseburgers are the default dish Available are a "Texas-sized baked potato," salad, and squaw bread.

Park, 619-234-5789. Judy "the Beauty" Forman presides over this highly social scene of big healthy breakfasts and lunches, including from-scratch waffles, muffins, omelets and scrambles, vegan choices. Inexpensive.

Vagabond 2310 30th St., South Park, 619-255-1035. Eclectic bistro fare, French-based but with ever-changing global menu. Don't miss the moulesfrites or the deep-flavored Peruvian seco de carne meat stew. Noisy when full. Moderate.

### Southcrest

Sang Dao 4212 National Ave., Southcrest, 619-263-0914. Family-run Laotian restaurant offers delicious, exotically spiced catfish, BBQ beef, som tum (papaya salad), and especially the spicy minced meat salad called *larb*, the national dish. Inexpensive.











### **Spring Valley**

Ranas 9683 Campo Rd., Spring Valley, 619-589-1792. Mexico City-style menu includes unexpected taste combos, like pollo en salsa de cacahuate (Thai-tasting chicken in peanut sauce) and Aztec *huarache* (cactus with potato, cheese, lettuce, sour cream, and salsa). Inexpensive.

### **Tierrasanta**

Bud's Louisiana Café 10425 Tierrasanta Bl., Tierrasanta, 858-573-2837 Authentic NOLA favorites cooked by a friendly native, including good okra gumbo and fine roast beef po' boys to eat in or to go. The white-chocolate bread pudding is a masterpiece. No reservations; no tables for more than six. Low moderate.

### **University City**

Apollonia Greek Bistro 8650 Genesee Ave., University City, 858-455-1535. Sister restaurant — Café Athena - in P.B. With a more upscale eye-catching decor and a longer and more serious menu than most Greek cafés, this is a popular destination. Inexpensive to low-moderate.

Café Japengo 8960 University Cen ter Lane, University City, 858-450-3355. Chic scene where men with Bentleys and glam gals nibble above-average sushi and Asian fusion, especially on jam-packed Thursday nights. Best bet: e on appetizers and creative party rolls. No reservations for sushi bar, so come early. Very expensive.

Donovan's Steak and Chop House 4340 La Jolla Village Dr., Uni

versity City, 858-450-6666. Classic steakhouse atmosphere and menu, with traditional appetizers, wet-aged Prime beefsteaks gas-grilled to order (with potato and vegetable included). Sauces are extra, and a side of creamed spinach is worth its price. Very expensive.

Great Khan's Mongolian Festival 4545 La Jolla Village Dr., University City, 858-678-0950. This chain serves one big, fresh meal. Stuff your raw meat and yeggies into your bowl and hand it to the chef to braise on the huge hot plate, and add noodles. Inexpensive

P. F. Chang's China Bistro 4540 La Jolla Village Dr., University City, 858-458-9007. Additional locations in Mission Valley and Chula Vista. The decor at this busy Chinese chain (130-plus restaurants) is fun; the food is mainly mediocre, but the massive Great Wall of Chocolate dessert will knock you over. Moderate.

Venice Ristorante Italiano 4365 Executive Dr., University City, 858-597-1188. Refined northern Italian dishes include an antipasto assortment, lush pastas, and airy gnocchi, while non-clichéd entrées including duck breast with pistachios and veal rack with porcini mushrooms. Long happy hour in bar with deep discounts, otherwise upper-moderate to expensive.

### University Heights

Brians' American Eatery 1451 Washington St., University Heights, 619 296-8268. Open all night on weekends, and late night is a scene. But for many, breakfast is the thing: Charbroiled top sirloin with eggs and potatoes is a Saturday morning treat. Inexpensive.

European Market & Deli 4135 Park Bl., University Heights, 619-298-8661. The most popular lunch at this Greek deli with a patio is lemon-roasted chicken, but if you love lamb, Paul's Special - Fridays and Saturdays - is the way to go. (They do offer lamb sandwiches daily.) Inexpensive.

Farm House Café 2121 Adams Ave., University Heights, 619-269-9662. At this charming spot in a near-rural corner of the central city, chef-owner Olivier Bioteau serves rustic but sophisticated French cuisine, including creative chocolates for dessert. Dinner moderate, brunch inexpensive to moderate.

Mama's Bakery and Lebanese **Deli** 4237 Alabama St., University Heights, 619-688-0717. The round Lebanese oven cooks flat bread (sajj) that goes with baba ghanoush (eggplant dip) and *fool madamas* (fava and garbanzo stew). Must-haves include beef shawerma wrap, falafel wrap, and savory meat pie. Inexpensive.

Soltan Banoo Persian Eatery & Tearoom 4645 Park Bl., University Heights, 619-298-2801. Try the pome granate soup or the strawberry tabbouleh salad. Ghourmeh sabzi is a lamb stew. Koufteh-Berenji is a ball of basmati rice with lamb, eggs, onions, and plums. Inexpensive.

**El Zarape** 4642 Park Bl., University Heights, 619-682-1652. This stylish little restaurant is proof that not all taco shop food is equal — try a shredded beef or chicken taco or tostada with generous mounds of juicy, slow-cooked meat, or scallop burritos or well-pre-pared soups. Inexpensive.

### Valley Center

Fiore's 777 Harrah's Way, Valley Center, 877-777-2457. The casino's most upscale restaurant offers luscious Angus steaks and numerous seafood entrées. For lighter eating there's an oyster bar attached. Best attraction: the long, adventurous wine list. Moderate oyster bar; upper-moderate to very expensive in restaurant.

# **Boathouse Christmas Dinner** Friday, December 25th 12pm-8pm

•Traditional Turkey Dinner for just \$19.95 • Slow Roasted Prime Rib for just \$22.95 •Honey Baked Ham for just \$17.95 • Plus much more from our Holiday Menu

Christmas Eve Special Thursday, December 24th after 5pm Live Maine Lobster Dinner \$11.95

·Beautiful Water Front Dining

New Year's Eve Specials

Thursday, December 31st after 5pm \*Live Maine Lobster Dinner \$19.95 Slow Roasted Prime Rib \$22.95



Boathouse Restaurant • 2040 Harbor Island Drive 619-291-8011 • www.boathouserestaurant.com Across from Airport | Plenty of Free Parking **Now Accepting Reservations** 





\$1 off buffet

Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

9187 Clairemont Mesa Blvd

San Diego



50% off yogurt

Buy one, get 50% off the 2nd cup. 2nd must be equal o less than 1st cup.

12010 Scripps Summit Dr., Ste. B Scripps Ranch



Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR



50% off entrée

Buy one entrée with 2 beverages and receive a second entrée at 50% off

6625 Flanders Dr. San Diego

Expires 12.24.09 · Coupon code: G1FSDR



Boston Sports Cafe



Thurs.-Fri. 9:30 am-2:30 pm

Closed Mon.-Wed. **Pacific Beach** 858-274-2233

Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR



Free

**新型中** 



Fig Tree Cafe



### One free entrée

equal or greater value and two beverages. Dine-in only. Not valid with any other offer.

149 S. El Camino Rea Encinitas 760-635-9020

Expires 12.24.09 · Coupon code: G1FSDR



Free entrée

Breakfast, lunch, or dinner. With purchase of another entrée of equal or greater value and two beverages. Valid anytime, one coupon per table, one coupon per customer. Cannot be combined with othe specials. Present coupon before ordering.

10757 Woodside Ave Santee 619-258-5557

CASA NUEVA

Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR



## One free lunch

chase of another lunch item and two drinks

1688 S. Melrose Dr. Vista 760-727-2212

Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1ESDR

Labob Cuiches

Kabob Cuisine



### 1 free order of breadsticks

(\$2.99 value.) When you buy 3 or more pizzas.

9430 Mira Mesa Blvd., Ste. 50 Mira Mesa

PIZZA 🛞 DEPOT

Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR



## 50% off any menu item

With purchase of an entrée and two beverages. Good for both dine-in and take-out. Excludes seafood BBQ & specialties. Not valid with any other offer

12378 Poway Road, Ste. C

Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR





# 50% off

Carmel Valley

Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR



burger

Buy any burger and get a second burger of equal or lesser value for half off. Valid at San Diego



**Free** special roll

Buy one special roll and get a second of equal or lesser

Expires 12.24.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR Convoy Sushi & Fish Market



3805 Plaza Dr.

One free entrée Up to \$10.99. Purchase

beverages and receive one 2855 Midway Dr adult entrée of equal or lesser value free

Sizzler Expires 12.24.09 · Coupon code: G1FSDR

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# Calendar

### THEATER LISTINGS

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

#### **An American Christmas**

The Lamb's Players turn the Hotel del Coronado's Grand Ballroom into a celebration of Christmas a hundred years ago. The Marshall family welcomes guests, entertains, and feeds them a five-course meal. 619-437-0600.

HOTEL DEL CORONADO, 1500 ORANGE AVE., CORONADO. 6:30PM THURSDAYS, 6:30PM FRIDAYS, 6:30PM SATURDAYS, 6:30PM SUNDAYS, 6:30PM MONDAYS, 6:30PM TUESDAYS, 6:30PM WEDNES-DAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 27.

### **Bonnie and Clyde**

The Frank Wildhorn/Ivan Menchell musical won't erase memories of the 1967 movie, but on its own terms it's a most promising world premiere. In many ways, the musical turns the movie inside-out: the book develops many characters in detail, the women in particular. This egalitar-



Bonnie and Clyde

derful Blanche turn West Texas twang into a kind of music. Neither Stark Sands nor Laura Osnes is a Hollywood star, yet. Their obvious talent and antsy, youthful energy provide motives where the script just offers labels. Their first song together, "The World Will Remember Me," could be prophetic. Critic's pick.

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, 2910 LA JOLLA
VILLAGE DR., UCSD. 858-550-1010.
8PM THURSDAY, 8PM FRIDAY, 2PM AND
8PM SATURDAY, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAY,
THROUGH DECEMBER 20.

A Christmas Carol

Jonathan McMurtry playing Ebenezer Scrooge has become a holiday tradition in itself. I've seen several, and his current ver-

sion at North Coast Rep ranks among my favorites. Scrooge begins as a withdrawn curmudgeon. He doesn't bark his "bah, humbugs" in pseudo-comic fashion; he utters them like curses cased in steel. In Jacqueline Goldfinger's 90-minute script, his words haunt him almost more than his three spectral visitors. And when

Scrooge returns to life, McMurtry

works a wonder: he becomes the happiest child on earth. The production has loose spots (especially unmotivated movement), and the Cratchitts' costumes aren't distressed enough. On the plus side, Von Schauer shines in several roles (doomed Jacob Marley, in particular), as does Alexis Rae Tenney as Tiny Tim, and Chris Luessmann's sounds, from street noises and bells to creepy vocal warpings, are first-rate.

Worth a try.

NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. 8PM THURS-DAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM WEDNES-DAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 27.

### A Christmas Carol: A Julian Holiday Tradition

Julian Stage Company and the Julian Chamber of Commerce present the popular story of a hard-hearted old man and "one haunted Christmas Eve."

JULIAN TOWN HALL, 2129 MAIN ST., JULIAN. 760-765-1857. 7PM FRIDAY, 7PM SATURDAY, 1:30PM SUNDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 20.

### A Christmas Carol: The Musical

Welk Resort Theatre presents the popular holiday tale, set to music by Alan Menken.
WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860
LAWRENCE WELK DR., ESCONDIDO.
888-802-7469. 1:45PM AND 8PM
THURSDAYS, 1:45PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 1:45PM SUNDAYS, 1:45PM AND
8PM TUESDAYS, 1:45PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH JANUARY 3.

# Dr Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

The Old Globe Theatre stages its annual Christmas show, in which the Green Meanie (played this year by Jeff Skowron) tries once again to hoodwink Whoville. Benjamin Endsley Klein directed.
OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623.
7PM THURSDAYS; 7PM FRIDAYS; 11AM, 2PM, AND 8PM SATURDAYS; 11AM, 2PM, AND 5PM SUNDAYS; 7PM TUESDAYS; 7PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 27.

### The Eight: Reindeer Monologues

Compass Theatre's fundraiser is "a dark, dark Christmas comedy," in which one of Santa's reindeer accuses him of sexual harassment. Jerry Pilato directed.
COMPASS THEATRE, 3704 SIXTH AVE., HILLCREST. 619-688-9210. 7:30PM
THURSDAY, 7:30PM FRIDAY, 7:30PM
SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 20.

### **Hansel and Gretel**

Lyric Opera San Diego presents Engelbert Humperdink's musical, based on the children's fairy tale. LYRIC OPERA SAN DIEGO, 2891 UNIVER-SITY AVE., SUITE 1, NORTH PARK. 619-239-8836. 2:30PM SUNDAYS, OPEN-ENDED RIN.

### I Do! I Do!

The star of the Old Globe's musical is the new Cheryl and Harvey White Theatre. Based on its inaugural show (state-of-the-art lighting, yoms and other entrances, a rounded architectural look), it looks to become the Cassius Carter of the 21st Century. The 1968 mu-



ian take demystifies the story but

Parker embrace crime simply be-

cause her "Short Order World"

songs range from rockabilly to

gospel, and the cast sings them

with vocal authenticity. Wearing

Tobin Ost's accurate costumes,

Mare Winningham's rock-solid

Emma, Claybourne Elder's under-

Sheriff (though he verges on cigar-

cially Melissa van der Schyff's won-

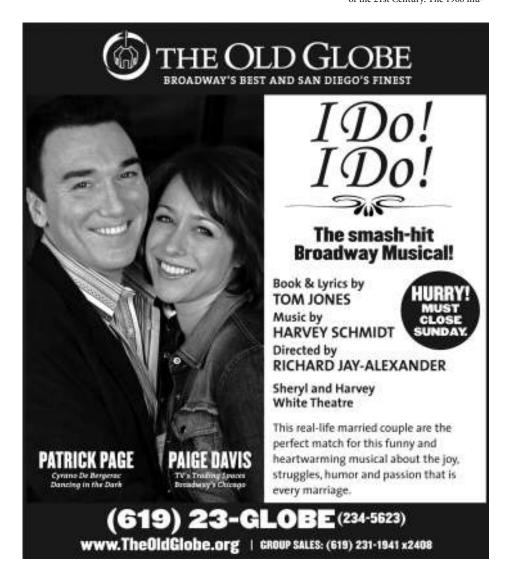
developed Buck, Wayne Duvall's

chomping stereotype), and espe-

slights the central pair (did Bonnie

bored her to tears? Was Clyde just a

recidivist?). Wildhorn's memorable



Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! and how it's being made disap-

pears. Along the way, the show's a

treat, especially Scott Paulson's in-

genious sounds, made from un-

likely objects, and Tom Andrew's

CYGNET THEATRE - OLD TOWN, 4040

7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS,

3PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM AND

7PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM WEDNESDAYS.

La Pastorela de los Padres

cara Magica's popular Christmas

show, along with Lucifer (who's

guests include the Wild Things,

In this year's version of Teatro Mas-

happy about the Wall Street crash),

TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN, 619-337-1525.

Craig Noel Award-winning per-

formance as George

THROUGH DECEMBER 31.

Worth a try.

sical, however, is as dated as the theater is new: fifty years of marriage in which - except for an infidelity that gets swept under the rug - nice things happen to nice people (and when troubles threaten, the pair recovers, again and again, with a near-miraculous sense of due north). Patrick Page and wife Paige Davis charm as Michael and Agnes, who evolve from virginal newlyweds to septuagenarians in two and a half hours. Director Richard Jay-Alexander and choreographer James Kinney faced a strategic dilemma. I Do! I Do! demands the feel of a dance throughout — on a small stage dominated by a four-post bed. Page and Davis move around the tight space as if the obstacles didn't exist. Worth a try.

SHERYL AND HARVEY WHITE THE-ATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 8PM THURS-DAY, 8PM FRIDAY, 2PM AND 8PM SAT-URDAY, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 20

### It Had to Be You

Broadway Theater concludes its 2009 season with Renee Taylor's

"fairy-tale fantasy" about how Theda Blau, unemployed health nut, takes charge of her life. BROADWAY THEATRE 340 FAST BROADWAY, VISTA. 760-806-7905. 7:30PM THURSDAY, 7:30PM FRIDAY, 7:30PM SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 20.

### It's a Wonderful Life

Due to popular demand, Cygnet Theatre has extended the run of its annual holiday show. In this staged version of the movie, 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 prompts him to abandoned his dream for those of 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,

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Only at the NCR box office day of show beginning at noon. 987 Lomas Santa Fe Dr., Suite D Solana Beach www.northcoastrep.org 858-481-1055 With valid student ID only. No other discounts apply.

G.I. Joe, and Michael Jackson Willima Virchis directed. LYCEUM THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN, 619-544-1000, 7:30PM THURSDAY, 7:30PM FRIDAY, 2PM AND 7:30PM SATURDAY, 2PM AND 7:30PM

### Lamb's Players Festival of Christmas

For its 32nd annual holiday show Lamb's offers a new script, by Kerry Meads, and some truly inventive arrangements of yuletide favorites and lesser known songs, by Ion Lorenz, Taran Grav, and Leonard Patton (so inventive, in fact, that Lamb's has made a CD). The economic crunch threatens Penny Lane, a recording studio directly under a railroad track. The story includes a homeless wise man (Nathan Peirson), a Sleepless in Seattle tryst (David Cochran Heath and Sandy Campbell), and other believable characters for whom hope is a genuine need. The situation builds drama but also provides built-in — as opposed to tacked-on — occasions for the music. Singers rehearse new ideas. The result's often a freewheeling spontaneity (polished underneath, of course) that gives the songs — like Lorenz's excellent "Away in a Manger" done as a country waltz - a fresh, experimental flavor.

### Worth a try.

LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 OR-ANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-437-0600. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRI-DAYS, 4PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 6PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM TUES-DAYS, 7:30PM WEDNESDAYS. THROUGH DECEMBER 27

### **National Comedy Theatre**

The National Comedy Theatre presents a 100-minute improv comedy show based completely on audience suggestions. The show is "appropriate for all audiences." NATIONAL COMEDY THEATRE, 3717 IN-DIA ST., MISSION HILLS. 619-295-4999. 7:30PM AND 9:45PM FRIDAYS. 7:30PM AND 9:45PM SATURDAYS OPEN-ENDED RUN.

### The New Century

Neither the playwright nor the Diversionary Theatre production knows how to conclude this other

wise funny play about seeing through stereotypes. Three-fourths of Paul Rudnick's piece is character-driven, stand-up comedy. A trio of eccentrics (if only seen from afar) blister one-liners as they describe lives with much more in common than appears on the surface: Helene, mother of three "nontraditional" children: Mr. Charles, the world's gayest man; and Barbara Ellen, a Midwestern crafts expert/fetishist (who "wears polyester without irony"). Rudnick assembles them for a final scene that, try as he might to will a meaningful result, feels forced. The journey, however, is often a treat. Though some monologues could use more spontaneity (taking out pauses for starters), Dana Hooley, Phil Johnson, and especially Jacque Wilke as Barbara Ellen turn comedy into touching confessions. Though the design elements are minimal, Jennifer Brawn Gittings's costumes are extraordinary, in particular her



Festival of Christmas

### Worth a trv.

DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BLVD., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, 619-220-0097, 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRI-DAYS, 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH JANUARY 2.

### The Santaland Diaries

New Village Arts stages David Sedaris's comedy about an out-ofwork actor who gains employment, at Macy's, as a Santaland elf. NVA says, "This dose of holiday cheer is not recommended for children.' Kristianne Kurner directed. NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787-B STATE ST CARLSBAD 760-433-3245 8PM THURSDAY, 8PM FRIDAY, 3PM AND 8PM SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 23.

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1/2 Bayou **Brothers** 

**MATINEES 4 PM** 

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\$5 \$5

**UPCOMING SHOWS:** 1/27 Alyssa Jacey **Album Release** 1/29 Stepping Feet 1/30 Atomic Punks 2/3 Rhett Miller & The Serial Lady Killers

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2/5-6 The English Beat

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yanoo.com or cail 619-583-3022.

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CAREGIVERS. Home Instead Senior Care needs compassionate, dependable people to provide non-medical help, personal care and homemaker services to seniors in their homes. Must have 1 year verified experience, valid licence, vehicle, and insurance. Central/East County San Diego. 619-433-6200. or www.homeinstead.com/190.

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continued from page 12

Desai does not only have to buy a new home, he's going to have to buy a new business."

By Mindy Vansant, 12/10

### **Quiet Trains**

**Thirteen Intersections Affected** 

Downtown San Diego —

Frustrated by delays, about 50 representatives of businesses and homeowners' associations met at CityFront Terrace condos on December 8 to campaign for construction of the long-proposed quiet zone along the downtown railroad tracks.

CITY LIGHTS

Quiet zones require improved safety precautions, allowing train operators to forego most of the horn-sounding. Efforts to establish a quiet zone in downtown San Diego began in the 1990s. While quiet zones are increasing throughout the country, the San Diego effort is considered the largest in the U.S., with 13 street intersections affected.

If/when completed, the quiet zone would extend



Downtown's Santa Fe train depor

from Laurel Street to Park **Boulevard in the East Vil**lage. The current effort (which began in the 1990s) was targeted to be completed in 2007 and is now

projected to be done by 2011.

At the meeting, Centre City Development Corporation chairman Fred Maas said the City of San

Diego's downtown redevelopment arm has over \$18 million to fund the project: maintenance costs are estimated at \$80,000

By Kevin Northcraft, 12/10

### Comments

1. My wife and I recently spent a week in Seattle at the Edgewater Hotel. Freight trains passed right outside the hotel day and night, but not one sounded their horn. The crossing was no different from the ones we have in San Diego, it was possible

to walk across the track anywhere. The only difference was a sign saying No Horn. I think we are being sold a crock here in San Diego!

> By Burbclaver 1:02 p.m., Dec 12

### **Preemptive Scorch**

**Not-So-Veiled Threat** 

to Police

*Tijuana* — **Approximately** 30 police trucks were torched by a group of armed arsonists early Tuesday morning, December 8. The newly equipped vehicles were located in a

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Mazda agency on Via Rapida Poniente and were being prepared for use in the city to bolster cop convoys that prowl the *calles* looking for criminal activity.

According to a dealership guard (who was bound and held at gunpoint under threat of death during the arson), windows were broken and the interiors of the vehicles were doused with gasoline and set aflame.

An investigator for the Colegio de la Frontera Norte, Vicente Sánchez,

said that the destruction of the patrol units was a not-so-veiled threat sent to law-enforcement officers who have taken to patrolling the city in convoys of three and four vehicles in an attempt to protect themselves.

CITY LIGHTS

Sources: Frontera, El Mexicano

By T.B. Beaudeau, 12/10 **Comments** 

1. Are there that many people out there who really care what happens in nasty Tijuana?

> By abbeyrd 6:37 p.m., Dec 10

2. There is a large readership here in nasty Tijuana, abbeyrd. Feel free to not be one of them. You should ignore all stories about nasty Tijuana and concentrate on your clean, pristine, perfect world wherever in the hell you live.

> By refriedgringo 7:47 p.m., Dec 10

### **All Hail Hueso**

**But About the Deficit...** Downtown San Diego — San Diego city councilmembers unanimously agreed to reappoint council pres-

ident Ben Hueso to another term during the December 7 council meeting. Fourth District representative Tony Young backed **Councilmember Todd** Gloria's motion for reappointment without discussion as to any other potential nominees.

After the motion, the issue moved to public comment, where half a dozen residents spoke in favor of Hueso's appointment.

Not all residents were in support of Hueso, however. "When Mr. Hueso

announced his intention to run for council president a year ago, I felt that he was ill-prepared and unqualified. Having watched him very closely this year, my biggest concerns have proven to be true," said resident Phil Hart. For Hart, the biggest issue is Hueso's unwillingness to manage the city's mounting deficit, one that Hart claims to be as much as six billion dollars once the pension fund, city employee retireadded together.

"[Hueso] has not helped this city, he has made this city worse during this fiscal crisis," added Hart from the podium.

By Dorian Hargrove, 12/9

### \$21 Million **Firehouse**

**Pacific Highway and** Cedar

Downtown San Diego — In a public hearing held on Monday, December 7, the San Diego City Council and San Diego Redevelopment Agency approved

continued on page 126

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\*www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/education/cps2006.html (See Table 8) \*\*Certifications/licenses may require additional study and cost. † Offered fully online by Stevens-Henager College® Salt Lake City/Murray, an affiliated college.

continued from page 125

the use of tax increment funding from the Centre City and Horton Plaza **Redevelopment Agency** Area for the planning, design, and construction of the Bayside Fire Station.

The station will be erected on the southeast corner of Pacific Highway and Cedar Streets and across the street from the **County Administration** Building.

"We have a critical problem downtown because of the railroad

tracks," said Cory Beckwith, vice president of San Diego Firefighters Local 145 as he spoke at the city council meeting.

CITY LIGHTS

The project is estimated at \$21.5 million and is expected to be paid for by downtown redevelopment funds. The target completion date is early 2013.

By Nathaniel Uy, 12/9

### **Thanks, Grinch**

**Toys Robbed on Home Avenue** 

City Heights — About a hundred families live at the Hollywood Palms

**Apartment Complex on** Home Avenue; a real-life Grinch broke into a storage area at the complex sometime this week and made off with bags of

Xochiti, a community leader who had been collecting the toys, stated, "I'm not sure what I'm going to do." The gifts were meant for more than 100 children of the complex; 25 of the families, according to Xochiti, have parents who have lost their jobs.

News of the theft was

posted on the Craigslist website on Thursday, December 10, and Xochiti reports that "People have been coming in the rain bringing us things."

By Peter C. Salisbury, 12/13

### **Sandstony Cliffs** of Sunset

**How to Avoid Erosion** Point Loma — The December 7 meeting of the Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Council was canceled due to storm-related power outages in the Point Loma area.

On the agenda was a

presentation by city associate engineer Paul Jacobs. Jacobs was to update the park council on the "comprehensive drainage study" performed in advance of further development of the park.

At the next meeting, Jacobs will present more than one solution for erosion control in the park. Sunset Cliffs' soft sandstone is highly susceptible to erosion.

The three major causes of erosion in the park are storm runoff from uphill development, upslope

landscape irrigation seeping through the ground, and uncontrolled pedestrian foot traffic.

By Stephen Scatolini, 12/8

### **All for Facades**

**Carlsbad Store Owners Get Subsidy** 

Carlsbad — The city council on December 8 approved funds for the Village Storefront Improvement Grant Program.

The dollar-for-dollar grant program allots Carlsbad Village business owners a maximum of \$15,000 for materi-

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By Nathaniel Uy, 12/13

### **Brutal John**

**School Cuts Aired at Mission Bay High** Pacific Beach — During a December 9 meeting at the Mission Bay High School auditorium, Bill Kowba, interim superintendent for the SD Unified School District, addressed budget cuts: "\$183 million has been cut in the last two budget

years. Eighty million to \$100 million in cuts is needed to balance next year's budget. By March, by code, we have to make decisions about layoffs."

CITY LIGHTS

Teachers squirmed in their seats. District C board member John de Beck asked the audience, "How many of you came with an idea of a cut we should make?" About 20 people raised their hands. Next he asked, "How many have an idea that would negatively affect your children?" No one

raised his hand.

De Beck added, "I'm known for being brutally honest, so I have to tell you, I want to hear what you have to say...but by the time we are making a decision at a board meeting, it doesn't matter what you are going to say because we already have our decisions made.... My philosophy is to cut across the board. If I have to choose between cutting your kid's favorite program, give vouchers, or cut salaries, I will make cuts

across the board."

By Carolyn Grace Matteo, 12/13

### **Let There Be Light**

**Adams Avenue Bridge Gets Juice** 

Kensington — Some residents claim the 16 light posts along the Adams Avenue bridge over Interstate 15 were never connected to the grid when the bridge was built back in 1960. Superintendent of San Diego's street division Gary Gobel says that's not true, that they did work at one time. Since then a blown transformer has rendered them inoperable, leaving the main route between Kensington and Normal Heights illuminated only by the headlamps of cars.

CITY LIGHTS

In October, residents banded together after the Kensington/Talmadge Planning Committee's monthly meeting to resolve the issue. Days after the meeting, Kensington denizen Margaret McCann sent an email to councilmember Todd Gloria's office.

"The lack of lighting

constitutes a safety hazard," read McCann's email. Gloria's office forwarded the issue to street division superintendent

By December, McCann once again emailed councilmember Gloria and Mr. Gobel, this time to thank them for fixing the lights.

By Dorian Hargrove, 12/12

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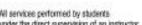
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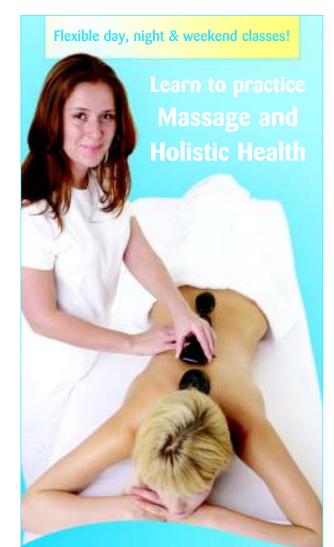
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BASIC

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Aww. I hate

Seventy-sever

Seventy-eight.

I hate to

will be enough to make them stop.

Al weekend, nothing but

> Um, you're repeating yourself.

And yet in all bearing "that,"

If you can't stop the story, and you can't

emove yourself from the situation, try

Line maybe the

number of times

someone says

the word bored?

Yes I have.

Yeah, the that.

to find some entertainment in it.

I was so bored I started

You ever been so bored you

tarted counting stupid things?

ting the beer commercials

bored

was so bored

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If subtlety doesn't stop the boring story,

You've painted me a

vivid more picture of your appalling boredom

It's as if I'm

there, bored

with you.

Neither had h

And now you're

telling me about it.

that bored.

The most important thing is to remembe

the experience and try not to bore

Sire was telling a boring story about

being bared! If was baredow squared!

But this is

n interesting

story Because! THOS SO

2 properly

S bored.

I hate to hear that.

people yourself in the future.

25

try making your hints increasingly

rious and hard to ignore.

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2) Be one of the first 125 people who

submit the correct answers to one of the puzzles and we will print your name in the paper along with your brief message (10 words or less, no URLs or phone numbers). Entries must include a message. This is a great way to express yourself. You may submit a new message weekly. We reserve the right to edit or reject inappropriate text. 3) The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year!
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. Submissions by e-mail must be attached in JPG format, 800 by 800 pixels, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed.

weekly to contenders chosen ran-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

2) Late entries will not be considered.

### **Across**

- 1. Budget-managing exec.
- 4. Not quite right
- 7. Rapper who appears in "Monster's Ball"
- 13. Abstract art pioneer Jean
- 14. Exhausted
- 16. Cry from Speedy Gonzales
- 17. Enjoyed doing
- 19. Trampled

- 20. Hostess'
- 21. Cashah wear
- 23. Marc Anthony's wife, familiarly
- 24. "Telling the same old story, I see"
- 30. Fireplace accessory
- 31. Pres. nicknamed "Rubbers" due to his interest in family planning
- 32. Summer baby
- 33. Shouts of surprise
- 35. Broad scarf
- 39. The Wildcats of the Big 12 Conf.
- 40. Doomed
- 43. From left to right: Abbr.
- 44. \_\_\_\_ crow flies
- 46. Solomonic
- 47. RR stop
- 48. Director Lee and others
- 51. Doesn't stay in the bucket
- 53. 1962 Cary Grant movie
- 57. "In what way?"
- \_ Aviv
- 59. Twilight, to Tennyson
- 60. Beethoven's Third
- 63. "That's so last year" ... and a sentiment echoed by the starts of 17-, 24-, 40and 53-Across
- 68. Last name of four of the ten richest Americans, according to Forbes
- 69. Sheet of stamps
- 70. It's bottled in Cannes
- 71. Words on a "greatest hits"
- 72. Poker haul
- 73. 560, on a slab

### Down

- 1. Urban ride
- 2. It may get you slapped
- 3. Unfurled
- 4. "Memoirs of a Geisha" sash
- 5. Wetland
- 6. Trans \_\_\_\_

- 7. Seder serving
- 8. Bruin legend Bobby 9. "Seats sold out" sign
- 10. "\_\_\_\_ Ever" (1960 Elvis Presley song)
- 11. Stopping place in a Carlo Levi title
- 12. Swing at a fastball and miss, sav
- 15. Vegan's protein source
- 18. "Me neither" 22. Non-vegan's protein
- source \_\_ blue streak
- 25. Like water or wind 26. Start of a pirate's chant
- 27. "... \_\_\_\_\_, you noblest English!" ("Henry V")
- 28. Familiar with
- 29. "Pygmalion" monogram
- 34 Darn
- 36. Rang people up?
- 37. Occurring every other leap year, say
- 38. "East of Eden" family name
- 41. Drop a line?
- 42. Where the Nobel Peace Prize is awarded
- 45. It may be cocked
- 49. Failed the exam
- 50. Good name for a trial lawyer?
- 52. Hook go-with?
- 53. "Dawson's Creek" net work
- 54. Greek goddess trio 55. They're off-base
- 56. YouTube offering
- 61. Old comm. giant
- 62. Pigeon's sound
- 64. Gas station purchase
- 65. Artist Yoko
- 66. Dog doc
- 67. The best man may be in it

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# We cannot accept your entry without the following: Address: Neighborhood/City: \_\_\_ Zip Code: Circle T-shirt size: L XL Personal Message: \_\_\_

### **SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:**

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### THIS WEEK'S CONTENDERS:

indicates T-shirt winner.

**Woody Anderson, Carmel** Valley, 11. The Point Loma Nazarene Choir really Handeled the Messiah! Evelyn Bowser, Hillcrest, 11.

Love to Eric Joseph Ciprian, Little Italy, 11. Stupid sadistic and suicidal- the

three S's William Cushing, Rancho Bernardo, 11. Happy Birthday, Sister Ann

Ellie Hoey, Spring Valley, 11. /

Ron Meyer, Santee, 11. Jessica's birthday is almost hear! Happy birthday- luv ya

Douglas Meyers, La Mesa, 11. I caught the swine flu - I can't catch a break

Jim Odell, Vista, 11. Mankind messy but too puny to affect the

Michael Panther, Point Loma, 11. Poor John Burridge Janie Redmond, Cardiff, 11. Holy crap. Jakev Biop 12-10 Jerry Riccio, Rancho

Bernardo, 11. Difference between Santa and Tiger? Santa stops at 3 hos Thelma Strickland-Hicks, Del

Mar, 11. Hey Greg, your Soiona Roofing Company is the best,

### Ric Witt, Clairemont, 11. Eliminating unfilled jobs is not a

budget cut

Lucy Alderson, Chula Vista, 10. IMHO- Everybody is better

with a good dog friend! Mary Arana, Encinitas, 10. Best wishes to Maurice and Ree!

Thomas Baggot, Carlsbad, 10. Chargers can beat the Cowboys! Leslie Chase, Campo, 10. Tis the season to be jolly orange

D. Faulkner, University Heights, 10. Ride your bike all the Ron Hootman, Santee, 10.

Hoot 101 Tis the season to be giving.

Lots of needy this year Michael McGriffin, Bay Park, 10. We need term limits for US

### Susan Morfey, Little Italy, 10. Guidos! What a riot! Who knew

about the Jersey Shore John Pertle, Santee, 10.

Romans 3:21-28; 4:1-8; 5:6-10 Bill Pischke, Ramona, 10.

Orange glows in December Bob Vollmar, La Jolla, 10. God bless us everyone!

Ken A., Ocean Beach, 9, Read your tabloids you stupid stone throwers Glen and Tesi Chavira-

Cournoyer, Chula Vista, 9. Billy Elliot and Memphis were great Manny Faria, Point Loma, 9. Pooh, our boo is get so big! Love

Iggie Guerrero, Bay Ho, 9. Happy birthday Bunny Babuchka Jacque Glick, El Caion, 9. Merry Christmas to all

Sunny Nelson, El Cajon, 9. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

Clinton Smith, La Mesa, 9. John- What a way to communicate! Ron Akers, Sabre Springs, 8. Happy 21st birthday shelzers. Love, Dad

Dennis Beabout, Temecula, 8. Jesus is the reason! Maria Coda, Oceanside, 8. Hi

Al! Thanks! John L. Drehner, North Park, 8. In 1887 walks in baseball counted as hits

George Elam, Vista, 8. Glad for the rain but don't need the chill Phyllis Grant, San Diego, 8. That was a poser

B.J. Lundquist, San Diego, 8. Happy Holidays Duane Tremaine, East Village,

8. Where Alph, the sacred river ran

through caverns measureless Thomas Diehl, Escondido, 7. Karen, so dear to me... love you,

love your three! Marty Ferullo, Pacific Beach, 7. Missing that warm sunny weather

Joseph Gold, San Diego, 7. Tiger more power to ya! Judge not! Sean Holt, Ocean Beach, 7. Admit

it Dustin The Stealers rule! 6 rings Joe Musser, Encinitas, 7. Eauity will not aid a volunteer

Jay Sato, Carmel Valley, 7. Berrvface can never eat Pinaree

and Twissel! Dave Small, San Carlos, 7. Reader t-shirts rock

### THIS WEEK'S CONTENDERS CONTINUED:

indicates T-shirt winner.

James C Nelson, El Cajon, 6. Go Chargers!

Dorothy Kruse, Carlsbad, 5.

Took a while on this one

D. Schick, Oceanside, 5. Seasons greetings to all!

Lisa Torrescano, Spring Valley, 5. Don't go away mad, just go

away John C. Pipes, Lemon Grove,

4. OMG Obama=mobel excuse me?

Misty McDaniel, Lakeside, 4. WhatevIII

F.A. Nalu, El Cajon, 4. Let it rain! Let it rain! Let it rain!

Julie and Jacqueline Angelini, University Heights,

4. She said "yes"! Thank you Heather, Robert, David and SD Reader

Mira Santos, San Diego, 3. Again

Kerry Cook, Bay Park, 2. A

joint effort, CF, JC, KC, SK

Walter Deegan, San Diego, 2. To the love of my life, My wife Cheryl

Robert Ott, Mira Mesa, 2. Back to the future

Ron Pollack, Encinitas, 2.

For April, Ben, Michelle and Ivan Derek "Turtle" Anderson,

San Diego, 1. Hey Mike , did you solve the "evil" sudoku puzzle

Jim Chris, San Diego, 1.

San Diego women! Lenny Thompson and I are staging a comeback! Vikki Hoots, Pacific Beach, 1.

Merry Christmas Casie, Jacob, and Alanna, love you

Jennifer Vukinich, El Cajon, 1. Feliz navidad!

### **NATURAL HEALTH** & FITNESS

ALL PORCELAIN CROWN, \$450. Filli starting at \$75. Porcelain veneers, \$740. Simple extractions, \$95. New patient exam/ consult, \$45, X-rays included. Joseph Tucker, D.D.S., is now accepting Joseph Tucker, D.D.S., is now accepting new patients. Emergencies and walk-ins welcome. Now with expanded hours: Open Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Discounted menu for cash patients. Now accepting PPO insurance. Comprehensive experience in Endodontics, Fixed Prosthodontics, Oral Surgery and Implant Placement. Root canals, extractions including wisdom canals, extractions including wisdom teeth, removable and fixed prosthodontics. 5210 Balboa Avenue, San Diego 92117 (west of Rite-Aid at

Balboa and Genessee). 858-279-3455.

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COLONICS. La Jolla Colon Hydrotherapy, in La Jolla 17 years. Let us be your personal fountain of youth Liver Detox. Lymphatic Decongestive Therapy. Cellulite. Organic Facials and Waxing. Detox Spa of La Jolla, 7946

Ivanhoe Avenue, #202, La Jolla. 858

DETOX SPA OF LA JOLLA. Natural and effective. Let us be your personal fountain of effective. Let us be your personal fountain of youth! Liver/ Gallblader Detox. De-Congestive Lympathic Therapy. Permanent Cellulite Reduction. 17 years in La Jolla. Cove Wellness, 858-551-9228. www.detoxspaoflajolla.com.

EMERGENCY DENTISTRY. Walk-ins EMERGENCY DENTISTRY. Walk-ins and emergencies welcomed. Open Weekends. Expanded Weekday Hours! New patient exam/ consult \$45, X-rays included. Discounted menu for cash patients. PPO dental insurance accepted. All porcelain crowns, \$450. Implant crown, \$740. Porcelain veneers, \$740. Simple extractions, \$95. Fillings starting at \$75. \*Promotional offers cannot be used in conjunction with insurance.

GREAT DANE/ PITBULL MIX. Loving sweet 4- year- old to right home. 80 pounds, loves long walks/ swimming/ snuggling/ fetching. Experienced owner/

ITALIAN MASTIFF PUPPIES Champion

(Cane Corso) puppies. 3 available. 2 males, 1 female. \$1500 each. Call 858-

KITTENS/ CATS. La Costa Petco. 3239

KITTENS/ CATS. La Costa Petco. 3239
Camino De Los Coches, 92009. MondaySaturday 9am-9pm; Sunday until 7pm.
Interact with kitties Saturday 9am-1pm;
Sunday 10am-2pm; most weekday
evenings. Fee includes spaying/
neutering, vaccination, microchip, more.
Photos/ locations: www.rescuehouse.org.
KITENS/ CATS. Encilitas Petco. 154

Photos/ locations: www.rescuehouse.org

KITENS/ CATS. Encinitas Petco. 154
Encinitas Blvd., west of I-5. MondaySaturday 9am-9pm; Sunday until 7pm.
Interact with kittles Saturday 9-11am, 57pm; Sunday 9-11am, 4-6pm; most
weekday early mornings/ evenings. Fee
includes spaying/neutering, vaccination

includes spaying/neutering, vaccination, microchip, more. Photos/ locations: www

KITTENS, CATS. Lission Valley Petco. 10310 Friars Road/ Mission Gorge. Monday-Saturday 9am-9pm; Sunday until 7pm. Interact with kittles Saturday/ Sunday 1-3pm; most weekday evenings. Fee includes spaying/neutering, vaccination, microchip, more. Photos/locations: www.rescuehouse.org.

locations: www.rescuenouse.org.

KITTENS / CATS. La Mesa Petco. 8501
Fletcher Parkway, 91942. MondaySaturday 9am-9pm; Sunday until 7pm.
Fee includes spaying/neutering,
vaccination, microchip, defleaing, more

Photos/ locations: www.rescuehouse.org.

yourseiters welcome! Maintenance and installations, commercial and residential available. Since 1988. Ask about free delivery! 1975 Jamacha Road, Rancho San Diego. Fall hours: Monday-Saturday, 10am-5pm, Sunday, 11am-4pm. 619-441-9275.

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Comprehensive experience in Endodontics, Fixed Prosthodontics, Oral Surgery and Implant Placement. Root canals, extractions including wisdom teeth, removable and fixed teeth, removable and fixed prosthodontics. Joseph Tucker, D.D.S., 5210 Balboa Avenue, San Diego 92117 (west of Rite-Aid at Balboa and Genessee). www. BalboaDentist.com. 858-279-3455.

FACIAL TREATMENT PACKAGE. \$57— Facial Combo. Free back facial with every purchase! Perfect for the that little black dress! To schedule an appointment: 619-327.0908 facialbliss@att net

SST-0006, Richalbseattiffer FANIE SKIN CARE. Holiday Special: Up to 38% off on 3 Body Contour Wraps! Facials and Waxing also available. Organic, botanical products for people of all ages. No synthetics, animal fats, waxes, glycolic acids or perfumes. Heals the skin, not perrumes. nieais die and, .... seals it! Karie Hayden & Associates, 975 Hornblend, Suite D, San Diego. 858-581-3321. www.kariehayden.net.

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LOSE INCHES IN HOURS: Iono-Trim. Just in time for the holidays! 20% discount with mention of this ad. Sean Daneshmand, M.D., FACOG. Ageless & Beautiful Medical Spa. Call 888-281-7635.

Call 888-281-7635.

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www.DrAmes.net, click on Ultra Lite.

www.DrAmes.net, click on one a line.

NEW TAI CHI and Qi Gong classes begin Monday, January, 11, 2010. First class is free. Visitors welcome. Taoist Sanctuary, 4229 Park Boulevard, San Diego, 92103, 619-692-1155 or www.taoistsanctuary.org.

Clinic. Tightens, hydrates, rejuvenates the skin. Micro-dermabrasion with tightening facial masque, regularly \$100, now \$75. First-time clients only; expires 12/31/09. Fanie botanical products. No synthetics, animal fats, waxes, glycolic acids, animal fats, waxes, glycolic acids, perfumes. Also facials and Body Contour Wraps, non-fluid inch loss for men and women. Karie Hayden & Associates, 858-581-3321. KarieHayden.net.

WHEELCHAIR, Pronto Electric, never used. Cost \$4400. New, sacrifice, \$3500/ best offer. All operating instructions. East County. 619-561-2460.

### **PARENT RESOURCES**

WINTER CAMP. Starting 12/21/09-12/31/09. Ages 5-12. Arts and Crafts, Sports, Field Trips, Indoo games, etc. SD Youth Camp. Allied Gardens Recreation Center, 5155 Greenbrier. 619-235-1129; 619-274-4530.

### **WEDDING & PARTY GUIDE**

AZUL PRODUCTIONS. Creative services for your special occasion. Photography, videography, DJs and event coordinators for all occasions! We offer affordable, high quality services for every budget. Serving all of San Diego. www.azulproductions.com, 619-246-0915 or 760-224-8287.

BRIDAL BAZAAR. Sunday, January 31, 2010. San Diego Convention Center. 10am-4pm. Over 250 exhibitors with everything for your wedding. Info,

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### MAGNIFICENT YACHT WEDDING. Premiere Yacht Charters. Romanti

memorable wedding/ reception on board luxury sailing/ power yacht. Gorgeous sunset backdrop! Catering, video, music, etc. available. PremiereYachtCharters.com. 619-410-5222.

### **STAGE NOTES**

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# PET CENTRAL

AQUARIUM SALE at Octopuss Garden. 20H aquarium, \$20; 29 for \$29; 40R, \$40. Even a 60E is just \$60. Other tank specials also. Lots of healthy saltwater fish and beautiful corals. Protein skimmers. Lighting systems, pumps, decorations and supplies at low prices at Octopuss Garden. Noon-9pm, 7 days.

AQUARIUMS AND PONDS! Freshwater/ AQUARIUMS AND PONDS! Freshwater/ saltwater fish. Extensive reef animals. 9000 square feet. Low warehouse prices! Expertise not found in Southern California cookie-cutter stores! Aquatic Warehouse. 5466 Complex Street #204, San Diego. Behind Superior Courthouse, off Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. www. aquaticwarehouse.com. Daily, 10am-7pm. Saturday, 10am-6pm. Sunday, 11am-6pm. 858-467-9297.

BENGAL LEOPARD babies. Mild side of wild. Spectrally beautiful. International Cat Association registered. Jacob sheep babies from Israel found in Genesis 28-30. North County, 760-724-9316.

### Dog Daycare/Nights

9911 MissOliviasDoggiePlaytime

BUY/SELL/TRADE reptiles, amphibians, turtles, tortoises, snakes, lizards. Largest reptile selection in Southern California. Voted #1 in San Diego. Pet Kingdom, 619.2924.2841 619-224-2841.

CATS / KITTENS. Petco on Morena. 1210
West Morena Blvd., 92110. MondaySaturday 9am-9pm; Sunday until 7pm.
Interact with kitties Saturday 11am-1pm;
Sunday 4-6pm; most weekday evenings.
Fee includes spaying/neutering,
vaccination, microchip, more. Photos/
locations: www.rescuehouse.org.

CATS / KITTENS. Clairemont Mesa
Petco. 3994-A Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
(Clairemont Town Square). MondaySaturday 9am-9pm; Sunday until 7pm.
Interact with kitties Saturday 3-5pm;
Sunday 4-6pm, most weekday evenings.
Fee includes spaying/neutering,
vaccination, microchip, more. Photos/
locations: www.rescuehouse.org.

CATS / KITTENS. Mira Mesa Petco. 8290

CATS / KITTENS. Mira Mesa Petco. 8290 CATS/ KITTENS. Mira Mesa Petco. 8290 Mira Mesa Blvd./ Carnino Ruiz. Monday-Saturday 9am-9pm; Sunday until 7pm. Interact with kitties Saturday 11am-1pm; Sunday 4:30-6:30pm; most weekday evenings. Fee includes spaying/ neutering, vaccination, microchip, more. Photos/ locations: www.rescuehouse.org.

CATS/ KITTENS. Carmel Mountain Petco. 11160 Rancho Carmel Dr. (I-15/56 and Carmel Mountain Rd.) Monday-Saturday 9am-9pm; Sunday until 7pm. Interact with kitties Saturday 2-4pm; Sunday 12-2pm; most weekday

Sunday 12-2pm; most weekday evenings. Fee includes spaying/ neutering, vaccination, microchip, more ations: www.rescuehouse.org.

CHIHUAHUA, Mix. neutered, 2 years, 11 pounds, white, Docile, happy, loves attention. All white. Had jaw fracture, all recovered. No young kids. \$150. 619-

DOWNTOWN WALKER/ SITTER. Dog walking and pet sitting office located downtown. Five years' experience. Serving all areas in minutes! Marty or Trinity, 619-212-2887.

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# 4pm. 619-441-9275. LOST CAT. Black, long haired, male. 2-1/2 years. Last seen Thursday, 11/19, at Del Rey Street between Glendora/Rosewood in East Pacific Beach. Purple collar with bell. ID tag: Baba, 313-618-5317. Microchipped. Contact Raquel. Reward. LOST DOG. Small, 7 pounds, all white terrier mix. Female. Was wearing a pink sweater. Last seen: 1200 block of Washington Avenue, El Cajon. Name: Sookie. Dawn, 619-715-6950. Sookie. Dawn, 619-7 13-0500. **LOVE BIRDS**, adorable, tame, sweet babies, very playful. Only a few months old. Looking for loving homes. \$20 each. 619-222-1516. sandiegolovebird@aol.com. MINIATURE PINSCHER, neutered, 1 year, all brown, very sweet, playful. No young kids. Needs a playmate that can take his rough play. \$100. 619-466-0426. MISSING DOG. Name: Abbie. 3 years. Female miniature schnauzer. Gray/ white black around eyes, brown feet. Docked tail. Left ear points down. \$1000 reward. 616-261-3555.

PEKINGESE MIX, white, fluffy, 12 pounds, 1 year, neutered, playful, sweetie, not a barker. Older kids OK. Another dog OK. Had eye surgery, doing fine. \$150. 619-466-0426.

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Reader December 17, , 2009

# **Another Chance for Fame and Glory!**

### THE READER SUDOKU PUZZLES:

### RULES OF THE GAME

1) Submit one completed puzzle of any difficulty level (Easy, Medium, Hard or Evil) to the *Reader* each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete and the results are posted online at sandiegoreader.com. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.

2) Be one of the first 125 people who submit the correct answers to one of the

puzzles and we will print your name in the paper along with your brief message (10 words or less, no URLs or phone numbers). Entries must include a message. This is a great way to express yourself. You may submit a new message weekly We reserve the right to edit or reject inappropriate text.

3) The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year!

4) Entries must be faxed to **619-233-7907** or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803, or delivered through our mail at 1703 India Street in Little Italy, or scanned and e-mailed to:

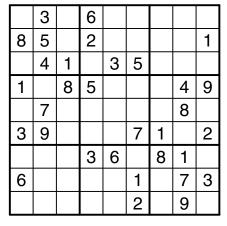
Sudoku@sdreader.com. Submissions by e-mail must be attached in JPG format, 800 by 800 pixels, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed.

- 5) 10 Reader T-shirts are awarded weekly to contenders chosen randomly!
- 6) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided
- 7) Late entries will not be considered.
- 8) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
  9) Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible

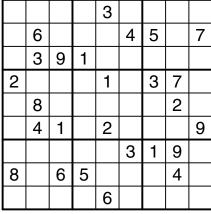
### **EASY:**

			1		6			3
6	3	2		4	9	8		
		1		3		4		
9		7			1		8	4
			3		8			
2	8		9			7		6
		8		6		9		
		5	4	1		6	2	8
3			8		5			

### **MEDIUM:**



### HARD:



### **EVIL:**

5				8		6	3	
1	7							8
				2				
7			4	6	9			
		5				7		
			8	5	7			3
				4				
9							6	5
	2	3		7				9

### We cannot accept your entry without the following:

Name: Address:

Neighborhood/City: \_ \_Zip Code: \_

Circle T-shirt size: L XL

Personal Message: \_

### **SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLES:**

7	9	8	6	4	2	5	3	1
4	2	3	5	7	1	9	6	8
6	1	5	9	3	8	7	2	4
3	4	6	2	8	5	1	7	9
1	5	9	4	6	7	2	8	3
2	8	7	3	1	9	4	5	6
5	7	4	8	9	3	6	1	2
8	6	2	1	5	4	3	9	7
9	3	1	7	2	6	Я	4	5

### **MEDIUM:**

4	7	3	1	2	9	8	5	6
1	8	6	5	4	3	9	2	7
5	2	9	8	7	6	1	4	3
6	5	4	3	9	1	2	7	8
8	1	7	6	5	2	4	3	9
9	3	2	4	8	7	5	6	1
2	6	8	7	1	5	3	9	4
7	4	5	9	3	8	6	1	2
3	9	1	2	6	4	7	8	5

### HARD:

		•						
7	6	8	9	2	5	1	4	3
9	1	4	8	3	7	6	2	5
2	3	5	1	6	4	8	9	7
6	5	1	3	7	2	4	8	9
4	8	7	6	5	9	3	1	2
3	2	9	4	8	1	7	5	6
1	4	2	7	9	6	5	3	8
8	9	6	5	1	3	2	7	4
5	7	3	2	4	8	9	6	1

### EVII.

EVI	L:							
3	2	9	8	1	4	7	6	5
6	1	7	5	9	ვ	2	8	4
4	8	5	2	6	7	1	3	9
5	6	1	3	2	9	4	7	8
7	9	8	1	4	6	3	5	2
2	4	3	7	8	5	6	9	1
9	5	4	6	3	2	8	1	7
1	7	6	4	5	8	9	2	3
8	3	2	တ	7	1	5	4	6

### **SEE YOUR RANKING ONLINE!**

Now you can go online to check your ranking and communicate with each other! Simply visit: www.SDReader.com/puzzle. The new ranking is posted each Wednesday. To use the "comments" feature, you must be a registered site member.

### THIS WEEK'S CONTENDERS:

indicates T-shirt winner.

### EASY:

### Aaron Abramson,

Williamstown, 11. Hi to all my friends in San Diego. Keep faxing me the puzzles

Cherie Calvo, San Diego, 11. Thanks for t-shirt

John Pertle, Santee, 11. Jesus died for you. Believe and receive

Terry Thomas, Chula Vista, 11. I love rain! So many happy plants and froas

Don Bowman, Santee, 10. Let the winter begin

### Nancy Teruya, Rancho

Peñasquitos, 10. Missed last week; too sick too go out- I'm back

Ed Rull, San Diego, 9. Happy Holidays

Rossinna Ippolito, University Heights, 7. Indcs indexing service is my business

M. Elliott, Ranch Bernardo, 6. Great to be home for Christmas

### Pauline O'Malley, Point Loma, 6. Merry Christmas to all

Erin Nogle, Ocean Beach, 5. Can't wait for the sweater party!

Ualv! Jeff Loeb, San Diego, 3. Taking

Nicole Tui, East Lake, 3. Tasty sweet little spider: vum vum

it easy

Phil Brockman, Spring Valley, 2. Consistancy is a good thing.

Dennis Jardim, Oceanside, 1. Screwed up on evil, taking it easy Justino Rochin III, San Diego,

1. Go Chargers!!! Yadira Rodriguez, Linda Vista, 1. Tiny and Indio I love you babe Kenneth Solzer, Carmel Valley, 1. Happy Hannukah

### **MEDIUM:**

Skully, San Diego, 11.

Monkeyboy we are under the same bright stars- Love Kitten

Betty Archer, La Jolla, 11, Superbowl here we come!

### Henry Chung, San Diego, 11. One day I'll do the evil puzzle..

Roy Bartolome, San Diego, 10. These guys just give me the heeby da ba ieebies!

Linda Bible, El Cajon, 10. Happy birthday Quinn

Dave Small, San Carlos, 9. Reader t-shirts rock!

Dr. Dave Spera, Point Loma, 8. Hare, you deserve better, you

David Tomasin, San Diego, 6. The sky if falling, the sky is falling Elliott Estrine, Poway, 4. / didn't sleep with The Tiger

Hans Butikofer, Mission Beach, 3. Let's hope the new year will even be bette

Clancy Sloan, Clairemont, 3. Go Chargers!

Josh Boss, San Diego, 2. Let Philip Riveres buy the Chargers a new stadium!

Bill Calderwood, Clairmont, 2. Annie's my true love

Robb Dusa, Rancho Penasquitos, 2. Merry Christmas Laurie, Ann. Rachel, Jacob, Jessica

Tristan Meyers, El Cajon, 2. Crouching "Tiger" hidden girlfriends

Kelly Sakoi, Rancho Penasquitos, 2. Merry Christmas!

Duane D Tremaine, E Village. 2. In Xanadu did Kubla Khan a

stately pleasure-dome decnee.. Eric Anderson, Escondido, 1. Merry Christmas R+R+R

Robert Lindahl, Collage Area, 1. Merry Christmas Honey Bug I hope are togther sweetie

### **HARD:**

Amada Garcia, Chula Vista,

11. Advent is time to prepare. Hagamosio de corazon

Bruce C. Mengler, Solana Beach, 11. now only 4 left Douglas Meyers, La Mesa, 11. In her prism tower amidst her

mewling crones Glenn R. Walker, La Jolla, 11. Rain rain go away - bring back the sunshine!

D.B. Gietzen, Sunset Cliffs, 10. Last week Hard really seemed to he One off

Lark Herrick, Alpine, 10. Some weeks are tough. Some weeks are

Stephen Loughrane, Bankers Hill, 7. Seasons greetings San Diego! Dennis Beabout, Temecula, 6. Doesn't last week seam like Y2K? Ray Hunt, Rancho

**Penasquitos, 6.** Al Gore — No fever. He's just full of hot air

Greg Boss, San Diego, 5. Quit voting by party, vote against incumbents, especially California politi-

George Elam, Vista, 3. He failed as a husband but still is Tiger

Alex Morlett, La Mesa, 3. Thanks for t-shirt. Get better Nick, peace on earth

Jerry Riccio, Rancho Bernardo, 2. Wishing Annette a very happy birthday. All our love

Bill Calderwood, Clairmont, 1. Annie's my true love! Rodger Coutinho, San Diego, 1. TENNIS FOR LIFE AND PEACE

4 EVERYONE Louisiana Dalton, Hillcrest, 1. Bet you thought I couldn't do it! Mike Golden, San Diego, 1.

Ester Hays, La Mesa, 1. Peace

Welcome Home Terry

Robert Lindahl, College Area,

1. Merry Christmas honey bug I hope we are togther sweetie

B.J. Lundquist, San Diego, 1. Every day is a new blessing

Mr. Mackie, San Carlos, 1. That's the way it isn't Mmmmkay Emily Posedel, San Diego, 1. Hot. Right. Now

Mr. Stevens, North Park, 1. Gracias Ionjas por el Reader

### **EVIL:**

Joe Arbusto, Rancho

Peñasquitos, 11. Greed + incompetence + immoral + nonsense + blind ambition = Sarah Palin + George Bush!'

Jean Bradley, Spring

Valley, 11. Reader a day latehope this's in time! Hi Cindy

Robert Bradley, Spring Valley, 11. Machinists use tools to make this world a better place

Paul Brugger, Downtown, 11. Im all alone again. Visitors flew the

Clyde Christie, East Village,

11. May the eternal bless, guide, and keep safe, our troops!

Joseph Ciprian, Little Italy, 11. Don't be a donkey

Roger Doughman, San Diego,

**11.** Forgiveness is a precious gift

### THIS WEEK'S CONTENDERS CONTINUED:

indicates T-shirt winner.

Lily Gonzalez, Logan Heights, 11. The presents are almost here! Happy winter holidays

Linda J. Hall, La Mesa, 11. Merry x-mas to everyone at the Reader

Dan Holslin, San Diego, 11. Solved evil while x-mas shopping

Zdenek Hostomsky, La Jolla,

11. It was a great party at Ernie's. Nice seeing you...

Jacqueline Jordan, San Diego,

11. Anotherone bites the dust

Raymond Land, Escondido, 11. Don't take it personally: its not

about you Ralph Levy, La Jolla, 11. Thanks Lori for looking affter

Mike Maniss, Lakeside, 11.

Oregon, here we come

Monica

Michael McGriffin, Bay

Park, 11. We need term limits for us congress

P.J. Mole, Point Loma, 11. Vorrei una maglietta di cotone pei favore

Bruce Ness, Mira Mesa, 11. Does Mary Bently still play dominoes? Please call

Lisa Overton, Spring Valley, 11. Raise your hand if you slept with

Michael Panther, Point Loma.

11. I ain't got time for this sort of thina

Bill Petty, Bay Ho, 11. Good luck to everyone we're gonna need it. Roy Respress, Carlsbad, 11. / am better than this evil, maaa

Joe Selig, San Diego, 11. / love

Rich Sewell, Ocean Beach, 11. Two weeks off, sweet!

Yuko T., San Diego, 11. Go Saints! Another victory!!

Harry R. Walker , La Jolla, 11. Glenn(LJ) the corvette look great runs rough though

Susan Williams, North Park,

11. If at first you don't scucced... Ric Witt, Clairemont, 11. Beach fire rings- what a budget buster

Mark Xitco, San Diego, 11. Mell I'll hel

Bliss Beedle, Encinitas, 10. So

Thomas Daley, San Diego, 10. Happy holidays Gary Lorenc, Encinitas, 10.

Thanks for the shirt! Julio Magno, San Diego, 10.

USPS Sudoku expert hi Eileen! Martin Mucciarone, Carlsbad,

10. Hi! To the seauil sudoku team! Jerry Noser, Bankers Hill, 10. Go Nado, BU9 soccer

Joe Steinbach, Clairemont, 10. St. Nicholas day entry wins T-shirt

Jane Flammang, Encinitas, 9. Season's greatings

Belmont Hope, Vista, 9. Happy birthdav Sandi

Lynnette Lampton, La Mesa, 9. Merry Christmas and happy

Hanukkah Loren Boyer, El Cajon, 8. Well

Its about time a golfer scored Larry Clark, Clairemont, 8.

Well your flag decal won't get you into heaven anymore

Stuart Hesketh, Escondido, 8. Thank you for the tshirt. Merry Christmas to all

Christine Hennes, San Diego, 7. Good day sunshine

Karen Maegley, Sorrento Mesa, 7. Wish I had my toes in the water

Ted Tarris, Serra Mesa, 7. H-Word! H-Word! H-Word! Merry Christmas!

Robert Crumrine, Downtown,

6. Another Christmas is here Linda Kokel, Tierrasanta, 6. Welcome Marlene and Suzanne

Tess C. Sutton, San Diego, 6. Merry Christmas!

Michelle Dutra, Serra Mesa, 5. Parker Lancers #1

Charles Reader, Del Mar Heights, 5. Reader reads Reader Carolyn Woodbury, Chula Vista, 5. Buy organic, locally grown foods

Larry Terbell, Golden Hill. 4. The economic stimulus is not work-

Sonia Ostovar, Mira Mesa. 3. I miss my father who lives in

heaven Bridgett Gist, Escondido, 2.

Babe I want a hamster for Christmas please! Love you!

Tom Norris, Santee, 2. Peace on earth good will twards Mandy Smith, Boulevard, 2.

The thing I like best about Christmas is the music

Rainier Bernardo, San Diego,

1. Shop at the Spare room extraordinary consigment of ladies fashions Butch Hays, La Mesa, 1. Have a very merry Christmas

Alyssa Ketcham, East Village, 1. Atheists are never blinded by the

Frank Lee, Scripps Ranch, 1. Merry Christmas to all!

**Chris Thelen, University Heights, 1.** Don't even bang unless you plan to hit something

William Walbourne, Oceanside,

1. The sith shall rise again!!! Rob Welder, El Caion, 1, lt's a small world

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PLAZA 6

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619-561-3618.

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285 N. El Camino Real Suite 102

**Events Calendar** Messages from Beyond. Thursday, Dec. 17, 8pm. Medium/

healer/clairvoyant Lisa Williams "discovered her...ability to communicate with loved ones and friends who have passed onto the 'other side' as a young child." Admission \$35-\$85. Pala Casino, 35008 Pala Temecula Road, Pala 92059. 877-946-7252.

Laughter Yoga with Vina Blue. Friday, Dec. 18, 7-8:30pm. Simple techniques that relieve stress, stimulate the immune system and boost endorphins. Breath work, light stretching, laughter exercises and meditation, fun, musical exercises to give your inner child a workout and awaken your creativity! Led by Vina "Blue" Estrada. \$5. Shiloh Spiritual Center, 3288 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego 92104, just east of I-805. 619-269-4897.

Take a Nature Break. Saturday, Dec. 19, 9:30am. Slow down from holiday bustle with trail guide-led hike. Admire nature's seasonal decorations with "clusters of red toyon berries, floating chaparral snow, magical mistletoe, and holly leaf cherry. Admission free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail, San Carlos 92119. 619-668-3281.

Belly Dancing with Fire! Sunday, Dec. 20, 8pm. Sundays 5-7pm \$3 cask wine, sangria, draft. Annamarie and Raine perform belly dance and fire show to live music by Middle-Earth Ensemble. Open dancing. Cover: \$10. The Turquoise, Café-Bar Europa, 873 Turquoise Street, San Diego 92109. 858-488-4200.

### Charles Darwin and "On The Origin of Species."

Wednesday, Dec. 16, 6:30pm. Observes Darwin's bicentenary during lecture marking 150th anniversary of publication of On the Origin of Species for "Science Talk" series. Admission free. San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street, San Diego 92101. 619-236-5817.

**See Stars.** Saturday, Dec. 19, 5pm. Resident star gazer "sets up his enormous telescope for all to view...Jupiter over the Fortunas, the Andromeda Galaxy, Pleiades, and a huge supporting cast of stars." Meet in day-use parking lot. Admission free. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junípero Serra Trail, San Diego 92119. 619-668-3281.

**Shamanic Hike.** Sunday, Dec. 20, 3-5pm. Short hike to "power spot to explore shamanic traditions of indigenous people of the Americas." Learn about saging, calling the directions, creating sacred space, accessing energies of nature for healing, insight, and wisdom. Bring blanket to sit on, drum or rattle. Admission free. Penasquitos west-end staging area, 4300 Sorrento Valley Boulevard. 858-484-3219.

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Reader December 17,

, 2009 4

# **Typo Patrol Results**

Issue of December 10, 2009

#### **Stringers**

p.130 anyone should be any one

Gian Ghio (Chula Vista) \$10

#### **Gather No Moss**

p.74 Jeu du Paume should be Jeu de Paume p.74 Cinemateque should be Cinematheque

### **Events listings**

p.86 Day should be Ray

John Mann (Linda Vista) \$30

### **Born Like This**

p.67 two should be too p.67 too should be to

The Mayor and the Dirty-Money Guy

p.8 materials should be material

Clyde Christie (Coronado) \$30

You must send in a copy of the printed error — either the actual page or a copy (including page number). Exceptions: direct quotations, slang, colloquialisms, house/writer style idiosyncrasies. Exempt: ads, blogs, user reviews, movie showtimes, puzzle results, and letters to the editor. Submissions accepted until Monday at 7 a.m. after the issue in question. First identification of error wins \$10 or a Reader T-shirt (indicate preference). Winnings limited to \$300/year per household. 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).

LA MESA. 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. All amenities, front and backyard. Parking. Very quiet. Great location, cul-de-sac, \$1175. Available January 15. Call 619-04-07315.

### La Mesa

La Mesa
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Weinberger School. Close to
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Quiet neighborhood, 2-car
garage, dishwasher, new
bathroom tile. large backvard. bathroom tile, large backyard. Must see! \$2000/month after 6 month special. 619-697-5811.

LEMON GROVE, \$1325, 2- bedroom, 1bath. 1- car garage. Large fenced- in yard, deck. Renovated. New paint. Hardwood floors. Close to elementary school. 619-867-2126.

MISSION HILLS. \$1750. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1600 square feet, garage, hardwood floors, fireplace, patio. No pets/

smoking. All appliances. Quiet. On-site laundry. 619-298-6436.

MISSION HILLS. Artist's home. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 extra rooms. Frank-Lloyd- Wright- style architecture. Fireplace, pool, RV parking, double

NORMAL HEIGHTS/ KENSINGTON. Quiet garden setting, freshly painted bedroom house, \$1100. 1 bedroom cottage, \$840. Pet friendly. 619-987-

NORTH PARK. Small 1 bedroom house. wood floors, washer/ dryer hookups. No pets. Nonsmoking. Available now. 4120 lowa Street. \$750/ month plus deposit.

NORTH PARK, \$795, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. upper unit. Laundry, parking. Centrally located, close to freeway, newer carpet. 4553 Texas Street #7. www.amgsd.com.

NORTH PARK. \$1175. Spacious 1 bedroom house. Brand new 2- tone paint, new carpet! Pet on approval! Don't miss out! 3085 Polk Avenue. Manager, 619-

NORTH PARK, \$1550 rent, 3 bedroom, 2 bath modern townhouse recently remodeled. Upstairs unit with skylights. Master bedroom has bath, walk- in

SERVICES

closet. New washer/ dryer and kitchen appliances. Garage and carport. Cat OK. Nonsmoking. 3933 33rd Street. 619-284-7446 or 619-203-7073.

OCEAN BEACH. 2 bedroom, 2 bath house with 2- car garage in Sunset Cliffs. Panoramic ocean view! Small yard. Pets OK. Available now. \$2250. 4653 Orchard Avenue. Lance, 619-222-6020.

PACIFIC BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath house, office, hardwood floors, washer/dryer, refrigerator, patio, front deck/ yard, off-street parking, \$2.100. 1855 Missouri. Available 1/1. 619-997-8862.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1595. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, small house. Stove, refrigerator, laundry hookups, garage plus carport. Private, fenced patio. Pet OK upon approval with extra deposit. Available 1/10/10. 1027 Hornblend, Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www. delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom at Mt. Soledad. Walk to all in North Pacific Beach. Amazing ocean/ be views. Available January. \$3000. ArcherStreetHome@yahoo.com. 858-775,0155

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1995, 2- hedroom 1- bath house with detached 2- car garage. Water, gas, electric, trash, gardener included! Pet on approval. 1775 Oliver. Manager, 619-820-2584.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1795. 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath house. Garage. 4 blocks to Bay. Very clean. Laundry. New carpet,

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vinyl. 2119 Reed Avenue. Shore

Management, 858-274-3500.

PACIFIC BEACH. 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom. Large master bedroom with bathroom. Hardwood. Fenced yard, private patios. Washer/ dryer. Gardener included. Parking, \$2500/ month. 2014 Selspar. 858-735-8593.

PACIFIC BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom. 2 story, fireplace. 2 off- street parking. Gardener included. 2016 Felspar. \$1650/ month. Water included.

PACIFIC BEACH, 2 bedroom, 1 bath and paint, wall heater, laundry room.
1343 Grand Avenue. People Helping
Others Property Management, 619-2825400. peoplehelpingothers.com.

PACIFIC BEACH/ CROWN POINT. Dogs allowed. 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom duplex house. Close to bay. Private patio, laundry on site, dishwasher, remodeled. \$1550/ month. 619-822-0093.

PACIFIC BEACH/ MISSION BEACH house on ocean side of Boulevard. \$2000. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Steps to the ocean. Patio. No pets. Call Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488 ent, 858-488-

PACIFIC BEACH/ NORTH, \$1925. 2 bedroom house. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, washer/ dryer. Large, fenced backyard. Parking. Fireplace, wood floors. Cat OK with extra deposit. Available 1/15/10. 838 Sapphire Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

WWW.delsolpmi.com. 858-270-2071.
POINT LOMA. \$2100. Spacious 2
bedroom house. Hardwood floors.
Garage. Laundry. Large, fenced yard.
Gardener included. Pets considered.
3020 Whittier. 619-298-7724.

POINT LOMA, 3789 La Cresta, House with garage, \$2450. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Big backyard. Hardwood floors. Washer, dryer. No pets. 619-200-1657 or www. bkbinc.com.

San Diego e-In Special! \$50 off rent he first 5 months! 3-oom, 2-bath house. Beautiful garden yard Gardener included. Corner lot. wartener included. Corner lot. Walk to park, Benchley Weinberger School. Close to shopping, freeway access. Quiet neighborhood, 2-car garage, dishwasher, new bathroom tile, large backyard. Must see! \$2000/month after 6-Must see! \$2000/month after 6-nonth special. 619-697-5811.

SPRING VALLEY. 3- bedroom, 1.5-bathroom townhouse. 2- car covered port. Stove, dishwasher, laundry. Sectic 8 considered. Deposit required. \$1600 rent. Move in ready. 619-991-9665.

UNIVERSITY CITY. \$1895. 1/2 off first month's rent. 3- bedroom, 2- bath, 2- car garage, wet bar, family room. 7207 Werner Street. 619-582-4119.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS \$1800, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, reduced move in. Detached front house, off- street park laundry hookups. 1716 Monroe Ave., www.sdforrent.com, 619-640-7530.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 3 bedroom, 1.5 bathroom charming Craftsman. Walk to all neighborhood. Fenced yard, cat OK. Price reduced, \$1700/ rent. 4472 Campus Avenue, Call 619-417-2192,

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$1200, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, reduced move in. Detached back house, street parking, laundry on site. 1712 Monroe Ave., www.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$1295. Cute 1 bedroom plus den house. Wood floors and new vinyl. Fresh paint. New blinds. New gas stove and refrigerator! Pet on approval. Small, fenced yard. 1629 Madison. Manager, 619-820-2584.

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4550 Vandever. Manager, 019-202-00-00.

ALPINE. Alpine Creek Apartments. Huge 1 bedroom apartment, \$825. 800 square feet, stone flooring in entry and kitchen, spacious living room and dining room, washer/ dryer in unit. No pets. 1950 washer/ dryer in unit. No pets. 1950 Arnold Way. Move- in bonus! Call 619-

ALPINE. 55+. Spacious luxury living. 1 bedrooms, \$945. 2 bedrooms, \$1075. \$99 deposit OAC. Creekside Meadows 1750 Arnold Way. Call 619-445-2480.

**ALPINE.** 2 bedrooms and 2 baths, \$1095. \$99 deposit OAC. Newly remodeled. Private garages, freelaces, vaulted ceilings. Resort- size pool and spa.
Alpine Woods, 1829 Arnold Way. 619-445-1341.

BALBOA PARK. \$1050. Spacious 1 bedroom condominium. Garage, large pool. Big sunny balcony. Free cable TV and overnight guest suite. Kitty cat friendly. 2244 Second Avenue.Carol, 619-282-2617.

BALBOA PARK. \$825. 1 bedroom apartment in quiet, picturesque building. Beautiful street! Assigned parking, laundry, patio. No pets. 24 A Street. 619-549-9542; 858-278-3135.

BALBOA PARK/ EAST. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1750. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1400. Forest-like setting. Big balcony. Vaulted ceiling. Remodeled kitchen. Storage. Carport. Secured building. Very quiet. Laundry Gated community. No pets. 619-347-0003.

BALBOA PARK/ EAST/ HILLCREST. like setting. Big balcony. Remodeled kitchen. Storage. Carport. Secured building. Very quiet. Laundry. Gated community. No pets. 619-347-0003

BANKER'S HILL. Beautiful, furnished studios. Move- in special: starting \$150/ week. Spotless. Great location. Free wireless/ local calls. 410 Elm Street/ 4th Avenue. Information: 619-232-1336.

BANKER'S HILL. \$1275 with garage. 1 bedroom plus den, view, wood floors. Air conditioning/ heating. Garage extra. St. Jean Apartments. 2149 2nd Avenue. By appointment, 619-518-6985; 619-992-7791

7/91.

BANKEr'S HILL. \$1750. Large 2 bedroom, hardwood floors. Laundry hookups, appliances, 1/2 garage, covered patio and backyard. Close to Little Italy/ downtown. 2355 Curlew Street. 858-272-9547.

BANKER'S HILL. \$875, utilities paid. Studio apartment, corner unit, extra windows, remodeled building, electronic entry. Parking. On-site laundry. 1820 4th Avenue. No pets. 619-300-1365, 619-588-4106 Avenue. I 588-4106

BANKER'S HILL. Downtown/ Little Italy area. Studio apartment. Street parking, air conditioning, on-site laundry. Rent: \$795. Deposit: \$500. 2027 Front Street. Call Mike, 858-490-1600.

Call mixe, ssc-490-1600.

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No pets. 619-280-5177; 619-236-0452.

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hath in gated complex, \$1025. All wood floors, walk-in closet, ceiling fans, private patio, on-site laundry. 1928 3rd Avenue. 619-300-9487.

BANKER'S HILL/ DOWNTOWN. Cute studio apartment available January 4

Nice property. Full kitchen. On-site laundry. \$589. Will consider cat/ dog. 2247 Brant Street. Call Mike, 619-250-

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Kalmia. No pets. 619-234-0236, 619-395-4611

BANKER'S HILL/ LITTLE ITALY. Studio apartment. On-site laundry, air conditioning. Move- in special, rent: \$825. 2011 Front Street. Call Mike, 858-490-

BAY PARK. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs, unit parking, on-site laundry, dishwasher. Small dog on approval. Rent: \$1130. 5572 Lauretta Street. Call Mike, 858-490-1600.

BAY PARK. \$785-\$815. Prime location. Walk to Mission Bay. Immaculate 1 bedroom apartment. Quiet complex. Pool. Barbecue. Laundry. No pets. Lease. 2515 Chicago Street. 619-276-1468.

BAY PARK/ MISSION BAY, \$775 Remodeled, large studio apartment Parking. Paid utilities. No pets. Nev appliances. New carpet/ paint. Laundry 3431 Del Rey Street. 619-275-3455.

BAY PARK / MISSION BAY. Pristine 1 bedroom for \$895 and 2 bedroom, 1 bath for \$1125 in Bay Parkís best maintained for \$1 125 in Bay Parkis best maintainer property with beautiful courtyard and sparkling pool. Perfect Mission Bay location with easy freeway access. No pets. 2520 Chicago Street. TPPM, 619-405-7200, www.debonairapts.com.

CARDIFF. Townhome. White/ bright 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath plus garage on Manchester. Private patic. Greenbelt. Lagoon trails. Walk to beach. \$1900. Available 12/26. 760-550-1801.

CARLSBAD. \$755. Small studio cottage in villane. Complete sengrate kitchen/

in village. Complete separate kitchen/bath. Approximately 400 square feet. Funky with uneven floors. Parking. No pets. Lease. 760-505-7736.

carlsab. 760-505-//30.

CARLSBAD. Rising Glen apartments offers 1, 2 and 3 bedroom homes. Gourmet all- electronic kitchens, breakfast bars. Vaulted ceilings, spectacular views. Private balcony or Frances Central air. Fitness spectacular views. Private balcony or patio. Fireplaces. Central air. Fitness center pool- side barbecues. 1 bedrooms from \$1300. 2 bedrooms from \$1420, 888-252-6823, www. Rising.GlenCarlsbad.com.

CARLSBAD. 1- bedroom cottage, \$995. In village, near beach. Well- maintained and cozy, bright, airy. Washer/ dyer hockups. No pets. \$700 security. Year lease. 760-505-7736.

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CARLSBAD. \$1650. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with view of lagoon, hills, partial ocean. Garage, washer/ dryer. Seapoint Tennis Club. No pets/smoking. 858-774-4988, http://members.cox.net/seapoint.

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Agent, 619-697-8435.

CHULA VISTA. 2 bedroom/ 1 bath \$1025, \$900 deposit. 3 bedroom/ 2 bath, \$1375, \$1000 deposit. Laundry room. Close to mall/ freeway. No pets. Available now. 433 D Street, 91910. 619-757-8896.

CHULA VISTA. One Park Apartments. Spacious 1 and 2 bedroom floor plans. Fully equipped kitchen, air conditioning. European-style cabinets. Select units offer skylights. Pool. 1 bedrooms from \$1075. 2 bedrooms from \$1285. 888-365-3205, www.OneParkApartments.com.

CHULA VISTA. \$915. Upstairs 1 bodroom 1 bath. Hardwood floo site laundry, shared courtyard. Near historic Old Town. Cat OK. 270 #B, Church Street. 619-300-1365.

CHULA VISTA. 585 E Street. Utilities included. \$840. 1 bedroom. Pool, laundry, parking. No pets. 619-200-1657 or www.bkbinc.com.

CHULA VISTA. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, new carpet, dishwasher, patios. Gated, laundry, off-street parking. No pets. \$1200. \$200-\$600 move- in discount. 619-425-6511.

CHULA VISTA. \$775, utilities included (gas, electric, water, trash). 1 bedroom. Very clean upstairs unit. Parking/ laundry on site. No pets. 318 G Street. Manager,

619-820-2584. **CHULA VISTA.** 1 bedroom apartments, \$695/ month. Deposit \$500. All utilities included. Pool, off-street parking. Laundry facilities. Call Park Regency Apartments. 619-422-0792.

CHULA VISTA. \$825.1 bedroom.

Beautiful garden courtyard. Controlled access. Very clean. Air conditioning. No pets. 540 Naples Street. TPPM, 619-422-5709. www.torreypinespm.com.

CHULA VISTA, \$775/ month, Low CHULA VISIA. \$7/5/ month. Low \$150 deposit. 1 bedroom, fully furnished or unfurnished. 2 blocks from Chula Vista Center and trolley. Off-street parking. Laundry room. 521 Park Way. Office open daily (near Fifth and G). Call 619-420-5084.

CHULA VISTA. \$795. 1 bedroom, 1 bath with all utilities included! New paint, flooring. Best deal in South Bay. On-site parking and pool. Clean, quiet, secure. 540 Flower Street. Call Krista: 619-733-6928; or Rachael: 619-804-1044.

6928; or Rachael: 619-804-1044.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$775. 1 bedroom. Credit check \$25 fee. Move- in incentives. Gated community. Secured assigned parking. On-site laundry. Pool. New carpet, new appliances. Clean and excellent. Convenient location, close to shops and dining, buses/ transits. Nearby Fay Elementary School and Colina Del Sol Park. No pets. Contact Art at 619-283-9993.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$1525/ month. 2bedroom, 1- bath house, canyon view. New paint, new carpet plus upgrades. Yard. Washer/ dryer. Available now. 619-561-4299.

CITY HEIGHTS. \$1125. Duplex. 3822 47th Street. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Renovated. New carpet, paint, blinds, drapes. Yard. Parking. No smoking/ pets. Shops, bus. Section 8 OK. 619-275-2648.

CITY HEIGHTS. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, \$650. Assigned parking, tile floors, upstairs, water/ sewer/ trash included, Section 8 OK. 4366 51st Street #7. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. helpingothers.com.

peopleneipingomers.com.

CITY HEIGHTS. 1/2 off 1st month! 2
bedroom, 1 bath apartments, \$750/
month. Water/ sewer/ trash included, onsite laundry. 4361 and 4361-1/2 49th
Street. People Helping Others Property
Management, 619-282-5400. elpingothers.com.

CITY HEIGHTS. 1 bedroom, \$793.

Downstairs unit. 4164 Altadena Ave. #3.
Section 8 welcome. Sorry, no pets. Call
Ana at 619-266-3663 for more
information

CITY HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom/ 1 bath Townhomes. \$1171. Washer/ dryer hook-ups and patio. 4211 Juniper Street #12 and #13. Section 8 welcome; no pets. For more information call Ana at 619-266-

CITY HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom/ 1 bath townhomes. \$1171. Washer/ dryer hookups and patio. 4273-79 Juniper St. #2 and #3. Section 8 welcome. Sorry, no pets. For more information call Ana at 619-266-3663.

CITY HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom/ 1 bath ctify Heights. 2 bedroom/ 1 bath townhouse with washer/ dryer hook-ups and a patio. \$1202. 4390 Maple Street #3. Section 8 welcome. Sorry, no pets. For more information call Ana at 619-266-

CITY HEIGHTS. 3 bedroom/ 1.5 bath CITY HEIGHTS. 3 Dedroom/ 1.5 bath Townhome. \$1271. Washer/ dryer hook-ups, with patio. 2628 44th St. #2. Section 8 welcome; sorry, no pets. For more information call Ana at 619-266-3663.

CITY HEIGHTS. 3 bedroom/ 2 bath. \$1327 per month. Upstairs unit with patio. 4225 44th St. #3. Section 8 welcome; sorry, no pets. For more information call Ana at 619-266-3663.

Ana at 6 19-206-3663.
CITY HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom/ 1 bath
Townhomes with patio. \$1171 per month.
4180 Poplar St. #4, 4182 Poplar St. #3.
Section 8 welcome; sorry, no pets. For
more information call Ana at 619-266-

CITY HEIGHTS. 3 hedroom/ 1.5 hath Townhome with patio. \$1404 per month. 4182 Poplar St. #4. Section 8 welcome; sorry, no pets. For more information call Ana at 619-266-3663.

CITY HEIGHTS. 5 bedroom/ 2 bath Townhome with nice yard. \$1629 per month. 3010 39th St. Apt. A. Section 8 welcome; sorry, no pets. For more information call Ana at 619-266-3663.

CITY HEIGHTS, \$675. Spacious and clean studio. Brand new carpet/ paint! Walk-in closet. Section 8 OK! Parking/ laundry on site. No pets. 4216 50th Street. Manager, 619-820-2584.

CITY HEIGHTS, 2 bedroom, 1 bath conto, \$925. Upstairs, all appliances, tile floors, water/ sewer/ trash included, laundry room, parking. 3215 44th Street #14. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. peoplehelpingothers.com.

peoplenelpingothers.com.

CITY HEIGHTS. 1 bedroom, 1 bath
upstairs apartment, \$700. Water/ sewe
trash included. 1 parking space, coin
laundry, 650 square feet. 1/2 off first
month with 1- year leasel 4358 51st
Street #6. People Helping Others
Property Management, 619-282-5400.
peoplehelpingothers.com.

CITY HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, \$850. Water/ sewer/ tra apartment, \$850. Water/ sewer/ trash included. Assigned parking, tile floors, A/C, community laundry. 4316 52nd Street #5. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. peoplehelpingothers.com.

\$275. 1 bedroom/ 1 bath, 2 bedroom/ 1-1/2 bath. Large, sunny townhomes. Pool. Parking. No pet. The Gardens, 5544 Balboa Arms Drive. Call 858-278-

5862.

CLAIREMONT. 1/2 off first month! \$850, 1 bedroom. \$1150, 2 bedroom. Balcony, pool, laundry, off. street parking. 7322 Mesa College Drive. \$85-560-6204.

CLAIREMONT. \$1365 plus deposit. Extra large 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Over 1200 square feet. 5 closets. New carpet, fresh paint. Carport. Gated entry. Indoor kitten OK. Wood- burning fireplace, ice-maker. On-site laundry room. 858-337-8054 or 858-206-2566.

CLAIREMONT. Free continental breakfast buffet, maid/ linen service! No lease! Free utilities! Studios starting \$1195/ month\*, weekly starting \$300\* ("subject to change, based on availability). Ask about our 6- month lease program. Heated poo spa. Laundry. Microwave. Spa. Leufully, wild lowers Refrigerator. High- speed Internet. California Suites Hotel, 5415 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. 1-888-475-7147. www.californiasuiteshotel

**CLAIREMONT.** 1 bedroom, 1 bath: \$995. Parking, pool. On-site laundry. Gated. 5150 Balboa Arms Drive. Call Thea, 858-571-0104.

**GRAND OPENING** VIP Spa

1 hr. & 1/2 hr. massages

10% off

Includes free table shampoo

Skincare • Waxing

1151 E. Washington #A1 • Escondido (Corner of Ash) Walk-ins welcome. Open 9 am - 9 pm

760-796-7935

**CLAIREMONT.** 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$925 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath townhouse, \$1250. Gated, parking, on-site laundry. No pets. Call Irena, 858-279-9590.

**CLAIREMONT.** \$1495. Upstairs unit, 1/2 off first month's rent. Great view of canyon. Free basic cable. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. 3079 Cowley Way. Call 619-582-

CLAIREMONT. 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom Luxury overlooking canyon, near Bay Park. Huge 1400 square feet with pool, Jacuzzi, views. Underground parking. \$1700 rent. BayParkCondo@yahoo.com. 858-775-9155.

CLAIREMONT. Move- in special: 1/2 off 1st month's rent! 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex, \$1195. Large, private backyard, corner plot, water included. Pets OK. 3375 Idlewild Way. Agent, 858-560-1178.

### Senior 55+

Clairemont. \$200 off first month, OAC. 1 bedroom, \$885. Must see! On-site laundry. Near bus. Section 8 welcome. Won't last! 858-735-5587; 858-735-4099.

CLAIREMONT/ KEARNY MESA. Wexford Manor. Large 1 and 2 bedrooms in beautiful complex with pool, spa, laundry, air conditioning, dishwasher. Sorry, no pets. \$950-\$1275/ month. Photos at www. vexfordliving.com. 7870 Stalmer Street, Call 858-277-4843.

COLLEGE AREA. \$1400. Large 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath townhouse. Includes double garage, all appliances. Near SDSU. Completely redone. Great view! Desirable area! No pets/ smoking. 858-271 0028

\$99 Moves You Int College Area. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$850. Additional \$250 military discount. No application fee. Internet access. Gourmet kitchen. Microwave. Gas range. Air conditioning/ heating. Walk-in closet. Controlled access. Free poolside Wi-Fi. Barbecue/ picnic areas. Cat friendly. Parking. Walking distance to campus, putting green. Near bus, trolley. Aztec Pacific Apartments, 6663 Montezuma Road. 1-800-433-6120. www.pacificliving.com. www.sdreader.com/news/rent1042.

COLLEGE AREA. Large 1 and 2 bedrooms, starting at \$750. Dishwasher, garbage disposal, microwave, air conditioning. Laundry facility, permit/ assigned parking. Close to drive- through Starbucks. No pets. 6725 Amherst Street.

COLLEGE AREA. Senior/ disabled building. Large 1 bedroom. 1 bath. building. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Dishwasher. Air conditioning. Courtyard. Tile kitchen/ bath. \$750 rent, \$400 deposit. Bus nearby. Gated building. Water, garbage included. Section 8 OK. 858-336-3096

COLLEGE AREA. Campus Village. \$1000 moves you in! 3 bedroom down to \$1200 per month. Pool, gated community, A/C, heater. Call now, 619-583-3339.

COLLEGE AREA. 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. 1- car garage. 2 blocks to SDSU. \$1500/ month. Available 1/1. 619-977-

COLLEGE AREA. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condos. Hardwood floor/ tile. Balcony/ patio. 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. \$1195+ 1 month free. On approved credit. Furnishings optional. For details call 619-285-3822. On approved credit. Furnishing For details call 619-285-3822.

COLLEGE AREA. Move- in special! \$900/ up. 1 and 2 bedrooms. Fireplace. Central heat/ air. Microwave, dishwasher. Balcony, Gated. Intercom entry. 4828 Art Street, 619-298-7724.

COLLEGE AREA. \$975. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Brand new carpet and paint! Central air! Parking and laundry on site. No pets. 4475 50th. Manager, 619-820-2584.

COLLEGE AREA. Newly refurbished 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1100. Brand new carpeting, paint, tile. Walk to college. All amenities, controlled entry, parking, laundry on premises. Park- like setting, liaundry on premises. Park- like setting. Fine residential area near all. 4546 52nd Street. 619-287-1996 or 619-461-9415.

COLLEGE AREA. 1 bedroom from \$695. \$400 off 1st month's rent. Pool, laundry, and barbecue. Close to SDSU and all conveniences. No pets. 4333 College Avenue. 619-287-8380.

COLLEGE AREA. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, \$1700. 1 month free with 1- year leasel 2- car tandem parking, stainless steel appliances, marble countertops, patio. 5540 Lindo Paseo #3. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. www.peoplehelpingothers.

COLLEGE AREA. \$895, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. New paint! On-site parking. Clean, quiet, secure. 7240 El Cajon Boulevard. If you can find one better, rent it! Call Lynette, 619-602-0959, or Rachael, 619-804-1044.

COLLEGE/ CITY HEIGHTS, \$750. Spacious 1 bedroom. Open house Saturday, 12/19, 12-3pm. Street parking. Laundry on site. No pets. Move- in special! 4468 Winona. Manager, 619-

COLLEGE AREA/ EL CERRITO. \$1000-\$1075. 1 bedroom condos. Upscale units, granite counters, stainless steel appliances, washer/ dryer, parking. pool, barbecue on site. No pets. Agent, 619-296.-3180

COLLEGE AREA/ TALMADGE. \$650 rent, \$700 deposit OÁC. Large 1 bedroom apartment, parking, laundry, no pets, at 4423 Menlo Avenue #8 or #16. Agent,

COLLEGE AREA/ TALMADGE. \$900 rent, \$800 deposit OAC. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath, laundry, parking, newer carpet, no pets, at 4423 Menio Avenue #9. Agent, 619-299-8515 or 619-990-5021.

COLLEGE/ TALMADGE. \$1050: 2 bedroom, 2 bath. \$845: 1 bedroom, bath. Completely refurbished, large, upstairs unit. Laminate flooring, air conditioning, dishwasher, microwave, laundry, courtyard, garage. Must see. 858-688-3046; 619-818-1994.

CROWN POINT. \$925. 1 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs. No adjoining walls. Security entrance. Shared/ on-street parking. No pets, no smoking. 1 block from bay. 858-395-7072.

CROWN POINT. \$1495. 2 bedroom. 1 bath apartment. 1 car garage, 2 blocks to bay. No pets. 3704 Jewell Street. 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

CROWN POINT/ PACIFIC BEACH. \$1525. Perfect 2 bedroom, 2 bath in super nice properly 2 blocks to bay. 2 parking spaces. 3803 Jewell Street. TPPM, 619-933-7400. www.villalaplaya.

DEL MAR. \$1450, 2 bedroom apartment DEL MAK. \$145U. 2 bedroom apartmer with balcony. Desirable small garden complex, west of 5 and short walk to Torrey Pines Reserve and beach. Coin laundry. Parking. Open Saturday, 10am-11am. 12760 Via Cortina #6. TPPM. 858-699-3851. www.

torreypinespm.com. **DEL MAR.** 1 bedrooms from \$1480. 1

month free with 1- year lease or 1/2 off
with 6- month lease. Garage, heated
pool, spa, fitness center. Close to the
beach. Call 858-755-4721.

beach. Call 858-755-4721.

DOWNTOWN. Brand new "low income" housing! Studio \$778. 1 bedroom \$888.2 bedroom \$996. Parkside Apartments opening in December in Downtown San Diego! Studio apartments available. Underground/ assigned parking, community center, outdoor deck, views, wired for cable/ Internet, "green"/ nonsmoking community. Income restrictions apply: One person maximum \$34,680; two persons \$39,660; three persons \$44,580. 515 13th Street, San Diego, 92101. Call toll-free, 877-280-5568.

**DOWNTOWN.** Stay the week, stay the month! Monthly rates from \$21.87/ night. Wireless Internet in all rooms. 1-2 blocks to bus, train. Flat- screen TVs. Weekly

rates from \$37.14/ night: Community rates irom 337.14 mignt: Community kitchen and dining area. European- style detached bathrooms. Monthly rentals must qualify under the San Diego Housing Commission's low-income program. Subject to availability. Taxes not included. 500 West Hotel, 500 West Broadway. 500WestHotel.com. Toll free: 888-281-2676 or 619-234-5252.

DOWNTOWN. Fully furnished studios with utilities included. Rates start at \$160/ week. Free wireless Internet. Baltic Inn: 521 6th Avenue. 619-237-0687. www. affordablehousingsd.com.

**DOWNTOWN.** Premier location. Furnished studios with full baths, from Furnished studios with full baths, from \$199/weekly. Two award-winning buildings to choose from, 24-hour staff, gyms, laundry rooms, sundecks. Free wireless Internet. Island Inn: 202 Island Avenue (Second/ Island), 619-232-4138. J Street Inn: 222 J Street, 619-696-6922. www.affordablehousingsd.com. DOWNTOWN. Beautiful building new.

**DOWNTOWN.** Beautiful building, new furnished rooms. Refrigerator, microwave, TV, cable. Starting at \$175 weekly. 920 Beech Street. Call 619-234-

**DOWNTOWN.** \$775. Studio. Move- in speciall All utilities included! Laundry, street parking. No pets. Close to Balboa Park. 1758 6th Avenue. Agent, 619-298-



**DOWNTOWN.** Studios with kitchen and bath, \$625-\$700. Single room with priva bathroom, \$550-\$595. Nonsmoking. No pets. 10th and E Street. Hughes Management, 619-231-2385. www. HughesManagement.net.



DOWNTOWN. Comfortable rooms, \$450/ up. Studios, \$650/ up. Near Gaslamp District. Very quiet and clean. Free cable TV, on-site laundry, vending machines, community kitchen, shared bathrooms. Near shopping, restaurants, movie theatres and Horton Plaza. No pets. Arlington Apartments, 701 7th Avenue. Hughes Management, Lic#955724, 619-231-2385. www.HughesManagement.net. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2097.



**DOWNTOWN.** Economical furnished DOWNTOWN. Economical furnished rooms, \$450-\$550, best price, save money. Conveniently located on C Street trolley line, near restaurants, free cable TV, shared bathrooms, on-site laundry facilities, vending machines, elevator service, no pets, 636 C Street (between 6th and 7th). C Street Inn, Hughes Management, Lic#955724, 619-234-4165. www.HughesManagement.net. 4165. www.HughesManagement.net. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2098.



DOWNTOWN. Cozy rooms, \$486-\$625

Best massage in

machines, modern elevator, no pets. Southern Hotel, 1159 6th Avenue at B. Hughes Management, Lic#955724, 619-239-3808. www.HughesManagement.net, www.sdreader.com/news/rent2099.



**DOWNTOWN.** Gaslamp area. \$425-\$550. Community kitchen, shared bath, on-site laundry, vending machines, no pets. Star Hotel, 522 7th Avenue. Hughes Management, Lic#955724, 619-235-6068. HughesManagement.net.



**DOWNTOWN.** Outstanding furnished rooms, \$450-\$500. Heart of Gaslamp Shared bathrooms. Community kitches Free cable. No pets. Windsor Hotel, 843 4th Avenue. Hughes Management, Lic#955724, 619-239-3808. www.



**DOWNTOWN.** Attractive rooms. Shared rooms. Shared baths. Utilities included. Near City College. \$450-\$595/ month. 719 14th Street. Villa Victoria. Hughes Management, Lic#955724, 619-239-1639 x103. www.HughesManagen



**DOWNTOWN.** Located near Petco Park, Horton Plaza and Gaslamp, The Arthur at 723 Market Street brings the best of Downtown to your doorstep! Studio available, \$750-\$795. Hughes Management, 619-239-1639 x103. rstep! Studios



**DOWNTOWN.** 10th Avenue Apartments. Urban 1 bedrooms, \$750/ month. Located near Downtown Library, Horton Plaza and Gaslamp. On-site laundry. Month-tomonth rent. Hughes Management, 619-239-1639 x103.

239-1639 x103.

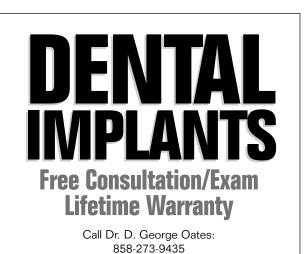
DOWNTOWN. 777 Lofts. \$1575. Move- in special! Incredible 1 bedroom loft across from The Ivy. Best rental loft/ condominiums, one block to Downtown's popular 5th Avenue. Washer/ dryer. Small pet considered. A must see! TPPM, 619-564-7864, or stop by 777 6th Avenue at F Street www torrevinesom considered. at F Street. www.torreypinespm.com.

**DOWNTOWN.** \$565 and up plus deposit. Furnished room available in residential hotel with shared kitchen/ bath. Includes microwave, refrigerator, cable TV. 1545 Second Avenue, between Beech and Cedar. 619-795-1398.

DOWNTOWN. Brand new rooms near City DOWNTOWN. Brand new rooms near College. Single rooms with kitchenettes from \$140/ week, deposit (long- term). Includes utilities/ cable. Quiet, secure. Shared bath/ laundry. Hotel Mediterranean. 619-231-8656. www. hotelmed-sd.com.

\$10 off 1-hour

SERVICES





1 Diego

DOWNTOWN / CORTEZ HILL. Studio. quiet. Residential neighborhood. Utilities paid. On-site laundry. No pets. EOH. Call paid. On-site laundry. 619-299-8746.

DOWNTOWN/ GASLAMP. Las Flores I. Small, quiet. \$125/ week and up.
week minimum. Color TV with basic
Refrigerator in most rooms.
re. 619-235-6820.

DOWNTOWN / GASLAMP. Move- in specials. Live/ work lofts in heart of The Gaslamp! Roof decks with barbecue. Laundry on every floor. Parking available Seven locations Downtown. Select pets OK. Visit loft leasing office: 315 Fourth Avenue. 619-231-1505 x12. www. 

#### **Urban Mini Lofts**

Downtown/ Gaslamp. Historic Beaumanor, unique urban min lofts, \$650-\$900. Several sizes, 12' ceilings, brick, hardwood floors, near Horton Plaza. Hardwood furniture available. Paid cable/ electric/ water. Most include cable/ electric/ water. Most mouse sleeping decks. Refrigerator/ microwave included. High- speed Internet available. On-site laundry, barbecue deck, outdoor kitchen. Impeccable renovation. No 927 6th Avenue. Michael, 619-232-beaumanor927@yahoo.com. http://sdreader.com/news/rent2127.

DOWNTOWN/ HARBOR SIDE, \$750. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Private porch. 1 parking space. Near bay. Harborside trolley. SD Naval Base, General cs. \$500 deposit, 619-233-1700.

DOWNTOWN/ LITTLE ITALY. From \$800/ month. Private bath, cable TV, microwave, refrigerator. Utilities included. Secure, quiet, charming. Efficiency apartments with laundry. Near trolley/ bus apartments with laundry. Near trolley bu lines, blocks from harbor. On-site manager. Villa Caterina, 1654 Columbia Street. 619-232-3400.

DOWNTOWN/ LITTLE ITALY. Studio. \$895; one bedroom, \$1095. 9' ceilings. Nice kitchen. Ideal location. Secure, quiet, building with laundry. 1534 Front, near Beech. 619-233-7428.

DOWNTOWN / NORTH, \$995, 1 bedroom. DOWNTOWN / NORTH. \$995. 1 bedroom, large, downstairs front. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, large private fenced patiof yard area. Cat OK with extra deposit. Easy freeway access, entry intercom, parking, coin laundry. Available 1/10/10. 215 West Grape. Del Sol

DOWNTOWN/ SOUTH HARBOR.
Historic Victorian flat/ studio. All utilities paid! Wood floors, dramatic ocean/ city view. Top floor. Walk- through closet. \$695.
940 South 26th Street. 619-559-

EAST SAN DIEGO. \$725. Spacious 1 bedroom, upstairs, in our lovely, small. gated community. On-site laundry. Assigned parking. No pets. 4336 Estrella

Avertue. 6 19-295-7/24.

EAST SAN DIEGO. \$695. Furnished studio alcove apartment. Complete living room, bedroom and kitchen furniture. No SDG&E deposit or hookup fee required. Near 52nd and University. 5101 Towle Court. Close to SDSU. Laundry room. Off- street parking. Low deposit. Call 619-281-9451.

EL CAJON. 1/2 off 2nd month OACI 1 bedroom, \$750; 2 bedroom, \$850+. Appliances, on-site laundry, air, pool, off-street parking. Lushly landscaped. 294 Ballantyne. 619-334-7934 or 858-703-4932.

EL CAJON. 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom. \$985 rent. Air conditioning, pool, balcony, laundry, parking. Centrally located. No pets. \$35 credit check, deposit \$600 OAC. 619-444-1876.

Datifroom. \$1150 rent. Upstairs, gated, air conditioning, laundry, transportation close. No pets. \$35 credit check. Deposit \$700 OAC. 619-588-5420 **EL CAJON.** Large 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom. \$1150 rent. Upstairs,

**EL CAJON.** 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom. \$950 rent. 2 huge closets, patio storage. Quiet community, gorgeous grounds, pool, spa, barbeques, laundry facilities. No pets. 619-442-0291.

EL CAJON. Spacious apartments. bedroom, upstairs or downstairs, \$995 fo first 6 months, \$980 thereafter; available December, Pool, on-site laundry, assigned parking, freeway close. Pets welcome! Anabel Court Apartments, 303 East Madison Avenue. Ask about our move- in specials! 619-579-5640.

EL CAJON. Cajon Villas. 3 bedroom, 2 bath: \$1275. 2 bedroom, 2 bath: \$950. 1 bedroom, 1 bath: \$735. Pool. Parking. Air conditioning, Laundry room, No pets, Available now, 933 Peach Avenue, 619-447-9193.

**EL CAJON.** \$1100: 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhome. \$1025: 2 bedroom, 1 bath flat. \$400 deposit. New paint, appliances, carpet. Small yard. Small gated community. Laundry facilities. Pool. No pets. Available now. 1397 East Washington. 619-593-6602. www.

strafordarmsapts.com.

EL CAJON. \$900 and up. 2 bedrooms, 1
and 2 stories. Amenities. Pool, park-like
grounds, laundry on premises, parking.
Near town, shops, bus. 743 South
Magnolia Avenue. 619-579-0174 or 619-

EL CAION. \$705, 1 bedroom. El Cajon's best maintained property with beautiful courtyard and sparkling pool. No pets. \$199 deposit! 1072 East Madison Avenue. TPPM, 619-444-1614, www.

EL CAJON. \$705. 1 bedroom in most attractive, well- maintained property with beautiful courtyard. Gated access and quiet location. 340 Orlando. TPPM, 619-9939, www.northwindapts.com.

EL CAJON, \$725, 1 bedroom in fabulous EL CAJON. \$725. 1 bedroom in fabulou pool/ courtyard complex. Super clean apartments. No pets. Palm Towers Apartments; see www.palmtowers.com for details and pictures. 234 West Park Avenue. TPPM, 619-850-9722.

EL CAJON. \$725. 1 bedroom in beautiful property with sparkling pool. Walk to courthouse and Main Street shopping. No pets. \$199 Deposit! 163 Ballantyne Street. TPPM, 619-579-6248, www. tradewingster info.



**EL CAJON.** \$725. Move in special! \$500 off first month. 1 bedroom, 1 bath upper unit, dining room, balcony, water/ trash

paid, pool. 294 Chamber Street #38. 619-698-6911. www. goldenmanagement.com



**EL CAJON.** triplex. 520 grape Street #B. 3 bedroom, 2 bath tiled throughout, new paint, all appliances, air conditioning, small back yard, laundry on site. Water/ trash paid. 619-698-6911. www. management.com.

EL CAJON, \$815, 2 bedroom, 1 bath starting. 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath, \$945. Very clean, great location with on-site parking and laundry. 432 Dominguez Way. TPPM, 619-405-4500. www. espm.com.

**EL CAJON.** 1 month free! Extra large 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$775. Air conditioning, laundry, pool, barbecue areas, appliances, parking. Pet negotiable. 798 McClure #9. 619-804-3325.

EL CAJON. \$725. 1 bedroom in fabulous pool/ courtyard complex. Super clean apartments. No pets. 314 Wisconsin Street. TPPM, 619-742-7600, www. palmestates.info.

**ENCINITAS.** \$1185. 1 bedroom with patio. Small complex. Assigned parking, laundry. New paint. Bright, airy. Garden setting. 1 block to beach. Close to shopping, freeway, Coaster. No pets/ smoking. 760-929-1950.

**ENCINITAS.** \$725 and up. Sick of roommates? Cozy beach trailers in quiet park. Near beach, Coaster, restaurants, shops. 152 North Coast Highway 101. No 760-753-4101.

pets. 760-753-4101. **ENCINITAS.** \$2095. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Close to beach, restaurants and shops. Just remodeled! Laundry on site. 1- year lease. No pets. 843 4th Street. 760-753-6575.

ENCINITAS/ LEUCADIA, \$2900, 2 bedroom, 2 bath luxury duplex. Steps beach, best area. All new/ remodeled Pool, wood floors, fireplace, washer/ dryer. Huge deck with ocean view. No pets. 1571 Neptune Drive. TPPM, 760-436-6441. www.torreypinespm.com.

**ESCONDIDO.** Fully renovated, high-end luxury apartments. 2 and 3 bedrooms. IUXUIY apartments: 2 and 3 begrooms. Available now, starling at \$1250′ month. All stainless steel appliances, granite counter tops, cherry- wood cabinets and stackable washer and dryer in each apartment. Call Sherry, 760-845-3468.

FASHION VALLEY. \$975. 1 bedrooms. \$1100.2 bedrooms. \$1100.2 bedrooms. I area paratments.

FASHION VALLEY, \$1850. 3- bedroom, 2- bath condo. Attached 2- car garage with lots of additional storage. Balcony, wood floors, washer/ dryer, pool. No pet 6379 Caminito Salado. 858-483-3534.

FASHION VALLEY. \$1950. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Reduced move in. Pool. 2- car garage, balcony, patio, washer/ dryer in garage. Pets on approval. 6912 Camino Degrazia. www.sdforrent.com. 619-640-7530.

FASHION VALLEY, 5919 Mildred Street. FASHION VALLEY. 5919 Mildred Street. Huge 1450- square- foot 3 bedroom, 2 bath that features an additional 750-square- foot deck, 2 - car garage, central air, vaulted ceilings, fireplace, and views of Mission Bay. 82400. Also 750-square-foot 1 bedroom is available immediately. Fireplace, dishwasher, wash/ dryer, and fenced patio. \$1100. Cats OK. 619-296-

\*\*RASHION VALLEY/ USD. \$1000 rent, \$800 deposit OAC. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, parking for 2 cars, laundry, no pets, walk to USD, at 5550 Mildred Street #5. Agent. 619-291-1755.

FASHION VALLEY/ USD. \$1150 rent \$800 deposit OAC. Walk to USD! 2 bedroom, 2 bath, laundry, parking, no pets, at 1330 Eureka Street #14, #18 or #35. Agent, 619-298-5820.

#35. Agent, 619-298-5020.

FASHION VALLEY/ WEST. \$1450. Open house Saturday and Sunday, 11a 2 bedroom, 2 bath with extra roon Washer/ dryer hookups! Parking! Near USD! Minutes to the beach and much Washer 4., USD! Minutes to the beauti and ... WSD! Minutes to the beauti and ... more! 5845 Lauretta Street #1, 5865 Lauretta Street #8. No pets. 619-222-4836, www.liveathebeachnow.com

**GOLDEN HILL.** Charming 1 bedroom, 1 bath. \$850/ month. Hardwood floors. Great neighborhood, on-site laundry. No dogs. Available now. 2412 E Street. 619-

**GOLDEN HILL.** \$750. 1/2 off first month's rent. Nice, clean 1 bedroom, hardwood floors. Available now. Laundry. 2621 C Street. Pets OK. Appointment: Mary, 619-584-5900.

GOLDEN HILL. Charming 1 bedroom, 1 baths. \$775 & \$600/ month. Hardwood floors. Great neighborhood, on-site laundry. No dogs. Available now. 2427 E Street. 619-857-3706.

GOLDEN HILL. \$825 rent. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Carpet, parking, tile kitchen/bathroom. \$825 deposit. On-site laundry, close to Starbuck's and golf course. Available 1/1/09. Ursula, 619-757-0286.

**GOLDEN HILL.** \$995. 2 bedroom garden apartment, laminate and tile floors, onsite laundry, cat OK. 2849 B Street. Call 619-300-1365, or 619-588-4106.

619-300-1365, or 619-586-4106.

GOLDEN HILL. \$2200. Beautiful tri-level townhome, 3 bedrooms, 2-1/4 baths. Hardwood floors, fireplace, stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, washer/ dryer. Front patio and huge balcony overlooking canyon and downtown view! 2- car garage. Extra storage. Available now. 1- year lease. Walk to cafes and restaurants. 1304 24th Street. 619-523-2355.

GOLDEN HILL. \$765/ month, \$700 deposit. 1 bedroom. Near all freeways. All new paint, carpet, wood blinds throughout. Free laundry. 1 off- street parking. Credit check, \$15.2851 C Street (behind 2849 C). Available now. Nonsmoking. No pets. 619-213-2706.

GOLDEN HILL. Large 2 bedroom, \$995. Gated entry and parking, on-site laundry, dishwasher. No pets. 3013 C Street. 619-

546-9852.

GOLDEN HILL/ DOWNTOWN. 1
bedrooms, \$825, water/ trash includoff- street parking available, on-site laundry. On bus line. Pets OK with deposit. 619-231-8723.

httlCREST. \$1200. Extremely large 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Dishwasher, self-cleaning oven, sheltered patio, parking, laundry. Near all. 1037 Essex Street. No pets. 619-692-0364.

HILLCREST. \$500 off first month's ent! 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. \$1875. Canyon views! Washer/ dryer ncluded. Garage plus assigned parking. Pets OK. craig@adventmgmt.com; 619-972-9877.

HILLCREST. Spacious 2 bedrooms from \$1295. Fireplace, spa, gym, intercom and elevator. Sorry, no pets Hillcrest Summit, 4134 4th Avenue. See photos at www.wexfordliving. com. Call 619-299-0047.

HILLCREST. \$200/ week and up. Refrigerators, cable TV and HBO. Embassy Hotel, 3645 Park Boulev San Diego 92103. 619-296-3141.

HILLCREST. Pets OK! Bright, remodeled 2 bedroom. Hardwood. Washer/ dryer. Large deck/ patio overlooking canyon. 1 block Balboa Park. 1512 Myrtle. \$1495. 619-787-7434, 619-325-1470 x303.

HILLCREST. 2 bedroom/ 1 bath. \$1003. Downstairs unit. 4450 Georgia St. Section 8 welcome. Sorry, no pets. For more information call Ana at 619-266-3663.

HILLCREST. Hillcrest Palms. Senior complex, 55+. \$800. 1 bedroom apartments. Gated community. Convenient location. Near hospitals, restaurants, shopping. No pets. 4042 Albatross Street. 619-574-0784.

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AVELUCKEST. \$950. 1819 University Avenue (behind The Crypt). Cottage. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Breakfast nook, carpet, gas stove, laundry room shared with tenants. Street parking (we offer some spaces no charge, first come, first served). No pets. Phillips Realty, 619-291-6686. HILLCREST, \$950, 1819 University

HILLCREST. \$1250. 3843 Park
Boulevard. Second floor (The Crypt is
downstairs). Renovated 2 bedroom, 1.5
bath. Full bathroom, new ceramic tiled.

Half bath ceramic tiled. New blinds. New hall barn ceramic lieu. New binds. New light fixtures. Gas stove. Laundry room shared with tenants. Street parking. We offer no charge, some first come, first served spaces. No pets. Available now. Phillips Realty, 619-291-6686.

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HILLCREST, 1 month free! Extra large studio, \$825. Wood floors, full kitchen laundry. Near Balboa Park. Pet negotiable. 2311 4th Avenue. 619-804-

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com/news/rent1035.

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	Property Name	Phone	Starting rate	Bedrooms	Short-term/Corporate	W/D in unit	Laundry Facility	Balcony/Patio	Pets	Pool	Covered Parking	Fitness Center
1	Gables Point Loma	619-223-6577	\$1160	1, 2	•					•	•	
2	Bay Pointe	888-451-8713	\$795	5,1,2	•		•			•		-
3	Trilogy	619-231-1505 ext. 12	CALL	5,1,2								
4	The Club Torrey Pines	866-354-2096	CALL	1,2,3	•	•	•			•	•	
5	Parkside Apartments	877-280-5568	\$778	S, 1, 2, 3			•				•	
6	Albert's College	800-760-5518	\$969	S,1,2,3			•					
7	California Suites Hotel	888-475-7147	\$1195	S								
8	Studio 15	888-813-9461	\$631	S								

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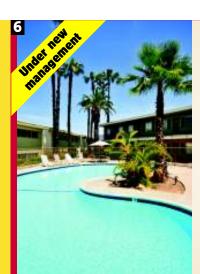
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# Mild Abandon



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LA MESA. Studio, \$780/ month with \$350 deposit. Available now. Storage. No pets. \$25 credit. 5435 Morengo Avenue. Call 619-698-7926. www.villaknollsapts.com. LA MESA. \$200 off move- inl 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1150/ month with \$500 deposit. Storage. No pets. \$25 credit. 5435 Morengo Avenue. Call 619-698-7926. www.villaknollsapts.com.

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LA MESA. \$725 studio. Complete LA MESA. 3/25 studio. Complete remodel! New carpet, paint, kitchen counters! On-site parking and laundry. Close to all! If you can find one better, rent it. 8642 La Mesa Blvd. Jeff, 619-713-1044, or Rachael, 619-804-1044.

LA MESA. Nice upper 1 bedroom, quiet residential neighborhood, off-street parking, laundry facility. \$725, \$200 off first month's rent. Near shopping, SDSU. Terri, 858-583-1517.

LA MESA. \$725 and up. 1 bedroom/ 1 bath, 2 bedroom/ 1 bath, 2 bedroom/ 2 bath, 3 bedroom available also. Laundry room, pool, parking. Water/ trash included. 619-466-6149.

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La Mesa

La Mesa
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LA MESA/ COLLEGE. Large studio for rent, La Mesa/ College area. Full kitchen, large bathroom, 2 closets, French doors, small deck, separate entrance. Must see! \$750, utilities included plus cable. Available now. 619-697-1609.

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#3. www.amgsd.com. 619-295-1165.

LAKESIDE. \$895. 2 bedroom, 1 bath.
\$500 move- in special. OAC. Laundry.
Parking. Available now. On-site manage.
619-561-4155. 12718 Mapleview Avent.
#7. www.amgsd.com. 619-295-1165.

LAKESIDE. Seniors 55+. 1 bedroom, 1 bath at \$675. Quiet, air conditioning, laundry, parking. Small pet OK. \$200
off 1st month. 12133 Rockcrest
Road 619-443-9611.

LEMON GROVE. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$775. 2 bedrooms, 1 baths, \$975. Great location. Cat welcome. Pool, laundry, parking. Free Wi-Fi. 8413-8427 Broadway. 619-462-6798. www. Broadway. 619-462-6798. www. sdaptbrokers.com.

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Trailer snace rental, \$450 monthly. Trailer LEMON GROVE. Sundance Trailer Part Trailer space rental, \$450 monthly. Trailer shace shower facilities available. New on-site shower facilities available. New on-site coin laundry. Peaceful. Front secured electric gate. Near trolley! freeway. Lease. Deposit. No dogs; cats considered. Manager, 619-463-0902.

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**LEMON GROVE.** \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath. Garage, on-site laundry. 7138 Central Avenue. Call Myra, 619-697-

LEMON GROVE, \$1395, 3 bedroom, 2 bath with A/C. On-site parking and laundry. 3262 Buena Vista Avenue. If you can find one better, rent it! Call Rachael, 619-804-1044, or Jeff, 619-713-1044.

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Unlimited, 760-436-7273.

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LINDA VISTA. \$650-\$1250 rent, \$400-\$800 deposits! No pets. Call for move- ir special! Studios (utilities included), 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms. 2249 Ulric Street. 858-

565-6400.

LINDA VISTA. 3 bedroom, 1 bath townhome. Rent \$1095. Deposit \$695. Space upgraded. Available to move in now. 918 square feet. 6544 Kelly Street. 619-220-4840; v@sdcpm.net.

Logan Heights. \$800-\$950. 1 and 2 bedroom. 1 bath. Reduced move in. Newly remodeled apartment upstairs. Sorry, no pets. Section 8 OK. 3144 and 3142 #3 National Avenue. www. sofformet.com. 619-640-7530.

MISSION BEACH/SOUTH. \$850. Large studio. No pets. Nonsmoking. Parking. Beach side. Appliances. New paint/ carpet. Prefer 6- month lease. 719-1. San Fernando Place. 619-275-3455.

MISSION BEACH. \$1375. Nice 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1- car garage. Stove, refrigerator, small yard. Water/ trash included. Small pet OK. 747 Island Court. 619-850-1953.

MISSION BEACH. \$3295. Fabulous, spacious, modern large 4 bedroom, 3 bath. Parking, fireplace, deck. Block to beach. No pets. Available. 815 Isthmus Court. 858-459-7391, 619-944-4536.

MISSION BEACH. \$1695. Stunning 2 bedroom with view of ocean! Parking appliances, laundry on site, balcony. 712 Santa Rita Place #A. 858-272-9547.

MISSION BEACH. \$950. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Amazing location only steps away from beach/ bay. Bright downstairs unit. 1 parking space. No pets. 3590 Mission Boulevard. 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

MISSION BEACH. 1 bedroom upstairs in South Mission. Parking. 1- year lease. \$1200/ month. 733 Ensenada Court #C. Available 1/5. More Property Management. 858-514-8201.

MISSION BEACH. 1 bedroom upstairs. Quiet bay side. Parking. \$1375/ month. 1-year lease. No smoking, no pets. 809 Venice Court. More Property Management. 858-514-8201.

MISSION BEACH/ SOUTH. \$2495. Large wiew. 2- car garage. Laundry hookups 822 San Gabriel Place. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

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MISSION HILLS. \$795. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Amazing views of downtown/ San Diego Bay. Pool. 1 parking. No pets. 1767 Torrance Street #316. 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

MISSION HILLS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Garage, on-site laundry, cat OK. Rent: \$1250. 723-735 Torrance Street. Call Mike, 858-490-1600.

MISSION HILLS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Onsite laundry, 1 parking space. Rent: \$1150. 803 Torrance Street. Call Mike,

MISSION HILLS. \$750. Spacious upstairs studio. Hardwood, Murphy beds, intercom

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MISSION HILLS. Ask about our holiday pool, laundry room, storage and more. Cat OK. 3505 Reynard Way. 619-683-9239. aspenpark.rasnyder.com

MISSION HILLS/ HILLCREST. 1 bedroom, \$950. Recently remodeled Pool, barbecue, dishwasher, on-site laundry, covered parking. No pets. EOH. Call 619-299-8746.

MISSION HILLS/ NORTH. \$765. Large studio, quiet backyard unit with deck, bayl city views! New carpet, upgraded kitchen, no pets/ smoking. 1775 Linwood Street. 760-943-8852.

MISSION VALLEY, \$995, 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo, Rancho Mission Villas. Newly remodeled, air, pool, Jacuzzi, tennis, rec center, laundry facilities. Lease. \$800 deposit. 619-818-9059.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1500. 2 master bedroom suites with bathroom. Large living area/ kitchen. Includes water. Newly remodeled bathrooms, granite tchen, new appliances, 2 covered arkings, patio. Pets OK. All offers elcome. 619-804-9896.

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#E111. 619-2/5-345b. 2 master bedrooms, \$1600 (includes water). New appliances. Remodel, washer/ dryer in unit, panoramic views, 2 parking, hardwoods, private patio. Pets OK. Available now. \$300 off first month! 858-353-6878.

MISSION VALLEY/ WEST/ USD. \$750-\$795. Unique, nicely upgraded studios Near trolley. 3- month leases, monthly thereafter. High ceilings. Gated. Landscaped courtyard/ sun deck. http:// www.info101.net. 619-297-3000.

NATIONAL CITY. Move- in special: \$99 off first month's rent! 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$800/ month. Deposit \$775. Parking space. Water paid. 116 Palm. 619-474-4441.

NATIONAL CITY. Studio for rent. \$650. Apartamento estudio, cocina integral, estacionamiento. No mascotas. No fumar. 619-460-3609.

NATIONAL CITY - 1 bedroom apartment, \$825/ month. Newly renovated. Gated community. Laundry on site. Available now. No pets. Hilltop Villas, 315 East 30th Street. Call 619-477-7442. www. metrownrongties com

NATIONAL CITY. \$775/ month. 1 bedroom, fully furnished. Low \$150 deposit. No SDG&E deposit or hookup is required. 624 East 24th Street. Office open daily. Call 619-474-3787.

NORMAL HEIGHTS \$695. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Security fence. Laundry. 4373 Illinois. No pets. 619-501-2311. 619-228-

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 1 and 2 bedroom. Fireplace, patio. From \$795. 4732 Bancroft #2. Laundry. No pets. 619-228-4184. 619-501-2311.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1395. 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhome. End unit, feels like a house. Patio, 2 parking spots, laundry. Small dog OK with deposit. 619-663-7120.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. Move- in specials! \$795, 1 bedroom at 4670 Cherokee. \$950, 2 bedrooms at 4133 37th. On-site laundry. No pets. Drive by, call 760-672-0425.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. Studio apartment. Newly remodeled. 400 square feet. Available mid-October. Rent: \$735. 3235 Collier Avenue. Call Mike: 619-640-8834

MORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1060. 1/2 off first month's rent. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, new paint, carpet, 2 parking spots,

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NORMAL HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, \$1100. Laundry. Parking. No pets. 4840 West Mountain View Drive. More Property Management, 858-514-

NORMAL HEIGHTS, \$925. Nice, clean, quiet 2 bedroom, 1 bath. New paint, carpet. Well maintained. Refrigerator. Laundry on premises. No pets. Nonsmoking. Conveniently located. 619-563-0779.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 2 bedrooms, 1-1/2 bath \$995. 1100 square feet, upper corner end unit, small complex, courtyard setting, assigned parking, coin laundry. No pets. Agent, 619-296-3189.

NORMAL HEIGHTS, \$900, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs unit in gated complex. Laundry. Available 12/20. 4580 39th Street, 4592-1/2. www.cethron.com. 619-

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$825. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Parking, laundry, gated. Quiet complex. Available now. 4511 35th Street #6. www.amgsd.com. 619-295-1165. NORMAL HEIGHTS, \$725, 1 bedroom, 1

bath, downstairs. Parking, close to Adams. Available now. 4575 Idaho Street #3 and #4. www.amgsd.com. 619-295-1165.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 4655 33rd Street. 1/2 off 1st month! 1 bedroom, \$795. Laundry. Parking. No pets. 619-200-1657 or www.bkbinc.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 4558 40th Street, #1. \$950, 1/2 off 1st month! 2 bedroom. Laundry. Parking. Downstairs. No pets. 858-692-6601 or www.bkbinc.com.

NORMAL HEIGHTS, \$750. Detached 1+ bedroom cottage. Reserved parking. Walk to Adams Avenue. No pets. Available now. 619-210-4651.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 1/2 off 1st! 3 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1250. Completely remodeled, new kitchen, appliances, new flooring, paint and windows, laundry. Near parks and stores. No pets. 4587 33rd Street. 619-384-9219.

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NORTH PARK. 1- bedroom, 1- bath apartment, \$850. Newer carpet/ flooring. Freshly painted. Gas/ water paid. Pool. Gated, quiet, no pets, on-site laundry. 619-281-1714.

619-281-1714.

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NORTH PARK. \$800. 1 bedroom. All amenities. Fine North Park location near shops and bus. 4631 Idaho. 619-461-9415/ 619-521-1901.

NORTH PARK. 1 bedroom upstairs apartment, wood floors. No pets. apartment, wood floors. No pets.
Nonsmoking. \$700/ month plus deposit.
Garage available for \$75/ month. 4120-B
lowa Street. Available now. 619-669-

NORTH PARK, \$980, 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom apartment. 1 parking, coin laundry, wall air conditioning. No pets. 4328 Louisiana Street #4. 858-483-3534 www.cal-prop.com

NORTH PARK. \$725. Spacious NORTH PARK. \$725. Spacious downstairs 1 bedforom, 1 bath with patio. Newly remodeled. New kitchen cabinets, tile, dishwasher, stove. Gated community. Parking. No pets. 619-298-7724.

NORTH PARK. \$950. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. \$450 off 1st month's rent, OAC. Laundry on site. Parking. Available now. 4375-1/2 Oregon Street. www.cethron.com. Elisa, 619-295-1100.

619-295-1100.

NORTH PARK. \$875. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. \$300 off 1st month's rent, OAC. Lower unit in small, quiet complex with parking. Available now. 4177 Illinois Street #3. www.cethron.com. 619-295-1100.

NORTH PARK. \$895. 1 bedroom womit FARN, 3695. 1 bedroom, downstairs condo in canyon at end of Robinson near Florida. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave. Shared Jacuzzi and deck, air conditioning, parking. Available 1/10/10. 2044 Robinson. Pacific Isle Property Management. 858-270-2071 Management. 858-270-2071.

Management. sos-270-2071.

NORTH PARK. \$1100. Reduced move in, 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment upstairs, off-street parking. Sorry, no pets. 3348-1/2 32nd Street. www.sdforrent. com. 619-640-7530.

NORTH PARK. \$950. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. 1 parking spot. Coin- operated laundry. Available now. 4123-1/2 Kansas Street. www.stevenleeproperties.com. 619-295-1161.

NORTH PARK. \$1100. First month 1/2 off! 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Upgraded kitchen, new appliances, paint. Close to downtown North Park. Section 8 OK. Cats OK. mgalante10@msn.com, 619-300.2415

NORTH PARK, 4334 Texas Street Utilities included! 2 bedroom, \$1050, 1/2 off 1st month! Laundry. No pets. 858-692-6601 or www.bkbinc.com.

NORTH PARK. Spacious 1 bedroom, 1 bath with great built-in bookshelves and closet space. Laundry on site. \$950. 4613 Alabama Street, #9. Call 619-296-6699.

NORTH PARK. \$795. Spacious 1 bedroom. Open house Saturday, 12/19, 12-3pm. Very clean and updated. Large closet! Laundry/ parking on site. Cat considered. 4183 Alabama. Manager, 619-820-2594

NORTH PARK. \$950. 1 bedroom, 1 bath nice- sized Georgia Street condo. Near all Hillcrest/ North Park has to offer. Secure complex. 1-1/2 parking spaces. year lease. Ready to move in now! 619-239-1639 x103.

NORTH PARK. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartments, \$695. Senior community. Quiet, clean, close to everything.

NISSAN

Secured, gated community, on-site coinoperated laundry, blinds on all windows, ceiling fans. Pets OK. Some restrictions apply. Upstairs unit, ready to move in. 4443 Idaho Street, 92116. First month' rent moves you in! Call 858-571-1970.

NORTH PARK. \$1400, \$1000 security deposit. Large townhome, 3- bedroom, 1-1/2- bath. 1- car parking, new carpet/ paint. Quiet 4-plex. Kansas Street. 858-

270-7699.

NORTH PARK. 1/2 off 1st! Completely remodeled 1 bedroom, 1 bath lower unit, \$850. New appliances, cabinets, flooring, paint and blinds. Laundry, off- street parking, near all! 4312 Kansas Street #3. 619-804-3325.

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NORTH PARK. 1/2 off 1st! Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath in charming complex, \$775. Completely remodeled, appliances, on-site laundry, off-street parking, near all! Pet negotiable. 4325 Texas #2. 619-

NORTH PARK. Extra large 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1250. Gated, private balcony, underground parking, A/C, all appliances new paint and flooring. 3928 Illinois. 619-843-0796.

NORTH PARK. 1/2 off 1stl Extra large 1 bedroom, \$825. Charming complex, appliances, on-site laundry, near all! Section 8 OK. 4055 Utah Street. 619-804-3325.

NORTH PARK. 1/2 off 1st! Upper 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$750. Gated, appliances, built-ins, parking, laundry. Pet negotiable. 4275 35th Street. 619-804-3325.

NORTH PARK, \$995 rent, \$800 deposit OAC. 2 bedroom, 2 bath triplex, laundr no pets, at 3640 Bancroft Street #101. Agent, 619-299-8515.

NORTH PARK. \$1025 rent, \$800 deposit OAC. 2 bedroom, 2 bath duplex townhouse, attached garage, no pets, at 3643 32nd Street #A. Agent, 619-299-

NORTH PARK, \$725 rent, \$700 deposit OAC. Large studio, hardwood floors and new carpet, no pets, at 3804 Pershing Avenue #3. Agent, 619-299-8515.

NORTH PARK. \$900 rent, \$800 deposit OAC. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry, parking, no pets, at 4222 Alabama Street #12. Agent, 619-299-8515.

NORTH PARK. \$760. Remodeled, large studio apartment. Parking. No pets. Gated. Appliances. New carpet/ paint. Balcony. Walk- in closet. Laundry. 3909 Florida Street, #112. 619-275-3455.

MORTH PARK. Move- in special: 1/2 off first month's rent! 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$700. Upper and lower units, senior or disabled citizens complex, gated. \$300 deposit. 4086 Swift Avenue. Agent, 619-501-7790

NORTH PARK. Move- in special: 1/2 off 1st month's rent! Upgraded, very large 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, \$1095. On-site laundry. Section 8 welcome. 4370 Hamilton Street #4. Agent, 858-560-1178.

NORTH PARK/ CITY HEIGHTS. \$995. 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage with garage. Private patio. 4248 36th Street. Xilarent. com. 619-683-7638.

OCEAN BEACH. 2 bedroom from \$1150\*. Enjoy comfortable year- round living at Ocean Breeze. Spacious apartments now available. This small, friendly complex is an ideal place to call home. Only 2 blocks from the beach. Sorry, no pets! 619-223-8186. \*Based

OCEAN BEACH. Studio, \$900 rent. One block from ocean. 2 bedroom condo. Small pets OK. Pool, Jacuzzi, weight room. \$1500 rent. 619-252-9515.

OCEAN BEACH. Beautiful beachfront OCEAN BEACH. Beautiful beachfront view! Studio, \$995. 1 bedroom, \$1100-\$1350. 2 bedroom, \$1500-\$1700. Some with great ocean views! Serene, security, garden buildings. Hardwood floors, ceramic tile, laundry. Garages available. Pets considered. For address and availability, call 619-224-1748. For applications, call 619-501-5553.

OCEAN BEACH. \$725. Studio, mile from beach in quiet tropical setting. Laundry. Available immediately. 4166-68 Udall St #2, 619-222-9308

#2. 619-222-9308.

\*\*OCEAN BEACH. \$300 off 1st month's rent! No application fee. Blocks to the beach! 1 bedroom, \$950. Clean. Parking Laundry. No pets. Includes water! trash. Seacoast Apartments, 5030 Lotus. Call Parking 1044 1651, 6074 1075. Doris, 619-204-1651, 619-224-0759.

OCEAN BEACH. \$995. 1 bedroom, near beach, small building, roomy, clean, quiet, no pets. Nonsmoking. Nice home 5050 Santa Monica Avenue, Manager, #14. Call 9-5pm. 619-222-3897.

OCEAN BEACH. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$985 rent. One block to beach. All amenities. Pool, laundry, fireplace, parking. 4825 Del Mar Avenue. 619-758-9565.

OCEAN BEACH. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1375 rent. One block to beach. All amenities. Pool, laundry, fireplace, parking. 4825 Del Mar Avenue. 619-758-9565.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1400/ month. 2 bedroom, plus den. Sunny balcony, upstairs, wood beam ceilings, wood paneling in living room. Mirrored closet doors. New carpets. All kitchen appliances. Water paid. Coin laundry. 1 parking space. No pets. Security deposit \$1000. Available 12/20. Minimum 6 rooths. 4041. Long brach Avanue, 858. months. 4941 Long branch Avenue. 858-272-7697; 858-337-1083.

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Street. 858-292-6046.

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delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

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(if necessary)

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Reader December 17, , 2009 149

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#### **LEAD STORY**

- Procter & Gamble announced in October that it will once again create and host a public restroom for the holiday season in New York City's Times Square as a promotion for Charmin tissue. Last year's installation was merely specially outfitted toilet facilities, but this year P&G will upgrade by hiring five bloggers ("Charmin Ambassadors") to "interact" with the expected "hundreds of thousands of bathroom guests" and write about their experiences with Charmin tissue on the company's website (and include "family-friendly" photographs). P&G is calling the campaign "Enjoy the Go."

#### **Compelling Explanations**

 The U.S. Tax Court ruled in September that William Halby, 78, owes back taxes because he improperly tried to deduct \$300,000 over a fiveyear period for "medical" expenses that were merely purchases of sex toys and pornography and payments to prostitutes. Halby said the activities relieved his "depression," in that he had no other sexual outlets. The court reminded Halby (a retired New York tax lawyer) that prostitution is illegal in New York.

- James Pacenza, 60, of Montgomery, N.Y., who was fired by IBM in 2003 after he continued to visit an internet sex-chat room during work hours, renewed his challenge to the termination in September, telling a federal appeals court that his internet sex "addiction" is a result of post-traumatic stress disorder from combat in the Vietnam war.

Robin Magee, a law professor at Minnesota's Hamline University, was charged with state income tax evasion in September for failing to file in 2007 and for filing returns for 2004, 2005, and 2006 only recently. Magee told the St. Paul Pioneer Press that she was "unable" to file on time because she has "extreme" attention-deficit disorder. Among the lapses of attention, according to prosecutors, was Magee's claim of eight tax exemptions, even though she is single and has no dependents.

The father of the baby is only 13 years old, but his own dad told reporters in Manchester, England, in October that the kid "will make a good father" and "is taking his responsibilities very seriously." He is "mature for his age" and "knows what he's about." The new dad said he plans to quit school and work full-time to support the child and the 16-year-old mother.

#### The Litigious Society

- With lawsuits piling up on Bank of America during the current economic downturn, Dalton Chiscolm found a new angle. In September, he sued the bank in federal court in New York City for inadequate customer service concerning his checks' routing numbers and asked for damages of "1,784 billion, trillion dollars" plus an additional "\$200,164,000." Judge Denny Chin gave Chiscolm 30 days to better explain his complaint but dismissed it finally on Oct. 23. (BBC News reported that the first amount, which is 1,784 followed by 21 zeros, is more money than exists on the planet.)

#### **Leadership in Action**

· In his campaign for election to the school board in Birmingham, Ala., Antwon Womack, 21, issued biographical materials claiming to be 23 years old; to be a graduate of a local high school and of Alabama A&M; to be a bona fide resident of Birmingham; to be properly addressed as "Dr."; and to have chaired three previous political campaigns. After inquiries by the Birmingham News, Womack acknowledged in August

that none of those claims is true. However, he defended his campaign and his principles: "My values are not lies. It's just [that] the information I provided to the people is false."

#### Something in the Darwin Water Supply?

 During a three-week period in September and October, three couples in the Darwin, Australia, area aroused police attention for having uninhibited sex in public. On Sept. 13, a 29-yearold man and a 23-year-old woman were fully engaged in their vehicle (stolen, said police) at a gas station in full view of passers-by. They persisted, ignoring a police officer's order to stop. Two weeks later, an intoxicated couple taken into custody by police was seen having sex by the motorist following directly behind the police paddy wagon. On Oct. 6, 25 miles south of Darwin, a 33-year-old man was charged with reckless driving after he crashed his car into a concrete drain while having sex with a 34-year-old woman in the front seat.

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNewsTips@Yahoo.com

PACIFIC BEACH. 4418 Bond Street. 1 bedroom. \$400 off 1st month! \$925. Parking, laundry. No pets. 858-692-6601 or 619-226-7368 or www.bkbinc.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1350. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Dual master suites with walk-in closets. Brand new carpet and paint! Dishwasher! Street parking. Sorry, no or site laundry. No pets. Located behind 1352 Reed Avenue. Manager, 619-820-5584

PACIFIC BEACH. Great values. Nice, clean, convenient apartments in multiple Pacific Beach locations. Studios from \$785. 1 bedrooms from \$965. 2

bedrooms from \$1355. Parking, laundry. Some buildings with gated entry, pool and/ or deck. No pets. 858-483-3796.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1275, 1 bedroom \$1475 and \$1625, 2 bedrooms, 1 and 2 baths. Intercom entry. Bright and clean. Dishwasher. Laundry. Lovely courtyard, heated pool, parking. Cat OK. 858-272-

4398.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2150. 3 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Off- street parking, Laundry on site. No pets. 4451 Haines Street. Call Chris, 858-270-4492 x203.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1600. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartments. Upper or lower. Off-

street parking. Laundry on site. No pets. 4451 Haines Street. Call Chris, 858-270-4492 x203.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2600. Clean, light, airy 3- bedroom, 3- bath townhouse. 2- car garage. Cathedral ceilings. Fireplace. Washer and dryer, patio, deck, no pets 1523 Hornblend. Call Chris, 858-270-4492 x203.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1100. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Upper level. Off- street parking. Laundry on site. No pets. 4451 Haines Street. Call Chris, 858-270-4492

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2500. 3- bedroom, 3 bath townhouse. 3- car garage. Fireplace, washer/ dryer, patio, deck. Clean, fresh paint. No pets. Available now. 1851 Grand Avenue. Call Chris, 858-270-4492

NACUS:

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1025. 1 bedroom in small complex. Great location near Crown Point. Laundry. **Open Saturday 1:00-3:00**. 1811 Pacific Beach Drive. 8-699-3851. www

PACIFIC BEACH. \$945. 1 bedroom. Convenient central location across from Henryis Market and Garnet shopping. Short walk to beach. No pets. 1236 Felspar St. TPPM, 858-699-3851. www.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$99 move in! Well-maintained 1 bedroom from \$875. Clean, quiet, parking, laundry, ceiling fans, pool. No pets. Available now. 619-279-0031.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1500. 2 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs unit. Designer paint and new carpet. Centrally located, close to shopping and all Pacific Beach has to offer. 1938 Felspar Street. TPPM, 858-699-3851. www.torreypinespm.com.

autiful courtyard and great location. rking included. No pets. *Open* PACIFIC BEACH, \$1225, 2 bedroom with **Saturday 1pm-2pm.** 1461 Misso Street. TPPM, 858-699-3851. www.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2250. 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse recently remodeled with fireplace, granite countertops, nice appliances and private back patio. **Open Saturday 11:30-12:30.** 1852
Diamond Street #3. TPPM, 858-6993851. www.torreypinespm.com.

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PACIFIC BEACH. 1/2 first month! Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1395. Near ocean and shopping. Spacious kitchen, ceiling fans, plenty of space! 4406 Dawes Street. 619-

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1425, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Designer paint and new carpet. Three blocks to beach. Parking. 909-1/2 Chalcedony. TPPM, 858-699-3851. www.

PACIFIC BEACH / CROWN POINT.

PACIFIC BEACH/ CROWN POINT. \$1350/ month. 2 bedroom upper and lower units (month- to- month rental). Near bay, 4021 Lamont Street. Remodeled kitchen with granite counters, newer carpet, laundry facility, off- street parking. No pets. 858-274-1446, e-mail: bjornandersen@gmail.com.

PACIFIC BEACH/ CROWN POINT.

\$1525. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Stove, refrigerator; large; upstairs; lots of closet space; balcony; garage space. Available 1/15/10. 1768 Thomas. Del Sol Property nent, Broker, www.delsolpm Management, Broke com. 858-270-2071

PACIFIC BEACH/ CROWN POINT. \$1285. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, large, upstairs. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, coin laundry, shared courtyard, garage space.
Cat OK with extra deposit. Available now.
3711 Ingraham. Del Sol Property
Management, Broker, www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH/ CROWN POINT. \$1285. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, large upstairs fron unit. Quiet area, coin laundry, garage

space. Available now. 1768 Thomas. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, www. delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH/ CROWN POINT.

\$1450. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, large upstairs. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, garage, coin laundry, fireplace. Unit behind 4118. Available 12/27/09. 4122 Jewell. Del Sol Property Management, www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH/ CROWN POINT.

\$1125. One- bedroom cottage in small complex near Mission Bay. Must see! 1926 Fortuna Avenue. TPPM, 858-699-3851 www.torrevoinespm.com

PACIFIC BEACH/ CROWN POINT.

\$1575. 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath townhouse close to Sail Bay. Designer paint and new flooring. Coin laundry on site, 1 off- street parking, shared barbecue area in quiet parking, shared barbecue area in quiet courtyard setting. Call to view. 3710 Yosemite. TPPM, 858-699-3851. www.

PACIFIC BEACH/ NORTH. \$1095. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Patio, garage. New kitchen, granite counters, cherry cabinets travertine. Berber-style carpeting. 1829 Chalcedony #2. 858-488-8120.

PACIFIC BEACH/ NORTH. \$1115. 1 bedroom, large downstairs, complete remodeled, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, new carpet, shared courtyard, coin laundry, parking. Cat OK with extra deposit. Available now 1546 Diamond. Del Sol Property Management, www.delsolpm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH/ NORTH. \$2150. 2 bedroom plus extra room, 2 bath townhome in 4- unit property. Stove refrigerator, dishwasher, microwaye refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, fireplace, attached garage plus parking. Private balcony. Cat OK with extra deposit. 1 block to ocean. Available now. 825 Chalcedony. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, www.delsolpm.com, 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH/ NORTH. \$875. Studio with all utilities paid. Full kitchen with stove and refrigerator, coin laundry, 3 blocks to ocean. Cat OK with extra deposit. Available now. 5049 Cass Street. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH/ NORTH. \$1425. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, large upstairs in triplex behind 1852. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, fireplace, garage. Cat OK with extra deposit. Available now. 1854 Chalcedony. Del Sol Property Management, broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH/ NORTH. \$1425. 2

refrigerator, coin laundry. New carpet. Cat OK with extra deposit. 2-1/2 blocks to ocean. Available now. 959 Chalcedony. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH/ NORTH, \$1450, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, large upstairs front unit. Stove, refrigerator, private balcony, coin laundry, parking, 3 blocks to ocean. Available 1/18/10. 1051 Diamond. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, ww.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH/ NORTH. \$1090.1 bedroom. Block to beach. 848-1/2 Emerald. 2 bedroom, \$1450. spacious, quiet, near Tourmaline beach. 853 Agate. No pets. 858-459-1352

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POINT LOMA. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath. Garage, washer/ dryer hookups. Fire, heat, air conditioning. View. Deposit \$1800, rent \$1800. Available now. 619-224-7791

POINT LOMA. \$1450, 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath townhome; or \$1535, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Walk-in closets, new carpet, tile/marble, lanai, pool, saunas. No pets. 619-

POINT LOMA. Small but cozy 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Rent: \$875. 1659 Scott Street. 1 bath. Rent: \$875. 1659 Call Mike, 858-490-1600.

POINT LOMA. 1456 Rosecrans Street.

POINT LOMA. \$775. Large upstairs studio! Great location! Laundry on site! No pets. 3612 Kemper Court #12. Call 619-222-4836, www.liveatthebeachnow

POINT LOMA. Refurbished studio from \$995. Newly remodeled with fantastic upgrades! Extraordinary! Everything is new! Gated, parking, laundry, barbecue area. In Point Loma near Nimitz. 2089 Chatsworth Boulevard. 619-222-0152.

POINT LOMA. \$1050 rent, \$800 deposut OAC. 2 bedroom with garage, parking, laundry, near bay, no pets, at 2839 Shelter Island Drive. Agent, 619-299POINT LOMA. \$1050 rent, \$800 deposit OAC. Large 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath apartment, pool, laundry, parking, no pets, at 2707 Camulos Street #2 or #6. Agent, 619-523-2411.

POINT LOMA. \$995 rent. \$800 deposit OAC. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, hardwood floors, laundry, parking space, no pets, near bay at 2834 Avenida De Portugal. Agent, 619-299-8515.

POINT LOMA. 2 bedroom, \$1275. Great location, minutes to I-8 and I-5. Close to Mission and Pacific Beaches. For appointment, call Antonio at 619-231-

**POWAY.** Single wide. Queen bed, bath, kitchen. Private. Off- street parking. \$750/ month. 214-587-1248.

POWAY. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. \$950, 1/2 off the first month with 1 - year lease. Security deposit \$500. Includes dishwasher, basic cable, laundry, and 2 parking spaces. Open house Saturday, 8am-4pm. No pets. 858-679-1789.

POWAY. 1 bedrooms at \$915. Off- street parking, laundry. Near schools and shopping. No pets. 12529 Oak Knoll Road. 858-486-0109.

RANCHO PENASQUITOS. \$1795. 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Fireplace, washer and dryer, 2 patios, walk-in closet, 2 parking spaces, community pool and spa. 9374 Twin Trails Drive #104. Agent, 858-560-1178.

**SAN CARLOS.** Super special! 2 bedroom townhouses. \$1375/ month and up. Stove, dishwasher, garage, and up. Stove, dishwasher, garage large patio, pools, laundry facilities. Lakewood Villa Townhomes, 8492 San Carlos Drive, San Diego. Available now. Call 619-469-3585; 319-944-0671.

SAN CARLOS. \$995. 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo. 1 parking. Newly renovated— new carpet, paint, vinyl, dishwasher, stove, kitchel vinyi, uisnwasner, stove, Kitchebathroom countertops. Quiet corner unit with view, pool, laundry facilities. Gated community. No pets. 6930 Hyde Park Drive #212. 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

SAN CARLOS. \$1160. 1/2 off first month's rentl 2 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs unit. Community pool, extra storage area 2 parking spots. Bell Bluff Avenue. 619-582-4119.

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SAN DIEGO. Navajo Bluffs offers PAR DIESU. NAVAIO BIUITS offers spacious studio, 1 and 2 bedroom floor plans. Fully equipped kitchen, plush carpeting, Pool. Cats welcome upon approval. Studios from \$800, 1 bedrooms from \$1025. 888-378-3335, www. NavajoBluffs.com.

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t for the Move-In Special! \$50 off rent f first 5 months! 3-bedroom, 2-b inst 5 months: 3-bedroom, 2-bath house. Beautiful garden yard. Corner lot. Walk to park, Benchley Weinberger School. Close to shopping, freeway access. Quiet neighborhood, 2-car garage, dishwasher, new bathroom tile, large backyard. Must see! \$2000/month after 6-month special. 619-697-5811.

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SAN DIEGO. Large 2 bedroom/ 1 bath units with a fenced yard. \$800 per month with \$800 deposit. No Pets. Property has laundry facility and is conveniently located at 31st and Greely. Call 619-239-1915 and ask for lvy for more information.

SANTEE. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo. \$1150. 1- car garage. Water/ sewer/ trash included. Small pets OK. Community pool. 9849 Mission Greens Court #3. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. peoplehelpingothers.com.

SCRIPPS RANCH. \$1995. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhouse. 1- car garage, fireplace, A/C, washer and dryer. Great location overlooking peaceful pond. 9739

Caminito Doha. Agent, 858-560-1178.

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SERRA MESA. \$1295. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Parking, laundry on site. Available 1/15/10. 8604 Hurlbut Street. www. amgsd.com. 619-295-1165.

SOUTH PARK. Studio apartment. On-site laundry, upper unit, pet OK. Rent: \$825. 1622 30th Street. Call Mike, 858-490-1600.

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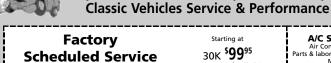












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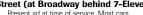
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#### **Thirty Years Ago**

Most Philosophical Opening Sentence:

"The world is what it is: men who are nothing, who allow themselves to become nothing, have no place in it." V.S. Naipaul has emerged this year as the darling of the literati, and this beginning, from his widely heralded novel, A Bend in the River, helps you to understand why. Obviously this is a no-nonsense writer who abhors sentimentality and gets right down to business. Readers of Erich Segal beware.

— "OPEN TO PAGE ONE."

Fred Moramarco, December 20, 1979

#### **Twenty-Five Years Ago**

One Sunday afternoon a couple of weeks ago, Patty M. stopped by the Four Corners Tavern on the northwest corner of 30th and Upas streets in North Park for a few drinks.

Then she recognized one of the officers, Jim Stewart, as a longtime friend whom she hadn't seen in more than a year. Initial pleasantries soon turned sour, however, "when he asked me what I was doing in a 'sleazebag' place like this," Patty recalls.

- CITY LIGHTS: "COPS KNOCK OFF FOUR CORNERS." Thomas K. Arnold. December 20, 1984

#### **Twenty Years Ago**

The Tribune printed this "clarification" after Mayor Maureen O'Connor complained about the paper's coverage of a Society Arts Festival performance: "Mayor O'Connor says she was not chewing gum as she entered the U.S. premiere performance of the Tbilisi State Marionette Theater last Wednesday. Paul Downey, the mayor's press secretary, said she was chewing on a breath

— CITY LIGHTS: "YEAR IN REVIEW," Paul Krueger, Neal Matthews, and Bill Owens, December 21, 1989

#### Fifteen Years Ago

Ten, 12 years ago I was talking to some small-press jerk, a publisher of pamphlets and broadsides and occasional 40-page books and such, who

didn't much care for the Beats. His idea of a Real Poet was somebody like James Merrill. Artuad to him was Not a poet, and Wallace Stevens was vastly preferable to Ezra Pound, who in turn was preferable to William Carlos Williams. His bottom line on Beats was they had nothing much to offer beyond the ambiguous (libertine) gushings and spoutings of any other Bohemian lit cult, and his only interest in 'em historically — was that much of their early work saw its first light of print in venues like his, though his own whimsical notion of publishing destiny was more on the order of being absorbed someday as an imprint of Knopf than spreading/thriving mushroom-like, City Lights-like, on its own enduring compost patch of back-catalogue populism.

— "BEAT LIT WRIT LARGE," Richard Meltzer, December 15, 1994

#### **Ten Years Ago**

Three years ago in a letter to the San Diego City Council and city attorney dated December 24, 1996, Bruce Henderson warned that the council had made a grave mistake in May 1995 when it approved the now-controversial Chargers ticket guarantee for Qualcomm Stadium. "It makes the city responsible for selling 60,000 tickets a game (6 million tickets in over ten seasons)," wrote Henderson. "Yet, it has the Chargers setting the prices. That gives the Chargers a cost-plus contract.

— "ALEX SPANOS AND THE STADIUM SHAM," Matt Potter, December 16, 1999

#### **Five Years Ago**

Look out, Union-Tribune, here comes Neil Morgan, who was fired by the paper this spring, and his old sidekick Bob Witty, who used to help Morgan run the Copley-owned, now-defunct San Diego Tribune. The pair, along with Barbara Bry, an ex-L.A. Times reporter and Harvard business school grad who married and later divorced millionaire Democratic La Iolla developer Pat Kruer, are part of the nonprofit "Voice of San Diego," a new website

Reader Spanos Sham

San Diego Reader, December 16, 1999

that sources say intends to take direct aim at the U-T's SignOn-SanDiego.com internet operation. Bankrolling the venture is said to be a foundation run by La Jolla fatcat venture-capital investor Ralph B. "Buzz" Woolley, owner of Coronado's Glorietta Bay Inn.

- CITY LIGHTS: "INSIDE OF INSIDE," Matt Potter, December 16, 2004

For more stories by these authors, go to sdreader.com.

SOUTH PARK. \$1195. Beautiful 1 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. Wood floors crown molding, appliances, laundry. N all. Pet negotiable! 2930-1/2 Juniper Street. 619-804-3325.

SOUTH PARK. \$725. Small 1 bedroom duplex/ \$880. 2 bedroom. Balconv. duplex/\$880, 2 bedroom. Balcony, canyon view, nice neighborhood. Water/ trash paid. Strictly nonsmoking. Cat OK. 1841 Bancroft. 619-435-0387, 619-206-

SPRING VALLEY. \$895. First month free. Large 2 bedroom. Gated, off- street Large 2 bedroom. Gated, off- street parking, pool, laundry facilities, ceiling fans, air conditioning. Near shopping/ freeways. 9765 Dale. 619-465-8875.

TALMADGE. \$865. Must see! Spacious 1 bedroom. 1/2 off move- in! Quiet, gated, laundry, air, parking. Cats OK. 4544 Winona Avenue, 92115. Call manager,

TALMADGE. \$740 rent. Large 1 bedroom 1 bath, hardwood floors, tile in kitchen/ bath, corner unit, washer/dryer in property. Cats OK. Off- street parking. \$740 deposit. 4690 Monroe Avenue. Jennifer, 619-504-7443.



**TALMADGE.** \$995. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath upstairs corner unit. Dishwasher. Air

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conditioning. Washer/ dryer hookups. Parking. Small pet. 4435 Estrella Avenue #4. 619-698-6911. www.



TALMADGE. \$795. Cute, cozy, 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Dishwasher; Spanish floor tile; private, fenced patio. Small pet welcome. 4447 49th Street #2. Small pet welcome. 4447 49th Street #2. 619-698-6911. www.goldenmanagement.

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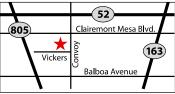
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### State of California 2912 Adams Avenue

Sunday 9 am-3 pm

**Denomination**: Presbyterian Church USA **Address**: 320 Date Street, Downtown, 619-232-7513

Founded locally: 1869 Senior pastor: Jerry Andrews Congregation size: 800 Staff size: 40, including school Sunday school enrollment: 100

Weekly giving: n/a

 $\textbf{Annual budget:} \$1.5 \ \text{million}, \text{not including school}$ 

Singles program: no
Dress: semi-formal to formal
Diversity: mostly Caucasian

**Length of reviewed service**: 1 hour, 5 minutes

Website: fpcsd.org

In my line of work, I see a lot of stained-glass windows depicting either scenes from the life of Christ or various Christian symbols. But until I ventured into the gothic wooden grandeur of First Presbyterian Church of San Diego and beheld the huge east transept window, I had never before seen a window showing Christ and the rich young man — the one who went away sad because Christ said to him, "Go, sell everything you have and give it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven." In that window, the young man stands with one hand on his hip, his eyes following Christ's gesture toward the ragged poor in the background. The sym-

bol overhead is a cross and crown—signifying, suggested a friendly congregant, the need for the "rich young ruler" to be joined to Christ. The image is lovely, almost sumptuous, even as it points toward the plight of the destitute.

"Come back this afternoon," said pastor Jerry
Andrews when I spoke to him.
"We feed the homeless here
every Sunday. And every other
Saturday, we have a food giveaway — that's mostly for people in distress." Many of them,
I later learned, are low-income
seniors living in the residential towers built by the downtown Catholic, Lutheran, and
Presbyterian churches in the

That was Sunday afternoon. Sunday evening, however, featured a different sort
of program: the church's annual
Feast of Lights. "This year's
service will be in the form of
Lessons & Carols," read the
brochure, "as is done traditionally at Cambridge in England. There will be three choirs,
an orchestra of San Diego
Symphony musicians...and
the traditional living Nativ-

ity." The extended stage was already in place, as was the manger setting where the infant Christ would be wrapped in swaddling clothes.

("Bring your neighbor," urged Andrews during the announcements. "These people wonder why church is important to you...why you've invested your lives in these things, why these things sustain you in life. You haven't talked to them about it, and that confuses them.")

The extended stage was necessary because there wasn't much room in the Sanctuary. A small portable pulpit held center stage; a much larger and more permanent version anchored stage right. But mostly, the space was filled with rising choir benches and fronted by an organ whose pipes crowded the walls above in layer upon gleaming silver layer. Benches and organ both got a proper workout; booming choruses gave way to gently twining duets, and Bach's "Sleepers, Wake" at the outset became Dupre's "Magnificat: Gloria" by the end. (My scribbled note on the latter:

"organ goes crazy.") "Come, thou long-expected Jesus..."

Sunday fell in the thick of Advent. Lighting three candles on the wreath, congregant Audrey Steidl noted that it was "a sign of the coming light of Christ. 'Advent' means 'coming.'" The confession of sins asked forgiveness "for our false and fickle pursuit of happiness" amid the deafening "sounds of the season." And the kids got shepherds, angels, sheep, and Lassie(!) on a felt display board before being sent to Sunday school.

Andrews's sermon followed an intricate path, noting Bethlehem's presence throughout Scripture. He began with Rachel's death on the way to Bethel — she died giving birth and used her last breath to name her child Benoni, "son of my sorrow." Jacob, the boy's father, changed his name to Benjamin: "'son of my right' or 'son of my joy.'" Then Andrews progressed to Ruth, who returned to Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi, eventually becoming greatgrandmother to David - the king. And, of course, there was

Jerry Andrews

#### First Presbyterian Church of San Diego Downtown

Sermon **★**★<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> content delivery \*\*\* Liturgy \*\* Music congregational \*\* band \*\*\* Snacks **Architecture ★★★**<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> **Friendliness**  $\star \star^{1/2}$ Poor to satisfactory (none)

 Good
 ★

 Very good
 ★★

 Excellent
 ★★

 Extraordinary
 ★★★

the journey to Bethlehem made by Joseph and Mary. "Is the son to be born to Mary to be the son of sorrow or the king of joy? Luke and Matthew want us to know that the answer is yes." Jesus "becomes the man of sorrows and the sole cause of the world's rejoicing."

In his closing prayer,

Andrews asked, "Father, You know fathers and mothers who are poor. Mothers who labor in tragic circumstances. Children born in hostile surroundings. These are families in sorrow. We know...both by the change of their circumstances and the revelation of the Savior to them, they can become families of joy. Where fathers and mothers in love conceive children and give birth to their hearts' desires.... As Jacob renamed his son, rename our generation, so that it will not be one of uninterrupted sorrow for those who are poor and who labor on journeys not of their choosing...for to them a child has been born, and a Son is given."

What happens when we

"These are things for which we trust God," said Andrews. "We are made for Him, and so we trust that we'll be with Him, and we take comfort in that."

- Matthew Lickona

Videos of this church and others featured in this column are available at sandiegoreader.com.

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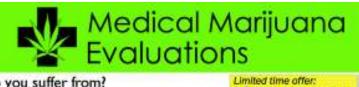
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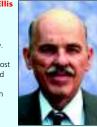
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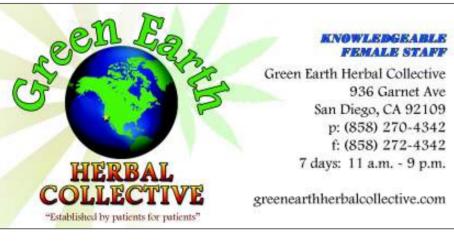
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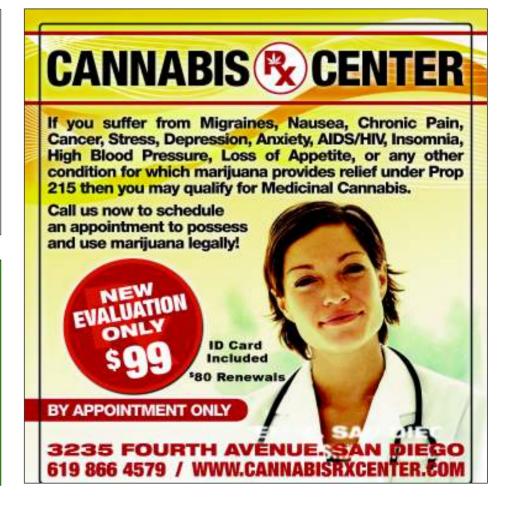












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