

SAN DIEGO WEEKLY

VOLUME 38 / NUMBER 51
DECEMBER 24, 2009

Reader

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INSIDE



This is Christmas, damn it!
What happened?

December 24, 2009

NEWS & FEATURES

This Is Christmas, Damn It! What Happened?

The richness of giving and worship. By Matthew Lickona.....32

City Lights

Chargers mouthpiece gets Bauderized.....6

The judge's logic in the landslide case; and Stringers.....7

Letters.....12

Straight From the Hip

Poop on mushrooms? Jeez Louise!.....14

Sporting Box

The Box's challenge to last-minute shoppers.....14

Movie Review and Guide

Duncan Shepherd catalogs the Christmas offerings.....16

Crasher

Unusual people in a snazzy loft.....28

Diary of a Diva

Microbial hysteria.....30

Off the Cuff.....106

Puzzle Wordsmiths play here.....108

Sudoku Find fame in a numbers game.....110

Picture Story.....115

Typo Patrol Results.....116

News of the Weird.....127

Sheep and Goats

Genuine Lutheranism in La Mesa.....131

CALENDAR

Events

Outdoors, Special, Dance, Film, Food & Drink, For Kids,

Galleries, In Person, Lectures, Sports, Museums & Public Art.....49

Gather No Moss

Peaceful Strawberry Fields in the Big Apple; and imagine

the great games at Olympia, Greece.....50

Roam-O-Rama

Go back in time in Rockhouse Canyon.....52

What's That You're Reading?

As a Man Thinketh by James Allen.....55

Music

Blurt.....62

Singer/songwriter Megan Combs.....68

Everyone's a Critic.....78

Happy Hour! Bargain sauce and snacks.....84

Restaurant Reviews and Guide

Bice's an excellent new Italian in town.....87

What the Chef Eats.....92

Theater Guide.....96



See page 50

ADVERTISING

Classified Ads

Antiques & Collectibles.....	130
Appliances.....	130
Automotive.....	130
Bicycles.....	129
Business Opportunities.....	109
Career Training.....	100
Classes/Lessons.....	111
Computers.....	129
Counseling/Support.....	112
Electronics.....	130
Furniture.....	130
Garage Sales.....	130
Help Wanted.....	98
Massage.....	111
Miscellaneous For Sale.....	130
Motorcycles.....	130
Music.....	113
Natural Health & Fitness.....	112
Notices.....	112
Parent Resources.....	112
Personals.....	113
Pet Central.....	114
Photo.....	129
Real Estate.....	129
Rentals.....	114
Roommates.....	114
Services Directory.....	117
Sports.....	129
Stage Notes.....	112
Travel & Getaways.....	113
Wanted/Trade.....	129
Wedding/Party Guide.....	112

Display Ads

Automotive.....	121
Career Training.....	99
Health and Beauty.....	29
Help Wanted.....	98
Natural Living.....	118
Legal Solutions.....	24
Music.....	109
Rentals.....	122
Research Studies.....	15
Services.....	111
Singles Events.....	60
Special Event & Party Services.....	58
Travel & Getaways.....	50

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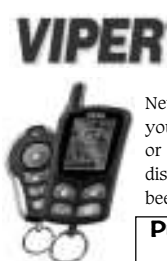
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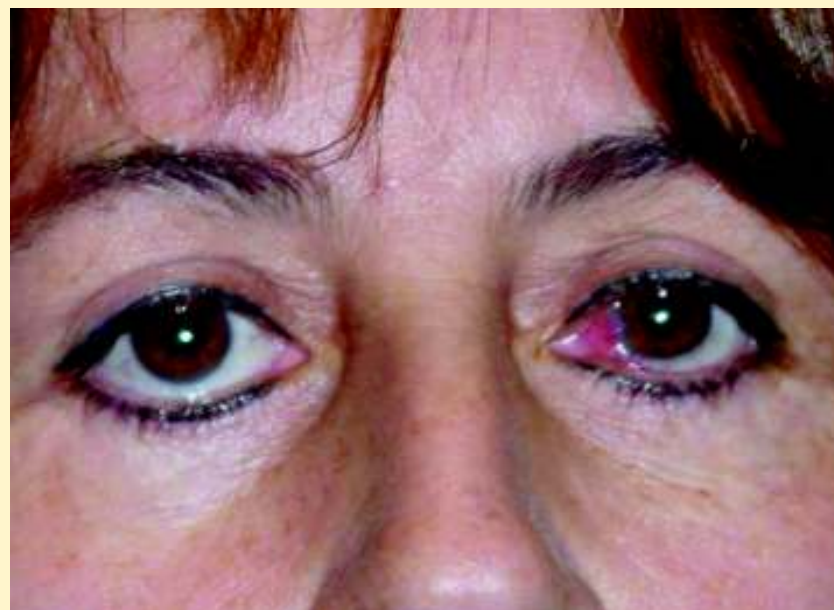
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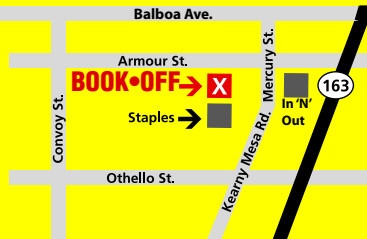


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Fabiani Talks

By Don Bauder

The young son of a prominent government official boasted to his father that he had saved 25 cents by walking home instead of taking the bus. “Tomorrow, save \$10 by not taking a taxi,” cracked his father.

Beware of such mathematical legerdemain as the Chargers try to make the case for a massive government subsidy for a downtown stadium. For years, the team had said a new stadium would be built with private funds, but that claim was never credible because it was always assumed that the land would be donated by some duped government entity that might also ante up property tax revenues for construction.

Now the team is looking into building a stadium on a bit more than ten acres

downtown — the tiniest footprint in the National Football League. (Qualcomm Stadium is 166 acres.) The park would take up the current Tailgate Park (once a major sales tool for nearby Petco Park), the Wonder Bread building, and the bus yard

Each of us [Bauder and Fabiani] challenged the other’s personal honesty.

of the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System.

Mark Fabiani, Chargers mouthpiece, says that because there can be no ancillary development, there will have to be a government subsidy — or, realistically, much



Mark Fabiani

more corporate welfare than there would have been when the team was claiming the facility would be privately financed.

So let’s examine some of Fabiani’s juggling of numbers. In a speech in Rancho Bernardo, he said the facility would cost \$700 million to \$800 million. Others say it will be closer to \$1 billion. Fabiani told me that “stadium construction would not begin until five years from now at the earliest” and the team counts on inflation being 3 percent — possibly a very optimistic estimate.

But there is an overwhelming factor: a huge plume of gasoline and oil that has sunk deep into the ground in the

decades since the bus yard went into use in the 1920s. “The period for that plume to develop has been a long, long time — not anything like a filling station in use for only 40 years,” says Jim Mills, former president pro tem of the California Senate and an expert in San Diego transportation. There is also the question of relocation of the bus yard. How much would it cost? What San Diego neighborhood would want it? “There would have to be an environmental impact report for the new location, and can you imagine residents welcoming the bus yard with open arms?” says former councilmember Bruce Henderson.

In a December 12 op-ed in the *Union-Tribune*, Fabiani never mentioned the huge cleanup or who might pay for it and any relocation. Said Fabiani in an email, “While [fuel contamination] is an important issue, we don’t see it as a show stopper. That could change with more work, of course, but right now we are not deterred by this issue.” Even the *U-T* says, “The cleanup costs are potentially enormous.” Hmmm.

In his *Union-Tribune* op-ed, Fabiani said that the Chargers and the National Football League might put \$250 million to \$300 million into the project. But in the Rancho Bernardo speech, he said that “the league’s financial support is not assured because the fund it created for such purposes has been drained,” according to the *Union-Tribune*. The league desperately wants a team in Los Angeles because of television and other revenue in the nation’s second-largest market. Would it put money in L.A. or in San Diego? Need I ask?

So how much would the Chargers plunk into the

pot — \$200 million? That could make the government expense between \$500 million and \$750 million or more. No wonder a Channel 10 poll indicated that 71

Henderson. Fabiani seems to be arguing that since it will cost \$300 million (his dubious figure) to keep Qualcomm going, why not just throw in several hundred



MTS downtown bus yard

percent of San Diegans oppose use of tax dollars for a new stadium and only 26 percent favor it. But wait until the entire establishment lines up in favor of it and pro-stadium spending swamps the opposition by 100 to 1 or more, as is common in such campaigns.

million more? Huh? Henderson points to the opportunity cost: the hundreds of millions in additional funds that would be spent on the downtown stadium could do much to reduce the City’s chronic financial problems, repair the rotting infrastructure, restore services, and



Wonder Bread building

In his op-ed piece, Fabiani claimed that it will cost the City more than \$300 million to keep Qualcomm Stadium going until 2020. I asked him where he got that number. It turned out that \$32.7 million represented expenses that would come after 2020. And \$200 million came from supposed deferred maintenance. “He appears to have pulled that \$300 million out of his butt,” says

improve the quality of life.

Fabiani says the City could save much by turning Qualcomm to other uses. But who is going to build condos, lofts, apartments, retailing establishments, and office buildings anytime soon? There is a huge glut. Any hotel that was built or refinanced in the past five years is underwater, says La Jolla hotel guru Jerry Morrison. It will take

continued on page 8

U-T Owner’s Law Firm Helped Shield Tiger, Says WSJ

[In 2007, the] *National Enquirer* had photographs...

Feds Close Imperial Capital Bank of La Jolla The bank was sold to Los Angeles-based City National Corp....

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Neal Obermeyer



The Logic of a Landslide

By Joe Deegan

Brian Burke was agonizing over whether to appeal the court's decision in the Mount Soledad landslide case. "Have you

ever been too close to something to decide wisely about it?" he asked. He raised the question less about himself than of the attorneys who lost the Mount Soledad landslide case against the City of San Diego. "If I do appeal the verdict," said Burke, whose home was one of three that were completely destroyed in the slide, "I'll probably get new legal advice." Burke was the only plaintiff among the three who would speak with me.

attempt to collect damages from the City. He must have been confident, for only 75 days prior to the October 3, 2007 Soledad slide, Catalano had won a \$12.5 million settlement from the City of Carlsbad and the Carlsbad Municipal Water District in an apparently similar case. Both cases hinged on whether negligence in maintaining underground pipes caused water to trigger landslides.

As Catalano went to work



McCormick House (right) on Desert View Drive alley

cities is what leads to lawsuits against governments and public agencies. But litigant beware. "Handling earth movement cases is full of traps for the unwary," wrote Burg. "Getting a skilled expert involved early on is essential to determining whether a theory of liability exists. Counsel need to think like a geotechnical

Soledad Mountain Road that ruptured in July, August, and September 2007, only a short time before the catastrophic slide. "I believe the evidence is unequivocal that without the water from the waterline, this landslide would never have happened.

"Interestingly," Hearn continued, "this slope existed for



Soledad Mountain Road, October 2007

The others have been advised to keep silent while their attorneys decide whether to appeal.

"People have told me that an appeal would cost around \$100,000," Burke told me. "It's a big decision because if the appeal fails, I'll be buried financially for the rest of my life."

Too bad attorney Patrick Catalano wasn't as cautious as Burke in the first days after the slide. That's when Catalano signed up on contingency to represent 3 of 65 eventual plaintiffs in their

on the new case, he told the press that the City of San Diego "breached their duty" in allowing pipes on Soledad Mountain to leak. He then noted, "You can get an expert to say anything you want, you've just got to go around and find the expert that will say what you want." He neglected to mention that the City would do the same.

In an April 2005 edition of *Insurance Journal*, Edward Burg explained that an earth-movement exclusion on homeowners' insurance poli-

engineer and a hydrologist in order to evaluate cases and advise homeowners."

Catalano and Catalano, which has offices in San Diego and San Francisco, was only one of five law firms for the plaintiffs, Michael Hearn of Irvine taking the lead in representing Thomas Crabbe, whose home was destroyed. The trial went on for a month toward the end of summer. In his closing arguments, Hearn called attention, as he had throughout the trial, to the waterlines underneath

40 years before this landslide after development in 1962 through 1967 and had never failed. There was 40 years of rain, 40 years of irrigation, 40 years of development, and it didn't move until 2007 and it didn't become a catastrophic failure until after the waterlines broke from July 2007 until September 2007."

The water leakage on July 18, estimated at up to 100,000 gallons, had been so evident in the neighborhood of the slide that hardly any layper-

continued on page 8

STRINGERS

Late-Night Oxycontin

"The Problem Is with Rite Aid"

Hillcrest — The Rite Aid pharmacy located at 535 Robinson was robbed early on December 15 by a man with a knife demanding narcotics. San Diego police responded to the pharmacy after a robbery was reported about 3:45 a.m.

An SDPD dispatcher told the units via a police radio frequency that the suspect was a Hispanic male in his 20s with a high-pitched voice. The subject was reported to have fled the scene with two bottles of Oxycontin.

A police unit searching the area for the perpetrator subsequently questioned a person matching the description.

According to the officer, the subject he had detained told him, "I had a knife on me earlier, but I don't know where it is," and "The problem is with Rite Aid, not me."

By T.B. Weipert, 12/16

Hot for Pot

Signature Gatherer Goes Countywide

Escondido — "Join the revolution!" says "Big Kahuna" from his post in front of Target on Auto Park Way. "Legalize marijuana!"

Kahuna (who says he was born in Hawaii) has gathered signatures at Target, Walmart, and grocery stores around San Diego for months. He represents the California Coalition for Legal Marijuana.

"We took a poll three weeks ago and found out 60 percent of the people in California support our cause."

The U.S. Army veteran says he's been a marijuana activist since the 1980s.

"When we legalized Irish whiskey, the Italians

and the Irish stopped killing each other. Legalizing marijuana will change things at the border."

By Mindy Vansant, 12/16

Comments

1. Hopefully Jerry Brown, ex-mayor of Oakland, will be elected Governor. Then, by 2011, state-wide decriminalization and 'low-prioritization' will probably be enacted. By



"Big Kahuna"

2013 cannabis-extract will be in Schedule 3, and smokable marijuana will be legal in California.

Some legitimization of growing and 'manufacturing', and tight security and regulation, will be imposed. License fees, paying income-tax, fire-proofing, robbery security, etc etc will need to be addressed.

By 2015 California will have its first wave of cultivation/distribution millionaires !!

By scottportraits

10:39 p.m., Dec 17

2. The biggest problem with this bill (I'll vote for it, even though i no longer smoke) is the timing. All of us politicians know that Democrats and stoners (is there a diff? Discuss;o)) don't come out in large enough numbers on non prez election years. Wait til 2012.

By xians421

4:47 p.m., Dec 18

continued on page 10

Fabiani talks

continued from page 6

years before the condo over-supply is worked down.

On that score, Fabiani mentions tax increment financing, or the use of future property tax revenues. But those nearly empty hotels and condos are causing the value of high-rise buildings to go down — along with future property tax receipts. Since construction won't start for at least five years, Fabiani says, "Our expectation is that the current economic downturn will have ended by then." Probably, but will property tax receipts have rebounded enough to use tax increment financing? Will the overbuilding be sufficiently worked off?

If the Qualcomm site is

used for something else, "Who is going to pay to rip down the stadium?" asks Henderson. And there is a plume at that site too.

Fabiani says the Chargers "have proposed from the start that the team be allowed to operate and maintain the new City-owned facility." I reminded him that the team also claimed that the stadium would be privately financed. This led to a snappy colloquy in which each of us challenged the other's personal honesty. I kept thinking to myself: even if the Chargers pick up maintenance costs (and I will have to see that to believe it), who pays the servicing on the bond? The Chargers have already answered that one. It won't be the team. "Since the total servicing costs for the \$60 million bond issue

of 1997 for Qualcomm improvements is \$5.8 million a year, then servicing costs on a bond of over \$600 million could logically amount to about \$60 million a year," says Henderson, who is including sinking fund costs. Maintenance expenses would be a fraction of annual bond costs.

The Chargers argue that they need a new stadium to be competitive. But between 2004 and 2008, the team had a 54-26 regular season record. It is doing even better this year. In reality, the team wants more money for itself. I am not against companies wanting to boost profits, but I do resent it when the money will be sucked out of a bankrupt city.

Sums up Mills, "Anybody who considers spending this kind of public money on a

football stadium has to be a moron."

Henderson thinks the suggested deal may be so moronic that the team wants to lose the election; then it can tell the National Football League that San Diego closed the door, and the Chargers should be able to move to Los Angeles or elsewhere. Not so, insists Fabiani: "We want to find a solution here in San Diego County," he claims. But the team has been saying that as long as it has been claiming...oh, never mind. ■

Landslide logic

continued from page 7

son imagined the water not to have been a cause. And, as Hearn argued, California law had long established that municipal infrastructure does not have to be the only cause of a catastrophe for a city to be held liable. This was an important point because all

the experts called in the trial agreed that Mount Soledad has been for centuries an unstable geological formation.

As the trial closed in mid-August, the plaintiffs were optimistic. But superior court judge Ronald Styn came to see it otherwise. The plaintiffs' attorneys had needed to convince the judge by a preponderance of the evidence that the leaking water was a substantial contributing cause to the landslide. In an October 1 document explaining his decision, Styn wrote: "The court finds that the Plaintiffs have not carried their burden of proof."

Analysis of Styn's reasoning indicates that he came to two major conclusions that devastated the plaintiffs' case. The first was that the water from the City's leaking pipes did not seep deeply enough into the ground to trigger the landslide. Second, even before the pipes broke, the landmass was already creeping forward, probably causing the pipe

damage.

Styn acknowledged an important plaintiff contention, that "the average moisture readings within the slide area are greater than the average moisture readings outside the slide area. This is most noticeable in the area around the July 18 leak. However the average moisture at the toe of the slope is not as high. Logically there would be some elevated moisture around the area of the pipe leak but apparently significant amounts of moisture did not migrate down to the toe of the slope."

Outside the landslide area, where there was no water, the ground held firm. "Plaintiffs conclude," wrote Styn, that "the only difference is the leaking pipes which must be the cause of the landslide. While there is logic to this argument, the evidence does not support the theory because there is not significant free water in the landslide mass."

So what happened to those 100,000 gallons of water that leaked out of the pipe on July 18, 2007? Did they evaporate? "The photographs taken of the July 18 leak indicate that an enormous amount of water bubbled to the surface and

continued on page 10



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Landslide logic

continued from page 8

came out near the manhole cover. This means the path of least resistance was up and sideways, not down. Therefore it appears that most of the water bubbled to the surface and ran off," wrote Styn.

Greg Axten, an expert witness for the plaintiffs, had argued during the trial that a process called "dilation" had allowed water to enter the slide mass. "If dilation caused the water to go into the slide mass," maintained a skeptical Styn, "the water would have had to come out or it would have been evident in the borings or piezometers [instruments that can detect hydrostatic pressure in the ground]. Since the borings (with two exceptions) and piezometers showed no water, there is no persuasive evidence that dilation occurred."

All parties acknowledged that a clay seam deep in the slide mass had become wet. It was on this wet seam that the land slid.

But Styn doubted that the small cracks in the landslide mass would have allowed enough water from above to make the seam as wet as it became. At any rate, "It would be a very small amount," he claimed, "and it would take a

very long time for a significant amount of water to get through these tiny cracks. The longer time span of irrigation might allow this to happen and therefore it is more likely that water from irrigation caused the increase in moisture rather than water from the water main leaks."

The plaintiffs' attorneys wanted to know, of course, why similar patterns of irrigation in the closely surrounding areas did not cause landsliding there.

Key to the City's position, argued by San Diego attorney Douglas Butz, was a crack in Soledad Mountain Road that appeared in March 2007, four months before the July 18 leak. "When the landslide occurred," wrote Styn, "the head scarp at the northern end was exactly at the site of the March, 2007, crack. The March, 2007, crack lines up with the Burke house forming the northern edge of the slide. The Burke house suffered cracking which was first noticed on July 30, 2007. This is consistent with the slide originating at the March, 2007, crack and moving towards the Burke house on the northern edge."

Styn found it telling that vertical displacements — drops in the pavement — were noticed at both the March 2007 crack and at the July 18

pipe break. "The landslide began moving before water from the leaks could reach the slide plane, weaken the clay and start the landslide. The July 24 photographs also reveal cracking in Soledad Mountain Road. This is further evidence that it is likely movement of the landslide began before July 18.

"The movement at the surface would not necessarily be as great as the movement going on subsurface during the early stages of the landslide. If the movement below was much greater than at the surface a 3 inch drop in Soledad Mountain Road could be sufficient to cause the water main to move and cause a corporation stop to pull out."

A corporation stop is a valve that fits over the service line. It was a corporation stop pulling away from the main line that caused the massive leak on July 18, 2007. Indicating how far the argumentation went during the trial, the plaintiffs maintained that the City improperly installed the lateral pipes, not allowing for goosenecks. The purpose of the gooseneck is to allow flexibility in the pipes should ground movement occur.

Attorneys sparred as well over the existence of "spalling" on the pipes where several pullouts took place. Spalling

is a process of breaking small fragments off the face of a material, in this case making the pipe smooth. The plaintiffs argued that the spalling indicated the leaking had been going on for a long time. But the City's expert, wrote Styn, "testified the spalling could take place very rapidly because the force of the water coming out after a pullout would create a turbulent area and there would be water mixed with dirt which would sandpaper the pipe and create a smooth area." Styn sided with the latter interpretation and concluded that "the spalling does not support the theory of leaking for a long period."

I am standing at the site of the landslide that took place two years ago and looking out at the gorgeous view to the east. The street that was once a virtual bowl containing broken pavement has been built up and repaved.

Only moments ago, I came up from the Desert View Drive alley, where the Burke house, having slid down a slope that for years has been steeper than safety standards recommend, crashed into a home owned by the McCormick family. The City demolished the Burke house. There are signs all over the McCormick house warning intruders of the danger therein and advising them on pain of law to keep out. At the

northern corner of the house, bunk beds with sheets still on them can be seen through a gash in the outer wall.

My mind goes back to Patrick Catalano's remark that "you can get an expert to say anything you want" — and to a final detail from the trial. In the explanation of his decision, the judge mentioned two geotechnical firms, one named Ninyo and Moore and the other Helenschmidt Geotechnical, which the City had hired to investigate the slide. (Neither firm agreed to talk to me.)

Judge Styn noted that the City never called witnesses from either Helenschmidt or Ninyo and Moore. He then quoted from the California Evidence Code that "if weaker and less satisfactory evidence is offered when it was within the power of the party to produce stronger and more satisfactory evidence, the evidence offered should be viewed with distrust."

But the judge went on to conclude: "Notwithstanding this rule, the evidence is more consistent with the opinions of the City's experts than the opinions of the Plaintiffs' experts."

Meanwhile, Brian Burke says he will not appeal the judge's decision. Other litigants and their attorneys are still thinking it over. ■

STRINGERS

continued from page 7

Distracted

Cell-Phone User Killed by Trolley

Barrio Logan — "I was on the Blue Line trolley heading south to San Ysidro around 5:30 a.m. when it hit a guy talking on his cell phone," said college student Jennifer Tull.

The County of San Diego Medical Examiner office verified that a single 29-year-old male resident of San Diego was killed by blunt-force injuries to the head and torso on Thursday, December 17, at 5:46 a.m.

A trolley track near Schley Street and Harbor Drive was closed for the investigation but service continued on parallel tracks.

By Noel Gallego, 12/19

Comments

1. Many years ago, I was a witness to the Orange Line running over somebody racing the trolley into the 62nd Street Station, as he had just left the nearby EDD office on his way to a job interview in La Mesa, I believe.

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continued on page 102

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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.

Building In An Uproar

I'm calling on behalf of everybody in my building. We are very, very disappointed in the cover of the Reader today ("I Had the Rocket Launcher," December 17). This violence... Kids see this, teenagers see

this — this is the wrong kind of cover on the Reader. It has really upset us, and I told them that I would call to tell you this.

Name Withheld
via phone

Friendship, No Demands

Re "Sheep and Goats" (and Cats), December 17, First Presbyterian Church, Third and Date. Excellent article about a great church. I'm in their "other" congregation, which gets a meal Sundays at 2:00 p.m. This church has a great sensitivity to the feelings of the poor, making it a top pick in the reality department. They even cater to us "cats." Sheep like being herded, goats oppose it, and herded cats will bite you or poop on your bed.

There's no demand that you become Christian or face

the sentence of eternal imprisonment in hell. The leaders run blogs. Good blogs. They care a lot about how well they're doing. Today (Sunday, December 20), they asked me for an evaluation from outside of Judeo-Christianity. I rate them third among all Christian denominations in public service, behind only the Salvation Army and the United Methodists. Kitty likes. Try this church if you're very independent. Might make you purr.

John Kitchen
via email

Cream Just For The Fat Cats

Mr. Bauder exposed the mayor's and council's corrupt practice of appointing lobbyists to important committees ("Lobbyists Rule," "City Lights," December 17). These appointees have one

goal: to enrich themselves and their employers. Of course, the mayor and council will tell you they are devoted to helping the City.

Downtown redevelopment is an example of how the City uses property tax to build stadiums, unneeded hotels, and vacant condominiums, while our police department and fire department have their budgets cut. Redevelopment is supposed to improve the city; instead, it has robbed us of income that should have been used for public safety.

In fact, the city charter says public safety is the council's first priority. The council ignores this and makes downtown construction its first priority. The rest of the city will subsidize downtown's need for police and fire protection. The current budget admits that response times

for police calls and medical rescue will be slower. How many people will die from these budget cuts? But this doesn't matter as long as each councilmember keeps redevelopment money in his or her district.

Basically, redevelopment, which was originally supposed to clear slums, has been transformed into a subsidy for developers of hotels and condos.

Mel Shapiro
via email

Kids Get No Union Benefit

Thank you, Ernie Grimm, for your great cover article "Gompers Takes a Bow," December 10. It shows unmistakably that the real obstacle to improving our education system is teacher unions. They protect the incompetent, fight local con-

trol and innovation, and exist only to feather their own nest. They also use thuggery and the San Diego School Board to force their views on captive parents and children in poor neighborhoods. It is no wonder that minority parents are the ones most aware of the damage done by teacher unions.

Bob Spaulding
San Diego

Interesting, Unreadable

I thought that "Play the Sneaky Development Game" ("City Lights," December 3) was interesting with a catchy title but just too hard to read. The article was not organized well. The picture of Ron Roberts was on the wrong page. It was better to have the article than not to have it, but it wasn't written like one you wanted to read.

Name Withheld
by Request
via email

Comments from Reader Website

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

Cover Story Published Dec. 16

By Travakh 5:27 p.m., Dec. 16, 2009

Good article, good read. I used to do regional tournaments for Quake 3 and Unreal Tournament, but I was never good enough to make it into the big-league invitationals so I didn't commit.

I hope this can convince at least a few skeptics that e-sports are more similar to sports than they expected. Getting to tournament level skill (reflex, aim, mobility)

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requires dedication and long-term training, and maintaining that skill as you age gets difficult.

By Ponzi 5:41 a.m., Dec. 17, 2009

I'm sorry, but if my kids had a 2.1 GPA, the video games and television would be packed off to the dump. It should be GPA first, then fun and games later.

By mariecbaca 6:13 p.m., Dec 20, 2009

Hey Ponzi, intelligence takes many forms, and you have no idea how strong and brilliant Evan has had to be in order to get where he is today. He is an inspiration

to his friends and family, and to anyone who has had to take the less-traveled path to achieve their dreams.

Diary of a Diva

Published Dec. 16

By sdcharley 5:01 a.m., Dec. 17, 2009

Great article and video! (as always)

I remember hearing Double Dutch back in elementary school and never being able to understand WTF people were saying. I guess I wasn't part of the 'in' crowd who was taught/shown/explained the secret code, so for that I

continued on page 48

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STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP

BY MATTHEW ALICE

Heymatt:

I read recently that mushrooms (commercial mushrooms) are grown in hay and straw that has been used in the stalls of horse barns. So, I presume that they are also grown in horse manure, since that substance would naturally be a part of it. I have a mushroom cookbook which states that you should not wash mushrooms because it destroys some of the flavor. Just wipe them off with a damp paper towel, it says. Well, I like mushrooms, especially raw ones in a salad and I have always washed them thoroughly with cold water and sometimes a brush. My question is, are commercial mushrooms contaminated with horse manure? One store that I frequent has mushrooms with a label that says they have been washed. What assurances do we have that even the washed ones are clean? And what of the other ones, the ones that are not washed? Is it likely that we have been ingesting horse manure?

— Jack in Sandy Yaygo

You'll be glad to know that the mushroom industry has anticipated your hysteria and done something about it. Commercially grown mushrooms are pretty clean eatables. The Mushroom Council is ready to pat you on the head and give you a reassuring shoulder-squeeze and lay out the precautionary steps involved in popping 'shrooms out of their commercial growing medium.

Each grower has his own recipe for mushroom medium, but you can bet it includes a lot of straw, maybe taken from the stalls of horses, maybe not. Then add a dollop of manure (horse or chicken is best), then various grain meals, gypsum, and possibly some exotics like molasses or peat moss or wine-making leftovers. Make a big compost pile of this stuff, add some water, toss it around every couple of days, then let the natural bacteria do their thing. The temp inside the pile should rise to 150 to 160 degrees, killing off a whole slew of bad bacteria in a week or two.

Step two is pasteurization, usually done by shooting steam into the mass. After a day or so, we've got clean, clean medium. Yeah, there's still horse poop in it somewhere — hard to tell where, since the medium's been reduced to a dark, soil-like material — but there are no bad horse-poop bugs. I suspect you're as worried about the clean poop as you are about the bac-

teria, but I'm sorry, unless the grower has used a synthetic medium, you gots poop.

Food-safety faculties have spent many hours testing various 'shroom-growing recipes, checking bacteria levels on the final product, so the procedure is trustworthy. And there's never been a reported illness due to mushroom-growing medium. You're unlikely to be the first. So, take home your stash, leave it in the container (making sure there are plenty of air holes) or put your loose mushrooms in a brown paper bag (not plastic!) and put them in the fridge. On cooking day, dust off any loose medium (check under the cap). Give 'em a quick rinse, then pat them dry if it makes you feel safer. And there you have it. Nontoxic, non-gross-out omelet filling.

I have to congratulate you at not being so horrified by mushrooms that you peel them. Some people actually peel mushrooms. Mushrooms don't have skins. What do they think they're removing?

Heymatt:

For the past couple of days I've been saying a phrase that I don't quite understand. The phrase is "jeez Louise." Where did it come from, and who in the world is Louise in the first place? Help.

— TR, via email

Louise is one of Ma Alice's cousins. Jeez Louise is somebody else, though. Your Louise is one of thousands of exasperated oaths glossed over so it isn't blasphemous. "Jeez" is short for "Jesus" in lots of expressions. Like, "jeez-o-Pete," a favorite of Grandma Alice and maybe Jeez Louise's boyfriend. Pete also stands in for God in "for Pete's sake!" Criminy, Judas priest, and Jimminy Christmas are also part of the pack of "Jesus Christ" euphemisms. "Heck" was somebody's bright idea for "hell." "Gosh," "gad," and "golly" substitute for "God." That makes "Good golly Miss Molly" a distant cousin of "Jeez Louise."

Truth be told, since these are spoken expressions, written rarely and always long after the expression has entered common speech, it's hard for the word guys to pin down an origin. As for Louise, the only reason she's there is probably because she rhymes with "Jeez." It's one of mankind's quirks to be attracted to expressions that rhyme or expressions with words that begin with the same letter.

A searchable archive of past columns is available at SanDiegoReader.com

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

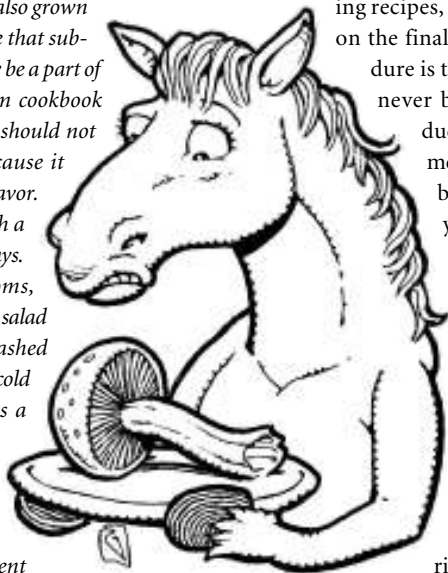


ILLUSTRATION BY RICK GEARY

SportingBox

BY PATRICK DAUGHERTY

Just In Time



This column is for readers who will do their shopping on Christmas morning for the first time. Hold your heads high, people! Remember the three noble precepts: you can't be picky, you can't care about price, and you can't flinch when a loved one opens your present and emits a loud, long sigh.

To make this a meaningful, fun occasion I've composed two rules you'll want to memorize: presents have to be for adults and have to be connected to sports. You can buy kids off with cash, but for the rest, they'll be no easy presents. No booze. No neckties. No gift cards.

To show my street cred, I have left home and slogged into pitiless wintertime weather on your behalf. I surveyed three stores — all reliable and all guaranteed to be open on Christmas Day.

First stop is CVS Pharmacy, which is a weird name for what used to be Longs. They're all over San Diego County. Pick one closest to your favorite bar or laundromat. You'll find, through glass front doors, an Xtreme Fit Interactive Gaming Mat. Sells for \$49.99. The box says the mat has muscle workouts, aerobics, yoga training, over 80 exercises and games. Looks like work.

I walk down one aisle, turn up another. Ah, here we go...the very necessary head wipes from Bald Guyz. These head wipes are "Fragrance Free Green Tea Formula Clean" and go for \$4.99. Hmm...head wipes might be contest-legal, say, in the sports-hygiene category.

I move into no-man's-land, to wit: one zillion lipsticks, one zillion female deodorants, moisturizers, lotions, and skin creams. Reminds me, I could use some shampoo. Hmm... One aisle over is base camp for salon hair care, hair styling, hair coloring, shampoo, conditioners, and hair appliances. I walk a little. Was I just here? I look up at the hanging sign. Ah-ha! I'd been in facial care, hand and body lotion, skin care, sun care,

bath care, and deodorants. Now I'm in the shampoo aisle. Great, I want some odorless shampoo. I slowly glide along the aisle like a head of state inspecting an honor guard. Too many shampoos to count.

Then, a tour of the inner parapets of CVS/Pharmacy. Nothing. I'm beaten, head toward the front door, past the HIV test kits, and exit.

Next stop, Walgreens. Right inside their front door is the "Ab Rocket — As Seen On TV," \$99.99. The box says it massages while working out and has Cylinder Launch Technology. Impressive. "This item for sale at Walgreens. If found at other outlets, call 1-800-6666." Walgreens wants me to rat out their competition. For FREE!

Another mile of lipsticks, cleansers, skin-care lotions. I find the shampoos (quicker this time, by the way). Want an odorless shampoo, that's all. The lower shelf has "Stop Lice, complete lice treatment." Not today. Here's something: "Mane 'n Tail Shampoo." This is promising. The product comes in a big plastic bottle with a picture of two horses galloping into the sunset on the front. Fine print: "For human use: Wet hair and apply...amount used will vary depending on the volume and length of hair. For animal use: Add a liberal amount of Mane 'n Tail Shampoo into a bucket of water."

On the way out to the parking lot, I note this is another strike-out for the sports-minded shopper, although I did score two bottles of shampoo. Okay, man up, there is one more stop. This is the store you pull into when you're six blocks away from grandma's house. This store is the definition of desperate. Talking about 7-Eleven Christmas-morning shopping.

Entering Slurpee land now. Immediately, on my right, not three feet distant, is the mother lode. Oh, joy.

Let us, pilgrims, stand here and revel in the moment. Before us is a display of NFL crap. Oh, answer to all our hopes and dreams. First, a Chargers NFL fan banner, "Nylon Applique and Embroidered." And here is a youth-sized football with Chargers emblem, \$11.99. A Chargers baby bib, \$5.99.

Oh, sweet fulfillment. "San Diego Chargers Jeweled Body Art, \$4.99." There are Chargers key rings and Chargers football tree ornaments, NFL-sanctioned each and every one. "Bracelets made from genuine football leather featuring screen print NFL logos and football lacing detail." A paltry \$9.99.

"Chargers 5 Pack of Click Pens," with team logo, I might add. Chargers decal, \$8.99. Beach towels, only \$14.99. Beer mugs with emblem, \$11.99. Key rings, \$9.99. And the must-have Chargers beer-can opener, \$5.99. Chargers Santa hat, a pair of Chargers fuzzy dice, and a helmet bank with team logo...

I begin to hum, "I'll Be Home for Christmas."

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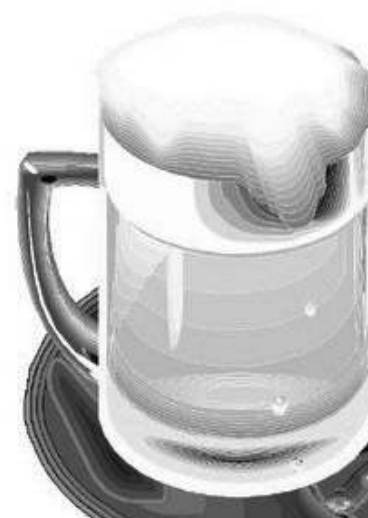
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Look What Santa Brought

The filmmaker has taken an intensely personal film and depersonalized it.

The last of the last. *A Single Man*. The Christmas movie for holiday depressives (who after all deserve one, too), an adaptation of the Christopher Isherwood novel detailing the planned last day of a homosexual English professor grieving his dead lover, anally-compulsively tying up loose ends, saying his guarded goodbyes, practicing the proper posture to shoot himself in bed, laying out his burial attire with the helpful note, "Tie in a Windsor knot." Not to be confused, please, with *A Serious Man* despite the bespectacled academic protagonist (an exquisitely tortured Colin Firth) and the Sixties setting, the ongoing Cuban Missile Crisis providing another incentive to end it all. Fashion "guru" Tom Ford, in his directing debut, sees to it that the dumps are *très chic*, almost to be envied and emulated. He demonstrates con-

MOVIE REVIEW

DUNCAN SHEPHERD

vincingly a photographic eye to go along with a curatorial taste in the period, although the total ambience resembles that of a retro pictorial in *Harper's Bazaar* rather than an accurate depiction of a gloomy Brit in sunny So-Cal during the Kennedy Era. And he controls the color saturation of his imagery as if through an IV, maintaining gray drained faded tones for the present tense, pedantically contrasted with florid flushed flashbacks; and any passing sensory sensation in the faded present, any flicker of life, any tremor of reanimation, any stir of passion, will bring a sudden surge of saturation. It's a definite idea, even if a transparent one. *Nine*. Former choreographer Rob Marshall's third directorial effort, a restaging of the Broadway musical based on Fellini's *8½*. Not to be confused with *9*, luckily no longer in cir-



Nine

culcation. In essence the filmmaker has taken an intensely personal film (so named as it was Fellini's eighth and a half opus, counting three collaborations as halves) and depersonalized it, trivialized it, into nostalgic cinephilia *circa* the mid-Sixties and secondarily into generic Italophilia, the cultural divide highlighted by a principal cast of non-Italians, Daniel Day-Lewis as the Fellini figure, Penelope Cruz, Marion Cotillard, Nicole Kidman, Kate

Hudson, Judi Dench, pop singer Fergie, excepting only Sophia Loren, not all of them pretending to be Italians. Each gets to perform at least one would-be showstopper. Cruz (dubbed? — it scarcely matters in her scanties) and Fergie (whom I at last understand is not one and the same as Sarah Ferguson) come closest to attainment of that goal, and Cotillard outside of her would-be showstopper attains a loftier goal of tangible humanity. Somehow the notion

of a Broadway show of this origin seems less objectionable because it's in a different medium and not in direct competition, as well as because I had therefore had no prior awareness of it nor of any of the songs in it. Dion Beebe's rich ripe cinematography is commendable on its own merits when not dipping into directly competitive black-and-white. *Broken Embraces*. Almodóvar, as is his wont, gives you splatters and splashes,

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Reader

Did You Hear about the Morgans? Did you hear about *Did You Hear about the Morgans*?? Well, it's not as bad as you may have heard. The premise of a splitsville Manhattan couple whisked away together to wild, wild Wyoming in the witness protection program is

It's Complicated. The Nancy Meyers comedy with Meryl Streep and Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin is the one thing I am lacking. *Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel* does not look to be a thing. It looks to be nothing. ■

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.

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VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM
PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10;
RIVER VILLAGE 6; TOWN SQUARE 14)

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 occasional cracks in credibility. With Columbus Short, Matt Dillon, Laurence Fishburne, Jean Reno, Skeet Ulrich, and Fred Ward; directed by Nimrod Antal. 2009. ★ (PAL PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14)

Avatar — Ambitious merger of live action and computer animation, with at least one groundbreaking 3-D effect: English subtitles for the language spoken on the celestial body of Pandora 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 before, 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-versus-military 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. There appears little

doubt that Cameron drew upon all his mental powers, yet happily those powers prove too feeble, too reliant on convention 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. Sam Worthington, Sigourney Weaver, Stephen Lang, Giovanni Ribisi, Michelle Rodriguez. 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
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VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM
PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10;
RIVER VILLAGE 6; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN
SQUARE 14)

The Blind Side — Soft warm cozy sports story from the maker of *The Rookie*, John Lee Hancock, about a headstrong well-to-do 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 Quinton Aaron is touchingly minimalist as Michael Oher, a future first-round 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; FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA PALOMA; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Broken Embraces — Reviewed this is—

sue. With Lluís Homar, Penelope Cruz, José Luis Gómez, and Blanca Portillo; written and directed by Pedro Almodóvar.

Brothers — Jim Sheridan's Hollywood do-over of Susanne Bier's Danish original is a wartime soap opera served up as kitchen-sink 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 Gears. 2009.

★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PLAZA BONITA 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.

★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14;
MISSION VALLEY 20)

Did You Hear about the Morgans? — Reviewed this issue. With Hugh Grant, Sarah Jessica Parker, Sam Elliott, and Mary Steenburgen; written and directed by Marc Lawrence.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; CHULA VISTA 10;
DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18;
GROSSMONT CENTER 10; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA
JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION
VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12;
PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14;
POWAY 10; TOWN SQUARE 14)

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 throughout, 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.

★★★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

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 pitch-perfect.") Though the droll result has its charms, such as the use of "cuss" as an all-purpose 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: squared-up 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.

★★ (GASLAMP 15)

The Hurt Locker — Fictitious countdown of the final six weeks in the twelve-month tour of an army bomb squad in Baghdad. The living and working conditions in a color-free wasteland appear perfectly credible, and the quasi-science-fictional details of the job — the spaceman protective suits, the remote-control bomb-sniffing 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 mid-desert, 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 combat-footage filmmaking style of jostles and jars to the camera, punchy zooms, whiplashing pans, and a chronic shaky hand, not necessarily restricted to scenes of combat. This is trendy at best, a tired cliché at worst. (The amplified heartbeat and the slo-mo explo-

sion 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 Guy Pearce, Ralph Fiennes, David Morse. 2009.

★★ (GASLAMP 15)

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 home — 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 imperceptible 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 VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; TOWN SQUARE 14)

It's Complicated — Relationship comedy starring Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin, and Steve Martin, written and directed by Nancy Meyers.

(CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; CHULA VISTA 10; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 12/25)

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

A black and white movie poster for "Up in the Air". The background shows silhouettes of three people walking through an airport terminal with large windows overlooking airplanes. At the top, it says "6 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS including BEST PICTURE". Below this are five award categories: Best Actor (George Clooney), Best Supporting Actress (Vera Farmiga and Anna Kendrick), Best Director (Jason Reitman), Best Screenplay (Jason Reitman and Sheldon Turner), and Best Picture. A central sign reads "THE MOVIE OF THE YEAR, THE MOVIE OF THE MOMENT." with the "GQ" logo below it. The title "UP IN THE AIR" is prominently displayed in large letters, followed by "From the Director of 'Juno'", "George Clooney", and the website "TheUpInTheAirMovie.com". Logos for PG-13, R (Restricted), and Paramount Pictures are present. At the bottom, it says "NOW PLAYING IN THEATRES EVERYWHERE" with details about movie times, directories, and engagement passes.

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Broken Embraces

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. ★★ (HORTON PLAZA 14; 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 channel-switching 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 super-soldiers 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 werewolves, 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. ● (CHULA VISTA 10; FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14)

Nine — Reviewed this issue. With Daniel Day-Lewis, Penelope Cruz, Marion Cotillard, Nicole Kidman, and Kate Hudson; directed by Rob Marshall. ★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 12/25)

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-and-white takeoff on a telecast of De Sica's *Two Women*, etc. — exhibit a consistent inanity 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 Carey. 2009. ★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; PALM PROMENADE 24)

The Princess and the Frog — Throw-back 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: "Stell-ahhhh!"). 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; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Rashomon — A pregnant parable on truth 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, THROUGH 12/24)

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 closeups

(Viggo Mortensen and a barely recognizable Robert Duvall among them), a spitting-up 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)

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 film-

makers 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 re-

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-Lou Lumenick, NEW YORK POST

PENÉLOPE CRUZ
BROKEN EMBRACES
A FILM BY ALMODÓVAR

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MATT DAMON

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CLINT EASTWOOD

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MATT DAMON

"FREEMAN AND DAMON GIVE STELLAR PERFORMANCES IN A STORY THAT STIRS HEARTS AND INTRIGUES MINDS."

USA TODAY
Claudia Puig

MORGAN FREEMAN MATT DAMON
A FILM BY CLINT EASTWOOD
INVICTUS
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A MALPASO PRODUCTION MORGAN FREEMAN MATT DAMON "INVICTUS" EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MORGAN FREEMAN TIM MOORE
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MOVIE SHOWTIMES

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

CENTRAL

CARMEL MOUNTAIN

Carmel Mountain 14
11620 Carmel Mountain Road (800-326-3264 #2704)
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 11:15, 12:20, 1:20, 2:35, 3:35) 4:45, 5:45, 7:00, 8:00, 9:20, 10:20; **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. (1:35) 7:15; **Did You Hear about the Morgans?** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:50, 1:10, 3:25) 5:40, 8:05, 10:25; **Invictus** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:45) 4:25, 10:05; **It's Complicated** (R) Fri. (11:30, 2:10) 4:50, 7:40, 10:20 Sat.-Sun. (2:10) 4:50, 7:40, 11:30; **Nine** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 2:30) 5:15, 7:55, 10:30; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) Fri.-Sun. (10:30, 12:35, 2:50) 5:00, 7:20, 9:30; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:20, 11:20, 1:10, 2:10) 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 7:50, 9:50, 10:35; **Up in the Air** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:10, 2:00) 4:30, 7:05, 9:40

CLAIREMONT

Town Square 14
4665 Clairemont Drive (800-326-3264 #2722)
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:50, 12:00, 1:05, 2:05, 3:10) 4:10, 5:20, 6:20, 8:30, 10:40; **Avatar** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:30, 3:45) 7:00, 8:30, 10:15; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:40, 2:15) 5:45, 9:20; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:55, 1:40) 4:25, 10:05; **Did You Hear about the Morgans?** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:35, 2:20) 4:50, 7:30, 10:20; **Invictus** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:45, 1:35) 4:30, 7:20, 10:30; **It's Complicated** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 12:10, 1:55, 2:50) 4:35, 5:30, 7:15, 8:10, 9:55, 10:45; **Nine** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.

(11:25, 2:25) 4:55, 7:40, 10:10; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 1:10, 3:25) 5:55, 8:15, 10:35; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:30, 11:20, 1:20, 2:10) 4:10, 5:00, 7:00, 7:50, 9:50, 10:40; **Up in the Air** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 2:00) 4:40, 7:35, 10:25

DOWNTOWN

Gaslamp 15
701 Fifth Avenue (800-326-3264 #2709)
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 12:15, 1:20, 2:20, 3:25) 4:25, 5:30, 6:30, 7:35, 8:35, 9:40, 10:40; **Brothers** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:55, 2:25) 4:55, 7:20, 9:50; **Fantastic Mr. Fox** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:05, 1:15, 3:20) 5:35, 7:45, 10:05; **The Hurt Locker** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:50, 2:35) 5:10, 7:50, 10:25; **Invictus** (PG-13) Fri. (10:55, 12:25, 3:15) 6:10, 9:05 Sat. (10:55, 12:25, 1:35, 3:15) 6:10, 9:05 Sun. (10:55, 12:25, 3:15) 6:10, 9:05, 10:00; **It's Complicated** (R) Fri. (12:00, 1:00, 2:40) 4:20, 5:20, 7:00, 8:00, 9:45, 10:45 Sat.-Sun. (11:00, 12:00, 1:40, 2:40) 4:20, 5:20, 7:00, 8:00, 9:45, 10:45; **The Men Who Stare at Goats** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:10) 5:00, 9:55; **The Messenger** (R) Fri.-Sun. (2:30) 7:15; **Nine** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:20, 12:30, 1:50, 3:00) 4:10, 5:25, 6:50, 7:55, 9:20, 10:30; **Ninja Assassin** (R) Fri.-Sun.; **2012** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:25, 2:45) 6:05, 9:25; **Up in the Air** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 12:40, 2:00, 3:10) 4:30, 5:40, 7:05, 8:10, 9:35, 10:35

Horton Plaza 14
Horton Plaza (619-444-FILM)
Avatar (PG-13) Fri. (3:00) 4:00, 6:30, 7:30, 9:50, 10:50 Sat.-Sun. (11:30, 12:30, 3:00) 4:00, 6:30, 7:30, 9:50, 10:50; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) Fri. (2:00) 7:00, 10:20 Sat.-Sun. (12:00, 3:30) 7:00, 10:20; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) Fri. (1:05) 4:05, 7:05, 7:35, 10:00, 10:30 Sat.-Sun. (10:10, 1:05) 4:05, 7:05, 7:35, 10:00, 10:30; **The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day** (Not Rated) Fri. (1:20) 4:20, 7:20, 10:15 Sat.-Sun. (10:30, 1:20) 4:20, 7:20, 10:15; **A Christmas Carol** (PG) Fri. (1:25) 4:10 Sat.-Sun. (10:40, 1:25) 4:10; **Couples Retreat** (R) Fri. 4:30, 9:40 Sat.-Sun.

(10:50) 4:30, 9:40; **Did You Hear about the Morgans?** (PG-13) Fri. (1:30) 4:25, 7:25, 9:55 Sat.-Sun. (10:25, 1:30) 4:25, 7:25, 9:55; **Me and Orson Welles** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (1:35) 7:05; **New Moon** (PG-13) Fri. (1:00) 4:05, 7:10, 10:05 Sat.-Sun. (10:00, 1:00) 4:05, 7:10, 10:05; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) Fri. (12:55, 3:10) 5:25, 7:40, 9:55 Sat.-Sun. (10:35, 12:55, 3:10) 5:25, 7:40, 9:55; **The Road** (R) Fri. (1:10) 4:15, 7:15, 10:10 Sat.-Sun. (10:20, 1:10) 4:15, 7:15, 10:10; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) Fri. (1:15, 1:45, 3:40) 4:10, 4:40, 6:45, 7:15, 7:45, 9:45, 10:15, 10:45 Sat.-Sun. (10:15, 10:45, 12:45, 1:15, 1:45, 3:40) 4:10, 4:40, 6:45, 7:15, 7:45, 9:45, 10:15, 10:45

KENSINGTON

Ken
4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236)
35 Shots of Rum (NR) Fri.-Sun. (2:35) 4:55, 7:15, 9:35, Mon.-Thu. (4:55) 7:15, 9:35, No 9:35 pm show Thu., 12/31/09

LA JOLLA

La Jolla 12
8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (888-262-4386)
Avatar 3D (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:40) 3:20, 7:00, 10:40; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:00) 1:15, 4:25, 7:35, 10:40

La Jolla Village
8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-819-0236)
The Young Victoria (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:35) 2:10, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55, Mon.-Thu. (2:10, 4:45) 7:20, 9:55, No 9:55 pm show Thu., 12/31/09; **Me And Orson Welles** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:15) 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:35, 9:55, Mon.-Thu. (1:50) 4:25, 7:00, 9:35, No 9:35 pm show Thu., 12/31/09; **The Road** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:25) 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45, Mon.-Thu. (2:00, 4:35) 7:10, 9:45, No 9:45 pm show Thu., 12/31/09; **An Education** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:45) 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 10:05, Mon.-Thu. (2:20) 4:55, 7:30, 10:05, No 10:05 pm show Thu., 12/31/09

MIRA MESA

Mira Mesa 18
10733 Westview Parkway (800-326-3264)
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) Fri.-Sun. (9:10, 10:20, 11:25, 12:40, 1:50) 3:00, 4:05, 6:05, 6:55, 8:25, 10:45; **Avatar** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 9:05p.m.; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (9:25, 11:00, 12:45) 2:30, 4:10, 6:00, 7:40, 9:30, 11:20, 12:45; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 6:50, 10:10, 1:15, 8:45, 12:05, 3:25; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:30, 1:35) 4:40, 7:35, 10:35; **Brothers** (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:05) 4:25, 7:15; **A Christmas Carol** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:05a.m.); **Did You Hear about the Morgans?** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:15) 2:05, 5:15, 7:50, 10:30; **Invictus** (PG-13) Fri. (1:05) 4:20, 7:30, 10:25 Fri. (9:55a.m.) Sat. (9:55) 4:20, 7:30, 10:25 Sat. (1:05p.m.) Sun. (1:05) 4:20, 7:30 Sun. (9:55) 10:25; **It's Complicated** (R) Fri.-Sun. (9:35, 12:30, 1:30) 3:30, 4:30, 6:25, 7:25, 9:20, 10:20, 12:10; **New Moon** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 1:20) 4:45, 7:45, 10:50; **Nine** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:25, 1:15) 4:15, 7:10, 10:00, 12:50; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) Fri.-Sun. (9:00, 10:45, 11:30, 1:10) 2:00, 3:50, 4:35, 6:20, 8:45, 11:10; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (9:45, 10:40, 12:50, 1:45) 3:55, 4:50, 7:00, 7:55, 10:05, 11:00; **2012** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:55) 9:55; **Up in the Air** (R) Fri.-Sun. (9:20, 12:15) 2:45, 5:20, 7:05, 8:00, 9:45, 10:40, 12:20

MISSION VALLEY

Fashion Valley 18
7037 Friars Road (888-262-4386)
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel; **Avatar;** **Brothers;** **A Christmas Carol;** **Did You Hear about the Morgans?;** **Invictus;** **It's Complicated;** **New Moon;** **Nine;** **The Princess and the Frog;** **Sherlock Holmes;** **2012;** **Up in the Air;** **The Young Victoria**

Mission Valley 7

7510 Hazard Center Drive (619-685-2841)



Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) (10:00 1:00 4:00) 7:00 10:00; **It's Complicated** (R) (11:00 2:00) 5:00 7:45 10:45; **Alvin & the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (PG) (10:00 12:15 2:30) 4:45 7:15 9:30; **Up in the Air** (R) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; Will begin at 10:00 am on Thu. only; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) (9:30 1:00) 4:30 8:00; **Did You Hear about the Morgans?** (PG-13) (10:00 12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:00 10:30; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) (10:15 12:30 2:45) 5:15 7:30 9:45
No 9:00-10:45 pm shows on Thu.

Mission Valley 20
1640 Camino Del Rio North (888-262-4386)
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:10, 11:55) 12:40, 2:20, 3:05, 4:45, 5:30, 7:00, 7:45, 9:15, 10:00, 11:35 Sun. (10:10, 11:55) 12:40, 2:20, 3:05, 4:45, 5:30, 7:45, 9:15, 10:00; **Avatar** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:30) 2:15, 6:05, 9:50; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:10, 11:50) 12:35, 3:00, 3:40, 4:15, 6:45, 7:15, 8:00, 10:10, 10:50; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 12:50, 3:45, 6:50, 9:55; **Brothers** (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:35) 1:10, 3:55, 6:30; **A Christmas Carol** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:20) 1:40, 4:05; **Did You Hear about the Morgans?** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:45) 1:15, 3:50, 6:25, 9:05, 11:30 Sun. (10:45) 1:15, 3:50, 6:25, 9:05; **Invictus** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:05) 1:05, 4:10, 7:20, 10:15; **It's Complicated** (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 11:05) 12:45, 1:55, 3:40, 4:55, 6:40, 7:50, 9:45, 10:45; **New Moon** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 12:30, 3:35, 6:30, 9:30; **Nine** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. 12:05, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00, 11:55 Sun.

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www.UltraStarMovies.com

12:05, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00; **Ninja Assassin** (R) Fri.-Sat. 9:10, 11:40 Sun. 9:10p.m.; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) Fri.-Sun. (11:25) 2:10, 4:50, 7:25, 10:05; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:15) 12:25, 1:25, 3:30, 4:25, 6:35, 7:35, 9:40, 10:40; **2012** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 6:20, 9:55; **Up in the Air** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:00) 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:00

UPTOWN

Hillcrest Cinemas
3965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236)
Broken Embraces (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:45) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45, Mon.-Thu. (1:30, 4:15) 7:00, 9:45, No 9:45 pm show Thu., 12/31/09; **An Education** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:15) 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:05, Mon.-Thu. (2:00, 4:45) 7:30, 10:05, No 10:05 pm show Thu., 12/31/09; **Precious: Based On The Novel 'Push' By Sapphire** (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:55) 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:35, Mon.-Thu. (1:40) (4:25) 7:10, 9:35, No 9:35 pm show Thu., 12/31/09; **A Single Man** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:25) 2:10, 4:55, 7:40, 10:15, Mon.-Thu. (2:10) (4:55) 7:40, 10:15, No 10:15 pm show Thu., 12/31/09; **A Serious Man** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:05) 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 9:55, Mon.-Thu. (1:50, 4:35) 7:20, 9:55, No 9:45 pm show Thu., 12/31/09

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. 12:00, 2:00, 4:00 Sat.-Sun. 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00; **Under the Sea** (G) Fri. 1:00, 5:00 Sat.-Sun. 10:00, 1:00, 5:00, 7:00

EAST COUNTY

EL CAJON

Parkway Plaza 18
405 Parkway Plaza (619-401-3456)
It's Complicated (R) Fri. (10:20, 1:05, 3:50) 7:10, 9:55; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) Fri. (10:10, 1:10) 4:20, 7:30, 10:30

LA MESA

Grossmont Center 10
5500 Grossmont Center Drive (800-326-3264 #2710)
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 1:30, 3:40) 5:50, 8:00, 10:10; **Avatar** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:05, 3:35) 7:05, 10:25; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:05, 2:35) 6:05, 9:30; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:35, 2:20) 5:05, 7:50, 10:35; **Did You Hear about the Morgans?** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:40, 1:05, 3:30) 5:55, 8:20, 10:45; **Invictus** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (1:55) 4:50, 7:40; **It's Complicated** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:20, 2:00) 4:40, 7:20, 10:00; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) Fri.-Sun. (10:35, 12:45, 3:00) 5:15, 7:30, 9:40; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:30, 11:10, 1:20) 4:10, 7:00, 9:45, 10:30; **Up in the Air** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:30, 3:05) 5:35, 8:10, 10:40

RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Rancho San Diego 15
2951 Jamacha Road (800-326-3264)
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 11:50, 1:50, 2:20) 4:30, 4:55, 7:10, 7:30, 9:30; **Avatar** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:10, 11:55, 2:50, 3:30) 6:40, 7:20, 9:50, 10:15, 10:55; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:35, 3:10) 7:00, 10:35; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:55, 3:05) 7:25, 10:25; **A Christmas Carol** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:55a.m.); **Did You Hear about the Morgans?** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:40, 3:00) 6:45, 9:35; **Invictus** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (2:40) 7:05, 10:10; **It's Complicated** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:20, 2:10) 5:00, 7:50, 10:45; **New Moon** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:45, 2:55) 6:50, 10:00; **Nine** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:05, 1:55) 7:35, 10:30; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 1:45) 4:40, 7:15, 9:45; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 12:00, 2:30, 3:15) 7:15, 7:45, 10:20, 10:50; **Up in the Air** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:25, 2:15) 5:10, 8:00, 10:40

SANTEE

Santee Drive In
10990 Woodside Avenue (619-448-7447)
Avatar (PG-13); **The Blind Side** (PG-13); **The Princess and the Frog** (G); **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13)

SOUTH BAY

CHULA VISTA

Chula Vista 10
Broadway between H and I (619-338-4214)



Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) (10:15 1:00 4:00) 7:00 10:00; **It's Complicated** (R) (10:45 1:45)

4:45 7:45 10:45; **Alvin & the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (PG) (10:00 11:00 12:15 1:15 2:30 3:45) 4:45 6:00 7:15 8:15 9:30 10:30; **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 8:00 10:30; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) (10:15 12:30 2:45) 5:15 7:30 9:45; **Invictus** (PG-13) (10:30) 4:15; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) (11:15 2:00) 5:00 7:45 10:45; **New Moon** (PG-13) (1:30) 7:15 10:15; No 7:15 Sat. 12/26 No 9:00-10:45 pm shows on Thu.

Otay Ranch 12
Eastlake Parkway (at Olympic) (888-262-4386)
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 11:00) 12:20, 1:25, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 10:00; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.

(10:10, 11:15) 1:45, 3:00, 5:30, 6:45, 9:15, 10:15; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:15) 1:15, 4:20, 7:15, 10:05; **Brothers** (R) Fri.-Sun. 1:25p.m.; **Did You Hear about the Morgans?** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:45) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45; **Invictus** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:20) 4:05, 7:10; **It's Complicated** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:10) 2:05, 4:55, 7:55, 10:40; **New Moon** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 10:20p.m.; **Nine** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:55) 1:50, 4:45, 7:35, 10:35; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) Fri.-Sun. (11:05) 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:30) 1:35, 4:00, 4:40, 7:05, 7:45, 10:05, 10:45; **Up in the Air** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:30) 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:25

Palm Promenade 24
770 Denmery Road (888-262-4386)
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG); **Armored** (PG-13); **Avatar** (PG-13); **The Blind Side** (PG-13); **Did You Hear about the Morgans?** (PG-13); **Invictus** (PG-13); **It's Complicated** (R); **New Moon** (PG-13); **Nine** (PG-13); **Ninja Assassin** (R); **Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire** (R); **The Princess and the Frog** (G); **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13); **2012** (PG-13); **Up in the Air** (R)

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)
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG); **Armored** (PG-13); **Avatar** (PG-13); **The Blind Side** (PG-13); **Brothers** (R); **Did You Hear about the Morgans?** (PG-13); **Invictus** (PG-13); **It's Complicated** (R); **New Moon** (PG-13); **Nine** (PG-13); **Ninja Assassin** (R); **Old Dogs** (PG); **The Princess and the Frog** (G); **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13); **2012** (PG-13); **Up in the Air** (R)

NORTH INLAND

ESCONDIDO

Escondido 16
350 West Valley Parkway (760-291-0119)
Call theater for program information.

FALLBROOK

River Village 6
5256 S. Mission Road (760-945-8784)





Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) (11:00 2:00) 4:45 7:45 10:45; **It's Complicated** (R) (11:30 2:15) 5:00 8:00 10:45; **Alvin & the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (PG) (11:00 1:15 3:45) 6:00 8:15 10:30; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) (12:00 3:30) 7:00 10:30; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) (12:15 2:45) 5:15 7:30 9:45; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) (11:00 1:45) 4:30 7:15 10:15; **Olivia & Curious George Double-Feature** (G) 10:30 am Sat.-Sun. only No 9:00-10:45 pm shows on Thu.

POWAY

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




Nine (PG-13) (10:30 1:15) 4:15 7:30 10:15; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) (10:00 1:00 4:00) 7:15 10:15; **It's Complicated** (R) (11:00 2:00) 5:00 7:45 10:30; **Alvin & the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (PG) (10:00 12:15 2:30) 4:45 7:15 9:30; **Up in the Air** (R) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; Will begin at 10:00 am on Wed. only; **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) (10:15 12:30 2:45) 5:15 7:30 9:45; **Invictus** (PG-13) (10:30) 4:30; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) (1:30) 7:45 10:45 No 9:00-10:45 pm shows on Thu.



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MOVIES

ligion 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? Joel 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)

Sherlock Holmes — Reviewed this issue. With Robert Downey, Jr., Jude Law, Rachel McAdams, and Mark Strong; directed by Guy Ritchie. ● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SANTEE DRIVE IN; TOWN SQUARE 14; FROM 12/25)

A Single Man — Reviewed this issue. With Colin Firth, Julianne Moore, Nicholas Hoult, and Matthew Goode; written and directed by Tom Ford. ★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS, FROM 12/25)



Sherlock Holmes

35 Shots of Rum — French father-daughter drama with Alex Descas and Mati Diop, directed by Claire Denis. (KEN, 12/25 THROUGH 31)

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 appears 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 Ejiofor, Amanda Peet, Thandie Newton, Danny Glover, Oliver Platt. 2009. ★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY 20; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14)

Uncertainty — A young New York couple toss a coin to plan their day, the Fourth of July. One way lies domesticity, the other way danger, the first way in a green van and coordinating clothes, the second in a Yellow Cab with again clothes to match. The color-coding helps keep them straight, but they're more like alternative movies than alternative realities. With Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Lynn Collins; directed by Scott McGeehee and David Siegel. 2009. ★ (GASLAMP 15, THROUGH 12/24)

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. ★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; LA COSTA 6; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; MISSION VALLEY 7; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; TOWN SQUARE 14)

The Young Victoria — Reviewed this issue. With Emily Blunt, Rupert Friend, Paul Bettany, Miranda Richardson, and Mark Strong; directed by Jean-Marc Vallée. ★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; FROM 12/25)

SAN MARCOS

San Marcos 18
1180 W. San Marcos Boulevard (at Old California Walk) (800-326-3264)
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 1:30, 3:55) 7:10, 9:40; **It's Complicated** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 2:10) 5:00, 7:45, 10:35; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (1:00) 4:05, 7:20, 10:25

VISTA

Vista Village
Highway 78 at Vista Village Drive (760-945-7469)
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:20, 12:00, 12:40, 2:20, 3:00, 4:40, 5:20) 7:00, 7:40, 9:20, 10:00; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:15, 12:00, 12:40, 2:50, 3:35, 4:15) 6:30, 7:10, 7:50, 10:05, 10:40, 11:15 Sun. (11:15, 12:00, 12:40, 2:50, 3:35, 4:15) 6:30, 7:10, 7:50, 10:05, 10:40; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:40, 1:35, 4:30) 7:25; **Did You Hear about the Morgans?** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 2:10, 4:40) 7:20, 9:50; **Invictus** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:30, 3:45) 7:15, 10:20; **It's Complicated** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:10, 2:00, 4:55) 7:45, 10:35; **New Moon** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 10:15p.m.; **Nine** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:50, 2:35, 5:15) 7:55, 10:30; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 2:00, 4:25) 7:05, 9:30; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 10:40, 11:10, 12:50, 1:30, 2:10, 3:50, 5:10) 6:50, 7:30, 8:10, 9:50, 10:30, 11:10 Sun. (10:00, 10:40, 11:10, 12:50, 1:30, 2:10, 3:50, 4:30, 5:10) 6:50, 7:30, 8:10, 9:50, 10:30; **Up in the Air** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:40, 2:15, 4:55) 7:35, 10:10

NORTH COASTAL

CARLSBAD

Plaza Camino Real
2385 Marron Road (760-729-7469)
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 1:05, 3:15) 5:20, 7:30, 9:35; **Avatar** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 1:20, 4:40) 8:00; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) Fri.-Sun. (10:20, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00) 7:15, 9:25; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:30, 1:15, 4:05) 7:00, 9:45

DEL MAR

Del Mar Highlands 8
El Camino Real at Del Mar Heights Road (858-646-9420)



Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) (10:00 1:15) 4:15 7:15 10:15; **Alvin & the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (PG) (10:00 12:15 2:30) 4:45 7:15 9:30; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) (9:30 12:00 1:00 3:30) 4:30 7:00 8:00 10:30; **Up in the Air** (R) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; Will begin at 10:00 am on Wed. only; **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) (10:15 12:30 2:45) 5:15 7:30 9:45; **Invictus** (PG-13) (11:00 2:00) 5:00 7:45 10:45 No 9:00-10:45 pm shows on Thu.

Flower Hill 4
2630 Via de la Valle (858-646-9425)



Nine (PG-13) (10:45 1:45) 4:45 7:45 10:45; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) (11:00 2:00) 5:00 8:00 10:45; **It's Complicated** (R) (10:30 1:30) 4:30 7:30 10:30; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) (10:00 1:00 4:00) 7:00 10:00 No 9:00-10:45 pm shows on Thu.

ENCINITAS

La Paloma
471 South Coast Highway 101 (760-436-7469)
The Blind Side (PG-13) Fri. 6:00, 8:45 Sat.-Sun. (3:15) 6:00, 8:45

LA COSTA

La Costa 6
6941 El Camino Real (at Aviara/Alga) (760-599-8221)



Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) (10:00 1:00 4:00) 7:00 10:00; **It's Complicated** (R) (10:30 1:30) 4:15 7:15 10:15; **Alvin & the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (PG) (10:00 12:15 2:30) 5:15 7:30 9:45; **Up in the Air** (R) (10:15 12:45 3:15) 5:45 8:15 10:45; Will begin at 10:00 am on Wed. only; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) (9:30 1:00) 4:30 8:00; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) (10:15 12:30 2:45); **The Blind Side** (PG-13) 5:00 7:45 10:45 No 9:00-10:45 pm shows on Thu.

OCEANSIDE

Mission Marketplace 13
College Boulevard and Mission Avenue (760-806-1790)



Nine (PG-13) (11:15 2:15) 5:00 7:45 10:45; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) (10:00 1:30 1:00 2:30 4:00) 5:15 7:00 8:00 10:00 10:45; **It's Complicated** (R) (10:30 1:30) 4:45 7:45 10:30; **Alvin & the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (PG) (10:15 11:00 12:30 1:30 2:45 3:45) 5:00 6:00 7:15 8:15 9:30 10:30; **Up in the Air** (R) (10:45 1:45) 4:30 7:30 10:00; Will begin at 10:00 am on Wed. only; **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) (11:30 1:45 4:00) 6:15 8:30 10:45; **Invictus** (PG-13) (10:15) 4:15

10:15; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) (11:15 2:00) 7:30; **Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire** (R) 4:45 10:15; **New Moon** (PG-13) (1:15) 7:15 No 9:00-10:45 pm shows on Thu.

Oceanside 16
401 Mission Avenue (760-439-1733)
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:05, 12:35, 2:30, 3:10) 4:50, 5:20, 7:15, 7:45, 9:30, 10:10; **Avatar** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 12:10, 3:05, 3:45) 6:40, 7:20, 10:05, 10:45; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:50, 3:25) 7:00, 10:25; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:55, 3:40) 7:05, 9:55; **Brothers** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:15) 6:55; **Did You Hear about the Morgans?** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun.

(11:45, 2:15) 4:40, 7:25, 9:55; **Invictus** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (3:35) 6:50; **It's Complicated** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:55, 2:35) 5:15, 8:00, 10:40; **New Moon** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:40) 9:45; **Ninja Assassin** (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:40) 5:25, 7:55, 10:20; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) Fri.-Sun. (12:30, 2:45) 5:05, 7:30, 9:50; **The Road** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:50, 2:25) 5:00, 7:35, 10:35; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 1:15, 1:45) 4:15, 4:45, 7:10, 7:40, 10:00, 10:30; **2012** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (2:50) 9:35; **Up in the Air** (R) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 2:40) 5:10, 7:50, 10:15



Good Spot.



Bad spot.

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| 73 Traumatic Brain Injuries | 77 About Julia E. Haus Law Firm |



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|---|--------------------------------------|
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| 41 Duties of Insurance Company | 44 Disputes with Insurance Company |
| 42 First Party Claims / Health / UM / UIM / Auto / Property | 45 Department of Insurance Help Line |
| | 46 Do I need an attorney? |



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| 51 Workers' Comp Benefits | 56 Wrongful Discharge |
| 54 Third-party Accidents | 57 Harbor & Longshoreman's Act |

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|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 20 Overview of Social Security | 24 Lump Sum Death Benefits |
| 21 Filing a Claim | 25 Family Relationships |
| 22 Retirement Benefits | 26 Disability Benefits |
| 23 Survivorship Benefits | 27 HIV as a Disability |

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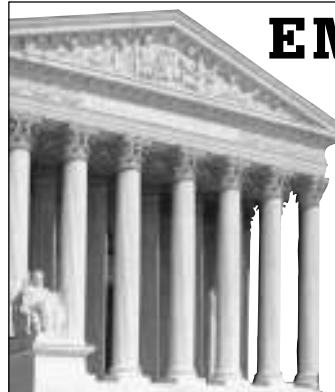
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Crasher

LOFTY, BIZARRE

by Josh Board

a woman named Cynthia was having a birthday party downtown. I was told we were supposed to bring something, so I bought cupcakes at the store. When I arrived downtown, I parked far away from the building, which wouldn't have been a problem except for the fact that I parked on a street with a row of homeless people leaned up against the wall. It felt awkward walking past them because they looked hungry. One guy asked for money, and I looked down at all the cupcakes. I was tempted to start handing them out.

The party was held at a loft that rocked. A few people told me the guy who designed it lived nearby, and it took him a year to design. One of the architects was at the party. We talked about some of the things done to the space, which included buying the place next door and knocking down a wall to make the loft bigger.

There was a band-rehearsal space set up in one corner with a drum set, guitars, and other instruments. I was told there were four layers of soundproofing built into the walls so the upstairs neighbors wouldn't complain about noise.

I ran into a photographer named Richie, whom I saw at another party recently. He's always



Left: Jon, Amber, and Bonnie; Right: Cynthia (2nd from left)

in great spirits and is fun to talk with.

I noticed a few of the women had cow ears, tails, and other cow accessories. Cynthia seemed a tad tipsy as she explained to me the cow theme they tried to get going for the party.

At one point I was talking to a tall woman about her accounting job. A bald guy who looked as if he

**"That wasn't me.
It was my evil
twin brother."**

had something wrong with his pupils leaned over my shoulder and said something bizarre and funny before walking over to a different section of the party.

I saw my friend Bonnie near

the alcohol and went to pour myself a drink. We talked briefly — she told me to give her space because there was a guy at the party she was interested in.

A tall African-American went up to the stage near the mini studio and started giving a speech. Bonnie seemed to be enjoying herself with a guy, and I went up to tell her something. She made a face, and as I started to talk, she said, "Can you just go away?"

I told her I wasn't going to go anywhere until the speech was finished. I kept trying to say little things to make her laugh, and she got madder and madder at me, which only made me try harder.

The guy onstage pulled out an instrument and started explaining a little about it. He said it was a "Jew harp," and I leaned into Bonnie and said, "If that guy just called that thing a

'Jew harp,' I'm going to have some words with him in a minute."

That got her to bust out laughing, while the entire room was quiet.

Jon Block, who puts on a lot of local music events, got up and played guitar with the tall guy. He slapped his knee along with the tune, which sounded like Neil Young's "Rockin' in the Free World." I noticed the guy wore white gloves. I leaned in to Bonnie again and said, "If someone told me a person was performing and wearing a white glove, I'd think Michael Jackson. But it's more of a Tiger Woods look." The guy she was with laughed, but by that point she was bothered by me. When the song finished, I went over to grab a cupcake.

I heard a woman coming out of the bathroom say, "That's the coolest bathroom ever! There were rocks in the sink. Amazing!"

Her friend said, "I like the walls in here. I'm not sure why the word 'True' is written on them, though. Maybe it's supposed to be an inspirational thing."

I overheard a short African-American guy talking about the streets of Harlem. He mentioned 42nd Street. The person he was speaking to walked away, and I

asked about their conversation. He said, "I was just talking about chess. Do you play?" I realized there was a huge marble chess set in front of him. I told him I did, and he challenged me to a game. He said, "I played this guy earlier tonight, and he didn't even know how the pieces move. And he was setting up the queen on the wrong color." I joked, "How much are we playing for?" He smiled and said, "You don't wanna go there. I played on the streets, man. We used to play in the parks. And I'm ranked, bro."

We ended up talking about football, but 30 minutes later I saw him playing someone. I asked if he won and he said, "I killed him, bro. And I'm so drunk, too." He walked away, saying, "I'm gonna go smash something."

I was a bit tipsy, and when I was standing with a group of people in the kitchen, a nice older woman asked me to pour her a glass of the red wine behind me. As she held her glass, I started to pour. I started pouring it on her arm, completely missing the glass. As one guy started to wipe off her arm, I looked for a paper towel for the floor. Luckily, the woman just laughed about it, and none of the wine ruined her outfit.

One small group at the party

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was talking about going to Stingaree. Another group was talking about going to Ivy. And a few people were trying to narrow down which place everyone was going to end up at.

I saw two girls talking, and the guy with the weird eyes approached. He said something funny, and as the women laughed, one said they recognized him from a party a few weeks earlier. He said, "That wasn't me. It was my evil twin brother. I told him to stay away from this party."

I said I was going to write that down and use it in the story. He looked at me stone-faced and said, "You plagiarist."

He then grabbed a cookie and left the party. ■

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Germ Warfare



by Barbarella

There are always germs, and you're never going to get rid of all of them.

— Cheryl Mendelson

I scrutinized the underside of David's shoe as it dangled in the air. The sole and its host of pathogens revealed itself as David leaned back in his chair and lifted his right leg to rest his calf on his left thigh, thus positioning shoe-borne flora and fauna within inches of the platter of cheese on the low table between us. I envisioned millions of germs as microscopic, distorted humanoids jumping off of the shoe, sounding inaudible germmy screams as they hurtled through the air and landed on my cheese, where they would bivouac on the rind until they received orders to invade the soft, gooey part that was allocated for my cracker.

"What?" David said, studying my face as I inspected his foot. I shrugged, my eyes looking deep into his sole, wandering from toe to heel and back again, finally settling somewhere in the middle, on the most offensive blemish

on the black rubber — remnants of a splotch of gum, rendered unsticky by dirt and what I realized were bits of hair protruding from the buildup.

"What?" This time, David's tone was more impatient.

I tore my gaze from his shoe and met his eyes as I considered how much to tell him. After a moment, I set-

tled on "Your shoe is grossing me out." He uncrossed his legs and brought both feet to the floor. "It's nothing," I said in response to his interrogatory frown. But David can always tell when I'm withholding something. "Okay, fine," I said. "Your foot was so close to the food, and I could picture shit jumping off of your shoe and onto my cheese."

"That's ridiculous," David said.

"Is it? Well, even if germs can't jump, it was still unappetizing to look at."

"Unappetizing is one thing, but germs absolutely do not jump," David said.

"How do you know? You can't see them," I said. "For all you know they could be climbing up the side of the table right now."

I learned long ago that not only do most people seem not to have the same concerns as me, they tend to think mine are peculiar. Maybe I was trying to defend the rationality of my aversion to shoe bottoms or to mitigate David's derision for what he thought was my misguided perception of biology. But whatever my motives, I soon found myself revealing

the details of a private episode that had occurred that morning, and I began to regret the words the moment they tumbled forth from my mouth.

I had been applying my Lancôme liquid eyeliner, with the applicator in my right hand, when I sneezed in the general direction of the open container I held in my left hand. I relayed to David that as soon as the *choo* part of my sneeze escaped, I began to visualize colorful cartoonlike amoebas sailing through the air and diving headfirst into the container, their tiny cilia pointing forward like arms. Then in my mind's eye I beheld an animated sequence of my spit molecules reacting with the chemicals in the eyeliner and multiplying into some superbug with the power to blind me. "And now," I concluded, "I'm not sure if I can use that eyeliner again. And I just bought it, and it wasn't cheap."

"Wow," David said. "On so many levels...wow." He leaned forward, spread some Brillat-Savarin onto a square of multigrain flatbread, then sat back, began to cross his legs, seemed to think better of it, and popped the presumably polluted soft cheese into his mouth. When he finished chewing, David said, "First, that you would think that you could actually sneeze something directly into that little bottle is just remarkable."

"I sneezed right on it! Millions of little God-knows-what flying directly onto, *into*, the container," I argued.

"Second," David continued, "to think that anything can possibly live and flourish inside the chemical miasma within that bottle is unthinkable. That after you sealed

it, you'd think anything that got in there would grow and multiply using the eyeliner as *nutrition*."

"Then how do you explain pinkeye? I got that, and the doctor said it could have been from my pencil eyeliner. That means it had to be *living* on my eye makeup for months!"

"Third," David said, disregarding my argument, "that you would think that once you open it again and put it on your eye, that it would be *bad* for you."

"You never know," I said. "Pinkeye."

David scanned my face with the same intense look he has when he's working on a pivotal Scrabble play. "Your brain is so preoccupied with bizarre shit, it's no wonder you have so little left over to cope," he said.

"This isn't make-believe," I said. "I remember biology class in high school, when we did the Petri-dish project. That shit *grew* from swabs taken from the bottom of my shoe, from my backpack — to think I used to put my face on that bag! But never again, not after I saw all the gunk that lived there with my own eyes. I don't even like to put my face on the pillows we keep on the couch."

"Your germophobe thing is so arbitrary," David said. "I mean, do you even know what the germiest place in the house is?"

"The kitchen sink," I said with confidence. "That's why I'm always running our sponges through the dishwasher. I saw it on the news, during one of those 'Now Fear This'-type segments."

"That's not it," David said.

"Don't," I said. "I don't want to know."

"Just for that, I'm going on a shower strike," I warned.

"You think that cheese is funky? Just wait."

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You're right. It's arbitrary. So, the less I know, the better."

"It's the shower," David said.

"I don't touch the walls or the curtain when I'm in there, so I'm —"

"It's the shower head, actually," he clarified. I couldn't tell if he was attempting to cure my neurosis with logic or if he was being sadistic. I decided on the former when he continued, "Germs are good for you."

"Jesus, David, how am I ever going to shower again? Is that what this is? Are you trying to tell me you have a thing for stink? I mean, the walls I can avoid; the curtain, sure; but the *head*? I can't avoid that. What am I going to do now?"

"Germs are what your immune system thrives on," David said, speaking faster to match my hysteria. "Like the flu shot, they —"

"That's why I don't get the flu shot," I

shrieked.

David cracked a smile. I'd been wrong. This was sadism. "You're evil," I said. He offered me a piece of cheese and did not seem surprised when I refused to take it. "Just for that, I'm going on a shower strike," I warned. "You think that cheese is funky? Just wait."

David laughed and called my bluff. "Go ahead...won't bother me. If anything, you'll be building up your immunity." ■

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This is Christmas, damn it! What happened?

I'm sitting here looking at a photo taken shortly before Christmas 2008. It's a very good photo: dramatic and sharply focused. It's a December afternoon in downtown San Diego: trees dotting a vast swath of sun-washed, empty parking lot. In the foreground, walking away from the camera, is my 11-year-old son. His head is bowed, and it's because of what is in his hands: a chilled bottle of water and a brown paper

lunch bag.

On the outside of the bag is a child's

Magic Marker drawing of

a Christmas tree, and also a word: "Faith," "Hope," "Peace," "Joy," or "Love" — I'm not sure which, but I know it's one of those. I know because I was there in my kitchen when my wife Deirdre wrote it on the bag and on the 30 or so other bags that received the same treatment. One by one, they'd been labeled with the name of some spiritual good, decorated with a traditional

Christmas symbol —

stars, wreaths, trees —

and filled: an apple

or an orange, a

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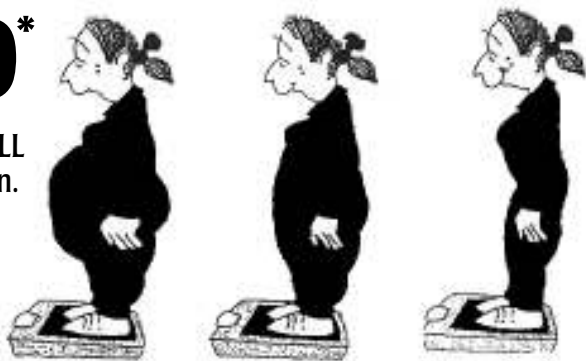
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a napkin, and a sandwich. Some sandwiches got turkey, some got ham, all got a slice of cheese, a broad leaf of iceberg lettuce, and a thin layer of mayonnaise.

Back to the photograph and my son's bowed head. It's bowed because he's unhappy. This is not how he wants to be spending his Saturday afternoon, even if he does see the point in feeding the hungry. He'd rather be doing what he wants with his free time — and who wouldn't? (Here I am reminded of a splendid bit from C.S. Lewis's *Screwtape Letters*. The devil Screwtape advises his nephew Wormwood that a great way to ensnare a man is to trick him into think-

ing his time is his own, so that every request made of him — regardless of its goodness — is an impingement, a source of irritation.)

These bagged lunches are bound for the homeless, you see, and my son would rather be doing this particular kindness from afar. It's not like when he participates in the Christmas pageant for the old folks at Little Flower Haven on La Mesa Boulevard. There, he gets up in front of the crowd and says his lines loud and clear and generally brings delight, but as soon as it's over, he gets to eat cookies and hang out with his fellow actors. He doesn't have to, you know, talk to the Olds, the Strangers, and the Possi-

bly Loopy.


Here, he has to look people in the eye. Here, he has to talk to people. And not just people — homeless people. Suffering people, who may be unfriendly, or too friendly, or smelly, or intoxicated, or crazy, or ungrateful, or just deeply embittered. Couldn't he just do some jobs, get paid, and donate the money to charity? No, he could not. Because his father wants him to meet his Neighbor — the one Christ told him to love, the one lying in a ditch like the Jew found by the Good Samaritan. (G.K. Chesterton has a great bit on this in his essay "On the Institution of the Family": "We have to love our neighbor because he is

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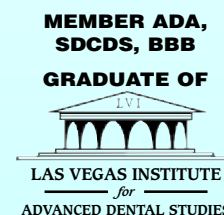


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there.... He is the sample of humanity which is actually given us.")

Thomas:

Many, many years ago, in my teens, I used to go to the Catholic Worker in Los Angeles to feed the poor on Skid Row, just minutes away from downtown Los Angeles and its luxury hotels. Here there were the poorest of the poor, but even more than this; here were people whose lives and hopes have been crushed, many of them fallen victim to drug and alcohol addiction, a small way of them dealing often with a lifetime of rejection, abuse, and the struggle with mental illness. We assembled there to feed the poor a Christmas Day lunch. The poor lined up outside and

came into the hallway, with tables set in rows so people could sit down and have a meal. Inevitably, there were problems on the line, and Jeff Dietrich and his

time. And this despite the fact that the hotels just blocks away were probably only half full.

There were big vats to cook the soup; we used lots and lots of

How the big pots of soup always seemed to have just enough, we never knew.

wife Catherine would calm things down. The faces are now a blur in my memory, but what I do remember are their tattered clothes and the fact that many of them obviously hadn't been able to bathe in some

vegetables, carrots, celery, and chicken, and lots of spices. I remember pouring what I thought was sugar in my coffee and drinking, only to find out I poured the salt in; and I spit it out; which meant,

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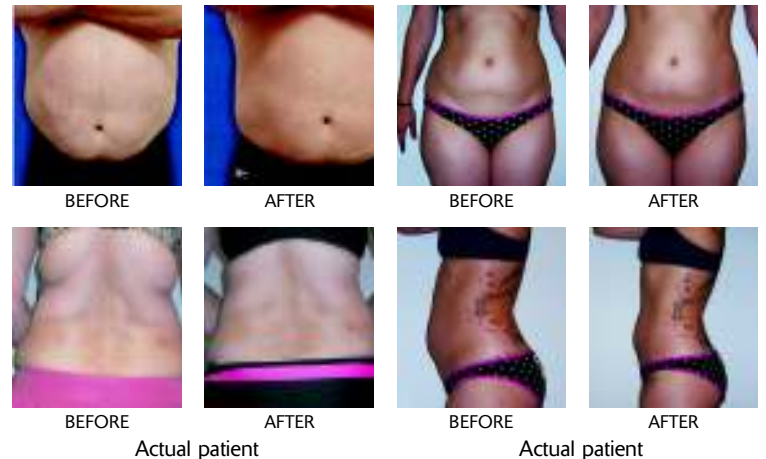
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I think, that I'd put the sugar in the soup. Not my best day, but I was a volunteer novice, especially as compared to those who worked the line each and every day. Making the big soups took quite a while, an hour or more; and the other Catholic Workers seemed to combine elements of recipes with on-the-spot quick decisions based on what leftover food they had gotten from the local markets. The big pots of soup fed hundreds and hundreds; how they always seemed to have just enough, we never knew. It was just as Jesus and Catholic Worker founder Dorothy Day said (in her *Loaves & Fishes*), "He took the five loaves and the two fishes; and looking up to

heaven, He blessed and brake and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitudes. And they did all eat and were filled.... Matthew 14:16-20."

There were hundreds of homeless who stood in line. We who served them stood over vast pots, cooking up a marvelous meal. The Catholic Workers were an unlikely bunch. Part anarchist, part communitarian Christians — like during the time of Jesus, when the church was dedicated to nonviolence — their iconoclastic ways make it a small miracle that they are able to live together, serve the poor, and keep a monthly paper. The anarchism and communitarianism was of a strange sort, inspired by

cofounder Peter Maurin, who wrote, "The best kind of government is self-government. The best kind of organization is self-organization." Though the Catholic Worker desired governments to help, they believed that the people should do the works of mercy themselves.

Matthew:

And that's why I insisted that my kids take a direct role in feeding the homeless that day. By the end, 30 people had lunch, and my son's head wasn't bowed. By the end, his head was buoyed up and he was smiling, glad he'd done it. Glad in an exhaling, amazed kind of way, as if he didn't know quite what to make of what he was

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feeling. While I stood off in the distance, or across the street, he'd spoken with men and women, sober and drunk, happy and sad: greeting them, offering them lunch, saying *goodbye* and *God bless you*. (His younger brother and sister were smiling as well, having taken part in the same mission.) He even said we should do this more often.

And we did — one more time, not long after. And then we didn't do it again. The Christmas Spirit, God help me, faded away, at least as far as lunch distribution went. Life took on its normal shape, with its normal set of middle-class familial concerns closer to hand. Enough of "my

time" had been taken up helping my son help his neighbors that I was relieved to have the whole business behind me. Still, when I look back, it's clear that it

fection after a couple of months. A lot more time and effort went into it than ever went into bringing lunch to the homeless. And for what? Along with that

There was the niggling feeling that it was the only thing I did today that was worth a damn.

was worth more than most of what I did last December. My son's big-time Christmas present from 2008 sits in a box in the garage, a bunch of plastic and wires that lost its luster when it stopped working to per-

niggling feeling, there was, once again, the whispered reminder that you really are happier when you bend your will to serve the happiness of others, that love really is the answer, and how many more

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Christmases are going to have to go by before you learn that simple lesson?

Thomas:

The famous Jewish German émigré Theodor Adorno, in his "Articles May Not Be Exchanged," expressed the importance of gift-giving perhaps more poignantly than anyone else: "We are forgetting how to give presents.... Real giving had its joy in imagining the joy of the receiver. It means choosing, expending time, going out of one's way, thinking of the other as a subject: the opposite of distraction... Every undistorted relationship... is a gift."

The Christmas spirit, at its best, is filled with that spirit of giving. It's a time to remember, a time to appreciate and be grateful for what we have in this life. When I think of my own life, many things are brought to mind. Before my conscious memory, I was the recipient of the gift of giving and care. After I was abandoned by my parents in New York, I was taken care of, along with my older brother and sister, by Catholic nuns in the City.

We associate Christmas these days so much with gift-giving. Yet when I think about the greatest gifts I've been given in my own life, they have not been material things. Perhaps my most memorable Christmas Eve, many years ago, was shared with my parents, in the most unlikely of places, a place I never would have imagined they would ever come to. During my years growing up, my parents, though Jewish atheists, celebrated Christmas as a kind of secular holiday. But festive occasions in

my family were marred by my parents' drug and alcohol addiction. Since I was a little kid, I knew that the day would come when I would take my kid brothers and sis-

ter from them to raise them in part myself. That day came when I was about 21. My parents screamed and yelled from far away, calling me every name

in the book. Yet, a year later, on Christmas, they took me to their new home, an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. I couldn't believe it; it was indeed a Christmas

miracle.

They told me that they had been dying from alcohol abuse and that, in retrospect, my taking my younger brothers and sister away

had saved their life. That certainly wasn't my intention at the time — my focus was on my younger brothers and sister — though I was pleased it had such a

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positive effect. My father went back to drinking — no great surprise there — but my mother, after some 50 years of drug and alcohol addiction, remains sober to this day. I didn't grow up with her; in fact, I didn't even see a picture of her or know if she was dead or alive until I was 11 — but her getting sober allowed me to have a relationship with her for the first time. That Christmas was thus the unveiling of the greatest Christmas present she could have ever given me: the mother I had never really had. The gift of friendship, of love and community, like that of the Christ, or of the prophets of the Old Testament, leading people from bondage out

of Egypt. How resonant that story is, of love, of hope, of redemption. A good thing to keep in mind when we see our brethren this Christmas on the street corner

good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food

Why is Daddy smiling as he slinks away from the cries of "I want this!"? Because of damnable nostalgia.

holding signs asking for food, asking for work.

Matthew:

There's that word: brethren. Echoes of James's letter to his fellow Christians: "What

for the day, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, keep warm and eat well,' but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it?" And who is my brother or sister? Some-

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one even closer to me than my neighbor (see above: Samaritan, Good).

But here's the fun part, right at the end of that particular chapter from James: "Was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by a different route?" Rahab was not a Jew, one of God's chosen race; Rahab was a prostitute living in Jericho. What did she do to earn this justification by works? She hid a couple of Jewish spies in her home, spies who were helping to prepare an invasion. A fallen woman sides with God's people over her own for entirely selfish reasons (so she'll be spared in the coming bloodshed), and it gets her mentioned right alongside Father Abraham in James's treatment of faith and works. Ladies and gentlemen, this is why no Christian should be sorry to see the Christmas Spirit, along with all the generosity it entails, adopted in an institutional fashion by the wider world each December. You think it cheapens things to have nonbelievers feeling good about themselves for throwing a few dollars into the Salvation Army pot? Remember Rahab.

Still, the world is much too much with us, as I am reminded every holiday season. The catalogs start in the fall: Creative Playthings, Toys 2 Grow On, Magic Cabin, MindWare...the list is endless. The toys advertised are clever, engaging, and developmentally sound, so that you almost forget they're toys: hundreds of toys, each with its own bit of tantalizing ad copy.

Thanks to my wife, who has to deal with the kids more than I do, most of it goes directly into the recycling bin. But come Christmastime, Daddy throws a spanner in the

works, lets a few copies slip into grubby little hands, slinks away smiling as the pens come out and the circles get made around every third or fourth item.

Why is Daddy smiling as he slinks away from the cries of "I want this! And this! And this!"? Because of damnable nostalgia. Because he remembers

going through the Montgomery Ward catalog, circling GI Joe and Star Wars action figures, and later, the Sharper Image, putting stars next to the three-runner

sled with a steering wheel and a handbrake. (The only present I ever asked for that met with the flat reply, "It's too expensive." And yet I got it. Best present ever.

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What's probably not so good — what's probably closer to a waste of time — is the getting. Yeah, I remember the sled. But would I have felt unloved without it? Hell, no. I had awesome parents — the kind who took me out at five years old so that I could Christmas shop for people who weren't me. For one reason or another, I've never done that with my kids. I've never set up a schedule of jobs

they can do during Advent to earn money to buy presents for their mother and siblings. I have never made them partners in Christmas. Song lyrics from the

idea that children learn by example and will therefore learn to give by watching me give to them. (An idea that seems to me dubious at best: there is no satiety

I fear my child will sulk through Christmas because they didn't get that One Special Thing.

Cowboy Junkies come to mind: "Living's mostly wasting time/ And I waste my share of mine."

And that's the waste of time. Even if I try to defend myself with the

to the appetite for stuff we don't really need, and if I just keep pouring into that unfillable hole, what's going to shift the dynamic?) Sometimes, it's worse than a waste. I'm think-

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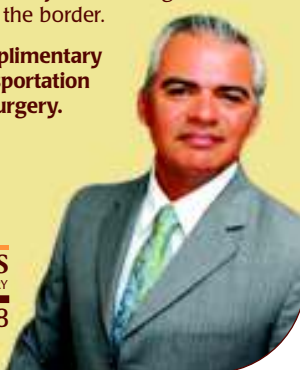
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ing of the fear that this or that child will sulk through Christmas because they didn't get that One Special Thing, sulling the day for everyone else, helpless with misery, unable to enter into the ocean of goodness that wells up all around them. That's right; there have been times when I actually fear this. What the hell? How did I become so in thrall to my kids — and worse, to my kids' worst selves? They're good kids, and I try to be a

good father to them. And yet, this is what I find myself up against. This is Christmas, damn it! What happened?

"I happen to think the world would be a better place if no one believed in God."

No, seriously, *what happened?* Why haven't I taught my kids to give? Because that part isn't nostalgic for me. I

remember the thrill of opening presents on Christmas morning as a kid, but it wasn't until I grew up that I started

threshold of wealth, and to remember the love that instead is found in community.

I'm again thinking

remembering what I gave to people. (And started forgetting what they gave me.) Mind you, I know I should teach it; I know that the child is the father of the man. I know that effort is what makes us grow, that human excellence is rooted in habitual action, regardless of the memories that nostalgia coughs up. What is my excuse? I don't have the time. Because Christmas is a Grand Hassle. Because I'm doing all this other stuff to make Christmas great, and I'm tired. What a sack. And what do I do come Christmas Eve? Complain to my wife that our kids are getting too much stuff. Thomas: It is hard, in the commercial culture we live in, so mistaken with the Christmas spirit, to remember the lack of importance of material things, above a certain

of Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker, who were full of seeming paradoxes: condemning poverty and embracing it, living a life dedicated to uplifting the poor while voluntarily being poor themselves. Peter Maurin expressed it best in his "Case for Utopia":

"The world would be better off if people tried to become better, and people would be better if they stopped trying to become better off. For when everyone tries to become better off,

nobody is better off. But when everyone tries to become better everyone is better off.

Everyone would be rich if nobody tried to become richer, and nobody would be poor if everyone tried to be the poorest.

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if everybody tried to be

what he wants the other fellow to be."

As crazy as these words may seem to some, they anticipated by nearly a century a growing body of evidence that shows clearly that even as the advanced Western countries have become

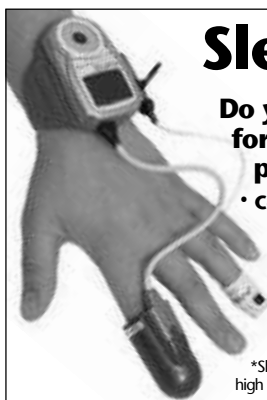
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richer, they are no happier for that. A useful notion to remember this Christmas season, in between our running about, when we see more and more people homeless, begging on the street for a small meal or some honest work.

Matthew:

The late novelist David Foster Wallace put it this way in an address to the Kenyon College graduating class of 2005: "And I submit that this is what the real, no-bull value of your liberal arts education is supposed to be about: How to keep from going through your comfortable, prosperous, respectable adult life dead, unconscious, a slave to your head and to your natural default-setting of being uniquely, completely, imperially alone, day in and day out."

What's that got to do with the price of eggs? More to the point, what's that got to do with Ricky Bobby's favorite Jesus, the Christmas Jesus with the golden fleece diapers? I mean, consider Dave Bry, who writes the "Public Apology" column for the online magazine *The Awl*. Recently, he apologized to God for not believing in Him. Take it, Dave: "I don't mean to insult anyone who does. It's an intellectual position, that's all. I know the thought of You brings great comfort to many people. I realize lots of good gets done in Your name. Charity organizations, etc. You've inspired some great architecture, too. And books and sculpture and painting and music... But taking into consideration all the war and mass murder that people do for You, all the unbridgeable division and entrenchment of

thought that irrational faith leads to, all the ending of discussion and diplomacy, all the forsaking of responsibility for human action, I happen to think the world would be a better place if no one believed in You. Even if You do exist. We're better off thinking, even if incorrectly, that we're on our own. Maybe people would take care of each other better if they believed they were really in charge. Maybe people would clean up after themselves."

Except, well, maybe not. Because as the man says, without God, nothing is forbidden. And conversely, nothing

much is required either. If we make our own meaning, who's to say it has to include the poor bastard lying in a ditch by the side of the road, beaten and bleeding? That's them over there, this is me over here, and my neighbor is the comfortable gentleman next door who knows to leave me alone — so I can go about my business and worship my private household gods. As Wallace puts it, "Here's something else that's true. In the day-to-day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody

worships. The only choice we get is what to worship. And an outstanding reason for choosing some sort of God or spiritual-type thing to worship — be it J.C. or Allah, be it Yahweh or the Wiccan mother-goddess or the Four Noble Truths or some infrangible set of ethical principles — is that pretty much anything else you worship will eat you alive. If you worship money and things — if they are where you tap real meaning in life — then you will never have enough. Never feel you have enough." ■

— Matthew Lickona

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LETTERS

continued from page 13

thank you for breaking it down. However, I don't think I could ever master it as well as you and your sister.

ONG - Never heard of it until your article. Interesting code, but way too difficult to truly follow at a fast pace.

The one David suggested - again, never heard of it... but I'm with you...too difficult to learn, understand and follow without some personal instruction.

igpay atinlay - Now that was my code of choice back in the day, but it seemed everybody understood it so it defeated the purpose of being a 'secret' code or language.

I think in today's culture secret verbal codes have been lost to the ease text messaging. Rebecca and I have used texting during social gatherings both with friends and family to communicate secretly and it is much easier to keep things private. When asked "what are you doing?" we simply respond with "Tweeting" or "Barb posted a tweet" or something along those lines.

Thanks again for a great column!

Talk with you soon!

Charley

Movie Review

Published Dec. 16

By Tonya_J 5:44 p.m., Dec. 20, 2009

Duncan, really, "juvenilia"? (not to mention "silly, pretentious, and pointless". "Fun" didn't ameliorate the negative of the previous three adjectives). I've read your reviews off and on for years and I honestly have to say I don't see the joy or the power of film making when you write about it. I'm way over 12 and I found Avatar to be a transformative, totally immersive film and that is due to James Cameron's devotion to craft. And yes, he makes films, his way. He's a flawed human being but one who is uncompromising when it comes to his craft and he is well aware that

spectacle is only part of what makes a film. I've read him talking about it and I admire him for thinking so.

I can't say that your review is wrong, it's your subjective viewpoint, but it saddens me that what you wrote is all you saw. Also, that what you wrote may keep people from seeing the film.

Cover Story

Published Dec. 9

By sithiporn 12:44 p.m., Dec. 14, 2009

Reading this article is very heart whelming because I graduated from Gompers Secondary in 2004. Gompers does build strong educated individuals to empower the community. I'm one prime example. I thank the staff members; principles, counselors, teachers, security guards, administrations, and career counselors for every input they have mentored into my life which has path my way to my current success.

I thank them because they always try to use authority to discipline us or made positive statements for me to become a better person. In example: The staff members who told me to; pull up your pants, why are you late, where do you want to be in 5 - years, and you adolescents must succeed and break the chain of poverty, your success will benefit your family, community, and society.

I know there maybe negative feedback from former employee's and current employee's but I don't clearly understand the hiring process but I still thank you for your effort to support our community that has been infested with poverty, gangs, and drugs. With your efforts it's not just benefiting the community it's helping a generation that has always been told they can't do something and you have open their eye's that there is more to life in this world then just poverty, gangs, and drugs. You are ascertaining to these children that you do have a chance and a voice to be heard. Just because we are here don't mean that we want to life this life forever.

We don't want to be another statistic of this demographic, but it's just that our life situations and environment that has enriched us to become who we are. Starting from home to school is where the formation and system starts. To be aware of these issues and address them is the only way to change the School culture. The CHANGE in our self-image is the key to this community success.

Society has to understand we come from another world then many other children. 1ST our family is trying to get by every month because our parents are un-educated and can't break the cycle of poverty. 2ND Our environment makes us who we are and who we have become. 3rd We don't look too far in life. I thank the motivation and inspiration from this school that has allowed us to become better individuals for our community. It was the best helping hand I ever had.

I always remember a rapper name Nas saying "I know I can be what I want to be, If I work hard at it. I'll be where I wanna be". As many individuals life myself intern became one positive statistic at this school. I admit I have friends who still are in this cycle influence by the streets of drugs, gangs, and crimes. But why am I still their friend? Because I believe in redemption and CHANGE. To assist a friend to look in a new direction a positive path on life and change their life for the better it a great felling. My friends aka homies know what I'm talking about. I may not change an every individual but to change at least one it will be beneficial to my community and my life that I can say I change a friend life and I knew he had the potential to become somebody and someone. That great feeling is PRICELESS.

-Stephen. Sithiporn

"One step forward is always better than one step backwards"

Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

Thursday | 24

MERRY AND MAGICAL

See 50 gingerbread houses created by students from Kimbrough Elementary, Monarch School, and Nativity Prep Academy, all of whom worked with Hyatt chefs to finalize their cookie

masterpieces. Vote for your favorite gingerbread house — and if you're feeling generous you can contribute to Toys for Tots by dropping off an unwrapped gift. See [SPECIAL](#), page 53.

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

In Cygnet Theatre's popular staged version of the classic movie, you not only get to watch the familiar story of George Bailey, you also get to see how the movie was made in a 1947 radio studio, with announcers, actors reading their lines, flashing applause signs, and a commercial for Lux soap. See [THEATER](#), page 96.

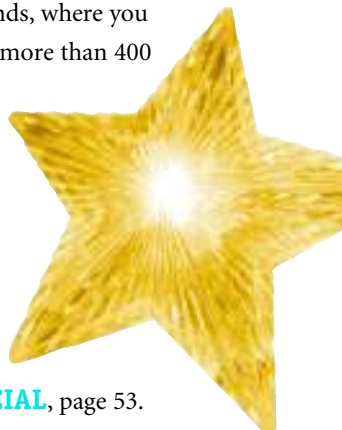
Friday | 25

A FESTIVUS FOR THE RESTIVUS

One of the best things about Christmas Day? All is quiet on the streets! Enjoy the empty roads during this 25-mile Knickerbikers bicycle ride, beginning at the north parking lot of the Mission Bay Visitors' Center. Bring money in the event that an open restaurant can be found. See [SPORTS](#), page 56.

HOLIDAY OF LIGHTS

Take a break between opening presents and sitting down to dinner with a family drive through the Del Mar Fairgrounds, where you can view more than 400 lighted, holiday-themed displays from the comfort of your car. See [SPECIAL](#), page 53.



Saturday | 26

ANCIENT LEGENDS AND EXQUISITE DANCES

Shen Yun Performing Arts takes the stage to present classical Chinese dance and music. Accompanied by a live orchestra, the troupe will showcase legends, vocal and instrumental performances, dances, and modern-day narratives. See [IN PERSON](#), page 56.

ARTIFACTS AND THE BEATLES

The Edgware Gallery hosts an opening reception for this exhibition of original Beatles artifacts, memorabilia, and rare audio recordings. Also on view is art by Steven Edelson, Guy Lombardo, Sam Frazier, and others. See [GALLERIES](#), page 56.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27: THE NEW CENTURY

Sunday | 27

THE NEW CENTURY

Diversions Theatre presents a comedy about seeing through stereotypes: a trio of eccentrics (a mother of three nontraditional children, the world's gayest man, and a Midwestern crafts expert/festishist who "wears polyester without irony") describe lives that have much more in common than appears on the surface. See [THEATER](#), page 96.

Tuesday | 29

EXPLORE YOUR CREATIVITY

Learn simple clay hand-building techniques to make sculptures and vessels for your home or garden during classes led by artist Cheryl Tall. See [LECTURES](#), page 56.

Wednesday | 30

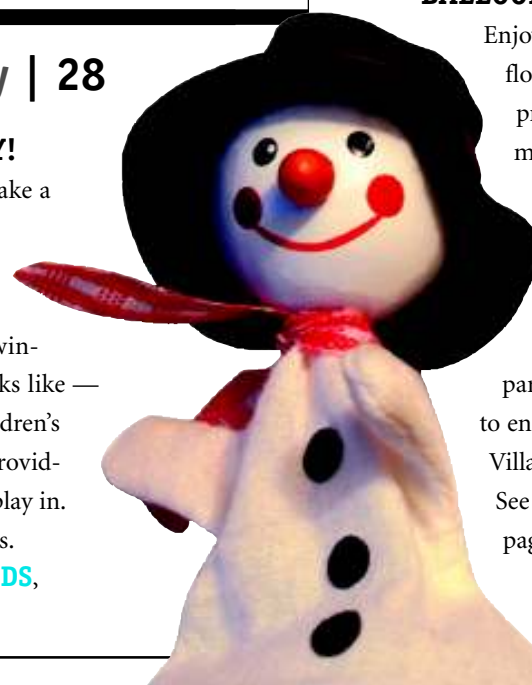
PORT OF SAN DIEGO BIG BAY BALLOON PARADE

Enjoy marching bands, floats, drill teams, and a procession of enormous balloons. Starting near the County Administration Building on Harbor Drive, the parade marches south to end near Seaport Village. See [SPECIAL](#), page 53.

Monday | 28

SNOW DAY!

No need to take a road trip to the mountains to see what winter really looks like — the New Children's Museum is providing snow to play in. Bring mittens. See [FOR KIDS](#), page 55.



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TRAVEL STORIES AND TIPS FROM OUR READERS



Strawberry Fields, Central Park, New York

By Esther Rubio-Sheffrey

John Lennon was one of four British teens who forever changed the face of rock and roll. An advocate for peace, politically outspoken, and senselessly murdered, Lennon's words continue to inspire.

For these reasons (among others), in 1981 the New York City Council allocated 2.5 acres in Central Park for Strawberry Fields, a tribute to Lennon's music and vision. Yoko Ono's donation made it possible to redesign the landscaping and continue its maintenance. On the day that would have been Lennon's 45th birthday, October 9, 1985, the city's mayor dedicated Strawberry Fields at the opening ceremony. Since then, the attraction has drawn thousands of visitors from all over the world, and 121 countries have sanctioned it a Garden of Peace.

Sit for a picnic, stroll through its

paths, or enjoy the street performers covering Lennon's lyrics. Strawberry Fields invites you to imagine — not just the possibility of a world at peace, but your own potential and that which was stolen from John Lennon.

The teardrop-shaped section of park landscape is located on the West Side between 71st and 74th streets. Annual daylong vigils take place every October 9. For more information, visit centralpark.com.

Olympia, Greece

By Derek Ray

As a student of ancient Greek history and mythology and a follower of the Olympics since I was a child, the site of the ancient Olympic games has always held a fascination for me. Olympia is about five hours from Athens and a worthwhile side trip if you share these interests.

The Peloponnese is a particularly scenic part of Greece, mountainous and much greener than the area around Athens and the islands. Olympia was not so much a town in ancient times as a site designated for athletic competitions and worship of the gods. The ancient games date back to 776 BC and were eventually abolished in 394 AD — an astounding run of 1170 years. The games reached their height of popularity in the 4th to

continued on page 52

Other Adventures



jeffolee: Members of a Papua New Guinea highlands tribe preparing for a traditional dance ceremony



stacie1010: Outside the Vatican in Italy. All these chairs were put out so that people could sit and see the Pope.



lvswhatigt: Santa Monica Pier roller coaster and ferris wheel



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ROAM-○-RAMA

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

ROCKHOUSE CANYON AND VALLEY

Venture into Anza-Borrego's most remote and least-visited place.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 110 miles

Hiking length: Up to 10 miles round-trip on a dayhike; potentially more for backpacking • **Difficulty:** Strenuous



Backpacking, lower Rockhouse Canyon

Straddling the San Diego–Riverside county line, Rockhouse Canyon and the broad, sloping alluvial basin drained by it — informally known as Rockhouse Valley — constitute one of Southern California's truly forgotten places. Not much more than a century ago, Cahuilla Indians carried on a traditional way of life here. After the Indians moved to the nearby Santa Rosa Indian Reservation around 1900, a few hardy prospectors made forays into the area, traveling along centuries-old footpaths. Never has a road penetrated farther than the lower reaches of Rockhouse Canyon. Up in the silent valley itself, you might as well have stepped into a time warp. Only the distant glints and rumbles of high-flying aircraft provide evidence of the modern world.

You'll need several hours to dayhike Rockhouse Canyon as described here. Two or even three days of backpacking suffices to explore the spacious valley lying beyond. Don't forget, even on a day trip, to pack along essentials such as water, food, and extra clothing. Anza-Borrego Desert State Park has jurisdiction over the lower (San Diego County) section of the canyon, while the Bureau of Land Management oversees the upper (Riverside County) canyon and the valley beyond. For the latest information, phone Anza-Borrego at 760-767-4205 or 760-767-5311.

To get to the starting point from Borrego Springs, drive several miles east and north on Highway S-22. When you reach mile 26.7, just past the Pegleg Monument, turn north on Clark's Well Road. Pavement soon ends and you continue driving on dirt, bearing left at 1.5 miles onto Rockhouse Truck Trail. After nine miles

of dirt-road travel, you arrive at a point where roads into Butler and Rockhouse canyons diverge. This is the absolute limit for vehicles not of the high-clearance, 4-wheel-drive type. Three more excruciatingly slow miles of driving in the appropriate vehicle might or might not take you to the Rockhouse Truck Trail terminus (depending on road conditions).

From the road-end, walk a half mile up-canyon to Hidden Spring on the left, which isn't much more than a small puddle of stagnant water next to a grove of mesquite bushes. The canyon narrows ahead, and over the next 3.5 miles you trudge uphill on soft sand through a narrow gorge flanked in many places by soaring rock walls.

At a point just south of the San Diego–Riverside county line, you'll come upon a granite dike (barrier) forming a 20-foot "dry fall" (a true waterfall only during rare floods). Huge boulders litter the canyon floor, mute testimony

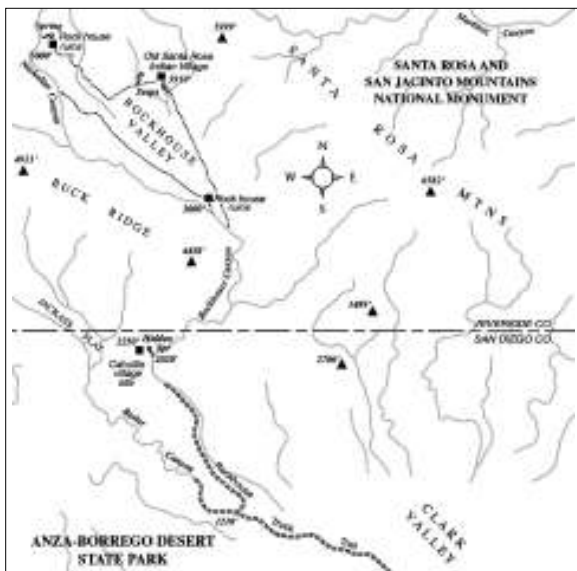
to the power of flash flooding.

Eventually, the canyon broadens and you enter Rockhouse Valley, named for the ruins of some rock houses probably built by miners over a century ago. Follow the main sandy wash up the west side of the valley until you reach the base of a boulder-strewn ridge 0.6 mile northwest of the valley entrance; then go 0.2 mile due north

to find the three rock houses, all of which are roofless. They're spaced along a low, elongated ridge with a view of the entire valley. Mud used as mortar still clings to some of the walls. Each house had a cozy fireplace inside.

You've now come nearly five miles — assuming you left your car at the end of the Rockhouse road. (The spacious Rockhouse Valley, with its ancient Indian trails and more rock houses, lies ahead — beyond what this brief article can describe). If this is to be your turnaround point, you'll find the return to be faster and easier, assisted by gravity all the way.

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.



OUTDOORS

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

Cross-Country Skiers are in for a short-lived treat late this month through February if winter storms intense enough to drop several inches to two feet of snow hit San Diego County's higher mountains. As the clouds are clearing, you may be able to take advantage of good skiing conditions along Highway 79 through Cuyamaca Rancho State Park and along Sunrise Highway through the Laguna Mountain Recreation Area. More limited opportunities for cross-country skiing may briefly exist on Palomar Mountain. Farther north in Southern California and higher in elevation, the forested crests of the San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and San Jacinto Mountains offer more de-

pendably good snow conditions.

Tree Aloes, the familiar succulent plants with red-hot-poker-like flower clusters, are at their showy best this month. Large clumps of aloes can be seen at La Jolla Cove, Mission San Diego de Alcalá, and scattered along the embankments overlooking Highway 163 in Balboa Park.

"Christmas Morning Early Birds, Bugs, and Botany" Naturalist Lee Dezan leads two- to three-hour hike. Layered clothing recommended. Wear treaded footwear, bring at least one liter of water. 760-839-4680. Friday, December 25, 7:30am; free. Daley Ranch — La Honda trailhead, 3024 La Honda Drive. (ESCONDIDO)

"Discover Daley Ranch" Meet naturalist William Sherrard for moderately paced seven-mile hike. 760-839-4680. Tuesday, December 29, 7am; free. Daley Ranch — La Honda trailhead, 3024 La Honda Drive. (ESCONDIDO)

Audubon Society Bird Walk Bring binoculars and drinking water to explore Tecolote Canyon. 858-581-9944. Saturday, December 26, 9am; free. Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. (CLAIREMONT)

Basic Birding Tom Troy leads basic birding program with emphasis on identifying birds by sight and sound and using binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides. Directions: 760-967-6915. Saturday, December 26, 8:30am; free. Buena Vista Audubon Society Nature Center, 2202 S. Coast Hwy. (CARLSBAD)

Discover Magnificent Beauty! Nature walks led by trained natu-

ralist. "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)

Rediscover Old Escondido East Walking tour led by Escondido History Center guide, starting at southeast corner of Grand and Broadway. 760-743-8207. Saturday, December 26, 11am; free. Draper's and Damon's, 101 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Tidepooling for All at False Point Learn about ocean critters when Birch Aquarium at Scripps hosts tidepooling led by aquarium naturalist. Required reservations: 858-534-7336. Wednesday, December 30, 1:30pm; \$12. 2 and up. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

SPECIAL

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. Saturday, December 26, 3pm and 6pm; Sunday, December 27, 3pm and 6pm; Monday, December 28, 3pm; Tuesday, December 29, 3pm; Wednesday, December 30, 3pm; \$5-\$10. Old Town

Greece *continued from page 50*

6th centuries BC, during the classical period of ancient Greece. They were performed in the nude. Women were not allowed and even threatened with a penalty of death if found at the site during the games.

As I entered the site of the ruins, I was overwhelmed by a sense of history. The stadium, which once seated 45,000 spectators, includes a field not much larger than a high school track — but with an aura unlike any I had felt at an athletic or historic site. Looking out at the 192-meter-long field, I had a sense of the competitions that took place here. I felt a little chill at the back of my neck, as if the ghost of one of the ancient competitors was whispering hello. It's a particular thrill to do a little running on the ancient track. You can even see where the original starting blocks once stood.

Among the most notable ruins on the site is the temple to Zeus. The huge ivory-and-gold statue dedicated to the king of the gods that once stood here was named one of the seven wonders of



the ancient world. Next to it is the ruin of the Heraeum, dedicated to Zeus's wife Hera, where the garlands were presented to the victors of the athletic competitions. It is also here where the Olympic torch was lit. To the west are the ruins of the Palaestra — the wrestling school — and the Gymnasium, where the competitors trained for weeks before the competitions.

Two museums, the Archaeological Museum and the Museum of the Olympic Games, help the visitor better navigate the logistics of the site and understand the historical context of the ruins. An artist's rendition of how the site likely appeared in ancient times helps one time-travel while wandering amid the ruins.

Win \$25 for your travel tips or a pair of movie passes for the best travel photo of the week. Go to SDReader.com/travel for more information.

State Historic Park, 4002 Wallace Street. (OLD TOWN)

(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). 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)

Garden of Lights Gardens decorated with 90,000-plus sparkling lights on plants and trees through December 30. Horse-drawn wagon rides, holiday crafts, live entertainment, marshmallow roasting, children's activities (visit Santa), food (for sale). Additional fees for some activities. 760-436-3036 x206. Saturday, December 26, 5pm; Sunday, December 27, 5pm; Monday, December 28, 5pm; Tuesday, December 29, 5pm; Wednesday, December 30, 5pm; \$4-\$12. San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Gray Whale Season Returns! Outings hosted by Birch Aquarium at Scripps and San Diego Harbor Excursion boast Scripps naturalists on hand to share information about gray whales, the ecology, and history of San Diego Bay and Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Detect, listen to whale and dolphin sounds in real time using state-of-the-art research equipment from Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Dolphins, sea lions, marine birds make guest appearances. Registration: 619-234-4111. Saturdays, 9:45am and 1:30pm; Sundays, 9:45am and 1:30pm; Mondays, 9:45am and 1:30pm; Tuesdays, 9:45am and 1:30pm; Wednesdays, 9:45am and 1:30pm; through Sunday, April 4. \$15-\$35. San Diego Harbor Excursion, 1050 North Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

Happy Holidays — Turkish Style! Enjoy live Turkish music, Greek and Turkish buffet, dance shows by Zorba Stars dancers, open dancing. Reservations recommended: 619-422-8853. Saturday, December 26, 8:30pm; \$15. Zorba's Greek Buffet, 100 Broadway. (CHULA VISTA)

Holiday of Lights More than 400 lighted, holiday-themed displays for viewing from visitors' cars. Admission: \$14 per vehicle (up to five people), \$19 per vehicle with six or more people, \$49 per bus. 858-792-4252. 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)

Knit Night 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)

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; Fri-

days, 5am; Saturdays, 5am; Sundays, 5am; through Sunday, December 27. Free. Manchester 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)

Port of San Diego Big Bay Balloon Parade Enjoy marching bands, floats, drill teams, and procession of enormous balloons, starting near County Administration Building (on Harbor Drive). Parade marches south on Harbor to end near Seaport Village. Viewing is free, with bandstand seating available (\$20). 619-283-5808. Wednesday, December 30, 10am;

Embarcadero, along Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

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)

Sycuan Casino's New Year's Eve Party!

East County's Biggest New Year's Eve Party!

More than \$10,000 in cash drawings!

Be here for our \$5,000 cash drawing at 9 pm when the ball drops LIVE in Times Square ... Plus \$1,000 in cash prizes at 6 pm, 7 pm, 8 pm, 10 pm, 11 pm and midnight! FREE entries for all Club Sycuan members!

Plus:

- ▶ Up to \$6,000 in Table Games giveaways!
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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 Charliissa Dodge at (619) 235-6699 or Charliissa@onyxroom.com. Early arrival and advance tickets suggested. Pre-sale tickets: onyxroom.com / clubzone.com / newyareseve.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 CAJON

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.

Puerto La Boca: Complimentary champagne, live music, open menu & party favors. (619) 234-4900 or www.puertolaboca.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 \$49 per person + tax + gratuity with seatings at 7 pm and 9 pm with champagne toast at midnight. No Cover Party with DJ Dex Diego from 10 pm-1:30 am. Room packages available-call: (619) 226-6100 or go to our website at: <http://www.thepearlsd.com/scene/nye.asp>.

RAMONA

Molly Malone's: Coldfire. Rock.

SAN DIEGO

Skateworld: New Year's Eve Skate Rollout '09. All ages. 8 pm-1 am. Admission \$12, Skate rental \$4. Bring in 2010 the right way.

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

BY SONIA ELIOT

What are you reading?

"I just got a book by James Allen called *As a Man Thinketh*. The main thing in it is that your thoughts pretty much determine the outcome of your life. If you're thinking negative thoughts, you're just going to get negative results. If you think positive thoughts, then your assets are going to follow that. I'm only on page nine so far, but he's talking about how, on a daily basis, you have to have an idea that you can put into action. You can't just have thoughts. And he talks about how you can develop your thinking from your interactions — like the way you and I are interacting right now."

Compare it to other books you've read.

"It's different from Robert Greene's *48 Laws of Power*, which I read along with his *The Art of Seduction* and *The*

33 Strategies of War. The *33 Strategies of War* was from more of a business standpoint. This was more like psychology, more manipulative. This is the first time I've been moved into metaphysics. I was listening to a lecture, and the lecturer mentioned James Allen and tied it into the metaphysics, and I thought, *Okay, I'm going to check that out.*"

Who is your favorite author?

"I've got so many books, it's crazy. Right now, I'd have to say Robert Greene. But I like Donald Goines. He's an African-American novelist; he wrote *Never Die Alone* and *Daddy Cool*. Once you start reading him, you can't put him

What's That You're Reading?

NAME: PATRICK ROBINSON | **AGE:** 30 | **OCCUPATION:** PHOTOGRAPHY AND GRAPHIC DESIGN
NEIGHBORHOOD: SPRING VALLEY | **WHERE INTERVIEWED:** BORDERS BOOKSTORE, BONITA



down — you can visualize what's happening, actually happening in the real world. I think he writes about a lot of stuff that happened to him — he just turned it into a story."

What book has been most life-changing for you?

"I would say *As a Man Thinketh*. I've always been a hard worker and everything, but that book just put things in perspective for me as far as thoughts determining actions."

What magazines or newspapers do you read?

"I read *Heavy Hitters* cover to cover. The majority of magazines are about movie stars or athletes or something, but this is more about business owners — showing how they

got their success. And I read the *Union-Tribune* every other day — I read the front page, and I always check the sports, because I like basketball."

Do you talk to your friends about reading?

"I try to share books with my friends because my friends don't read a lot. They're just not used to it. But I expose them to a lot of books. I came across this one book called *How to Hustle and Win: A Survival Guide for the Ghetto* by Supreme Understanding. That's another book that changed my life because, on a personal level, it was about how you can get through everything in life, the struggles and everything."

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

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Civic Organist Carol Williams in concert. 619-702-8138. Sunday, December 27, 2pm; free. Spreckels Organ Pavilion, 2211 Pan American Road. (BALBOA PARK)

DANCE

"Pre-Swingin' the New Year's Bash" DJ Morgan Day and friends provide tunes for Firehouse Swing Dance. Introductory swing lesson for complete beginners: 8:15pm. 858-395-6060. Wednesday, December 30, 8pm. Firehouse Swing Dance, at San Diego Woman's Club: 2557 Third Avenue. (BANKER'S HILL)

Dance the Year Out... Graham Hempel calls, the More the Merrier makes music for San Diego Folk Heritage contra dance. Bring food, beverage to share during optional potluck supper (6:30pm). Beginners' dance workshop: 7:30pm. Wear soft-soled shoes.

619-283-8550. Saturday, December 26, 6:30pm; \$7. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. (NORTH PARK)

English Country Dancing Judee Pronovost calls for English country dancing. Beginners' instruction at 6pm. 858-676-9731. Sunday, December 27, 6pm; \$6. Jean Hart Academy of Dance, 12227 Poway Road. (POWAY)

Flamenco in the New Year? Rumba flamenco workshop taught by Marisol "Sol" Apostol. All levels. No flamenco experience required. RSVP: 858-679-8277. Monday, December 28, 7pm; free. Academy of World Dance 'n' Arts, 12621-A Poway Road. (POWAY)

Holiday Whirl! Malashock Dance, Jean Isaacs San Diego Dance Theater, and San Diego Ballet invite public to classes throughout day. Classes include stretch, ballet, jazz, tango, modern, hip-hop, for all ages and levels. 619-225-1803. Saturday, December 26, 8am; free. Dance Place San Diego in NTC Promenade, 2650 Truxtun Rd., Suite 108. (POINT LOMA)

FILM

(500) Days of Summer Romantic comedy starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Zooey Deschanel featured for ongoing Carlsbad Library film series. Pre- and postfilm discussions led by Ann Zivotsky. 760-602-2026. Wednesday, December 30, 6pm; free. Schulman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane. (CARLSBAD)

The Girl from Monaco Anne Fontaine's 2005 film screens in French with English subtitles for Film Forum series. 619-236-5800. Monday, December 28, 6:30pm; free. San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

FOR KIDS

Jack and the Beanstalk Puppet shows by Big Joe Productions. 619-544-9203. Tuesday, December 29, 10am and 11:30am; Wednesday, December 30, 10am and 11:30am; \$3-\$5. Marie Hitchcock

Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. (BALBOA PARK)

The Merry Christmas Show Eva Kvaas performs (December 26-27). 619-544-9203. Saturday, December 26, 11am, 1pm and 2:30pm; Sunday, December 27, 11am, 1pm and 2:30pm; \$3-\$5. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre,

2130 Pan American Road West. (BALBOA PARK)

Maritime Family Fun Enjoy kids craft activity during family day. Sign up for a short cruise on San Diego Bay aboard historic *Pilot* (\$3). Adults pay regular admission; children (under 13) must be accompanied by adult to enter free. 619-234-9153 x101. Wednesday,

December 30, 11am; free-\$14. San Diego Maritime Museum, 1306 North Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

Snow Day! Wear your snowsuit to play in snow provided by the museum. 619-233-8792. Monday, December 28, 2pm; free. New Children's Museum, 200 West Island Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

New Year's Eve Karaoke and Dancing in the Gaslamp

Ring in the new year on a high note and sing the night away at the

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All packages are subject to applicable state and local taxes (currently 12.6%) in effect at the time of check-in.



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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

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.

GALLERIES

"Artifacts and the Beatles"

Opening reception for exhibition of original Beatles artifacts, memorabilia, rare audio recordings. Also on view: art by Dan Adams, David Beck Brown, Kathleen Blavatt, Patrick Carney, Kim Maria Cruz, Steven Edelson, Tim Fisher, Sam Frazier, David Gillerman, Sandra Hart, Brittany Heskett, Weston Imhoff, Courtney Klos, Guy Lombardo, Joseph Mueller, Tara Nichole, Abraham Perez, Bill Pierce, Mark Rimland, Daniel Sakoda, Kristina Woodruff. Closes Sunday,

February 14. 619-534-8120. Saturday, December 26, 5pm; free. Edge-ware Gallery, 4186 Adams Avenue. (KENSINGTON-TALMADGE)

IN PERSON

Ancient Legends and Exquisite Dances

Shen Yun Performing Arts takes stage to present classical Chinese dance and music. Accompanied by a live orchestra, troupe showcases legends, vocal and instrumental performances, dances, and modern day narratives. 619-570-1100. Saturday, December 26, 7pm; Sunday, December 27, 1:30pm and 7pm; Monday, December 28, 7pm; Tuesday, December 29, 7pm; Wednesday, December 30, 7pm; \$39-\$200. 5 and up. San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

Open-Mike Night Musicians, singers (including karaoke), actors, poets, comedians invited to entertain. Purchase requested. 619-299-9360. Sundays, 8pm. Café Libertalia, 3834 Fifth Avenue. (HILLCREST)

LECTURES

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

OUT & ABOUT

SOCKERS VS. REVOLUCIÓN

Tijuana's team travels to Del Mar Fairgrounds for a match against San Diego Sockers, Wednesday, December 30.

(SEE SPORTS)



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. (LEUCADIA)

SPORTS

"A Festivus for the Restivus"

Enjoy empty roads during 25-mile Knickerbikers bicycle ride, starting in north parking lot. Bring money in case an open restaurant can be found for stop. 619-787-7427. Friday, December 25, 10am; free. Mis-

sion Bay Visitors' Center, 2688 East Mission Bay Drive. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Borrego Springs Century Enjoy desert bike riding hosted by R&B Bicycle Club. Riders have choice of paved road rides in 34-, 60-, and 100-mile routes. Registration opens at 7am; starts from 8-9am. Julian pie at finish. 760-765-1598. Sunday, December 27, 7am; \$59. Palm Canyon Resort, 221 Palm Canyon Drive. (BORREGO SPRINGS)

Bumble Bee Foods Holiday Bowl 5k Run

Enjoy flat, fast, scenic course along waterfront, starting on Harbor Drive (at Ash Street) and finishing on G St., just as first Big Bay Balloon Parade entries go by. 619-283-5808. Wednesday, December 30, 9:45am; \$30.

Embarcadero, Along Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

Hoops! Bonita Optimist Club hosts 40th annual girls' basketball tournament, with 12 varsity teams and 12 junior varsity teams at Bonita Vista High School and Olympian High School (1925 Magdalena Ave., Chula Vista). Six games will be played daily at both venues; varsity games start at 4pm. Varsity championship game is December 30, 7pm, at Bonita Vista High School. Tickets: \$5 for adults, \$3 for children, or \$15 for entire tournament at both venues. 619-665-6178. Saturday, December 26, 11am; Monday, December 28, 11am; Tuesday, December 29, 11am; Wednesday, December 30, 11am. Bonita Vista High School, 751 Otay Lakes Road. (CHULA VISTA)

Most Beautiful Ride of the Year?

Put on your climbing gear and join Knickerbikers bicyclists for breakfast (8am), followed by 45-mile loop around Lake Cuyamaca and back to Pine Valley (9am departure). Lunch stop at Cuya-

maca Restaurant (mile 28). Bring money for food. 619-240-6659 or 619-741-7169. Sunday, December 27, 8am. Major's Coffee Shop, 28870 Old Highway 80. (PINE VALLEY)

San Diego Sockers Open Cup

Enjoy soccer competition. 866-799-4625. Monday, December 28, 6:15pm; free-\$19. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Sockers versus Revolución!

San Diego Sockers host Revolución Tijuana for soccer match. 866-799-4625. Wednesday, December 30, 6:15pm; free-\$19. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Wildcats versus Cornhuskers!

2009 Pacific Life Holiday Bowl features football between University of Arizona Wildcats and University of Nebraska Cornhuskers. Broadcast on ESPN. 619-220-TIXS. Wednesday, December 30, 5pm; \$70-\$85. Qualcomm Stadium, 9449 Friars Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

MUSEUMS & PUBLIC ART

Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum

The museum locates, collects, documents, and preserves historical gas-, steam-, and horse-powered equipment related to agriculture and the general development of America. The collection is made up of equipment used in lumbering, mining, oil-drilling, and construction industries. Blacksmith and wheelwright shop, country kitchen and parlor, steam-operated saw mill, and 1/3-scale train. 2040 North Santa Fe Ave., 760-941-1791. (VISTA)

Bancroft Ranch House Museum

Bancroft Ranch House Museum houses indigenous Indian artifacts

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and memorabilia of early settlers in the area, run by the Spring Valley Historical Society. The home, built in 1863, was registered as a National Historic Landmark in 1962 and is on a spot where Kumeyaay Indians camped more than 1000 years ago beside the spring that later gave the area its name. 9050 Memory Lane, 619-469-1480. (SPRING VALLEY)

Barona Cultural Center and Museum 1095 Barona Rd., 619-443-7003. (LAKESIDE)

Birch Aquarium at Scripps What makes the seahorse a fish, though it doesn't look like one? How do male seahorses get pregnant, give birth? "There's Something About Seahorses" explores biology, adaptations of these creatures. Exhibit includes more than a dozen species of live seahorses and their relatives, including pipefish, shrimpfish, seadragons. Continues through December 2011.

Facility is a component of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UCSD. More than 60 tanks contain marine life of Pacific Northwest, California coastline, Mexico's Sea of Cortés, and South Pacific. The La Jolla Kelp Tank is a two-story-high tank with giant kelp plants and nearly 30 species of local marine life. "Feeling the Heat: The Climate Challenge" examines science behind climate change; "Art of Deception" explores undersea camouflage. "Wonders of Water" waterplay area includes three interactive stations. The Lynne and Howard Robbins Shark Reef Exhibit features a 13,000-gallon shark tank with black tip, white tip, bamboo, and wobbegong sharks. 2300 Expedition Way, 858-534-3474. (LA JOLLA)

California Surf Museum Along with a timeline of surfboards, featured opening exhibit at new location is "Sidewalk Surfers," offering historic look at roots of skateboarding. The skateboard evolved as a method of enjoying feeling of surfing while waves were flat or inaccessible. Display focuses on surf-

board shapers and professional riders and their skateboard models over the years. 312 Pier View Way, 760-721-6876. (OCEANSIDE)

Campo Depot State Highway 94 & Forrest Gate Rd., 619-465-7776. (CAMPO)

Chula Vista Nature Center Interactive living museum devoted to the endangered Southern California coastal wetlands, located in Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. Visitors use a bioscanner to view animals macroscopically, use a Wentzscope for views of microscopic organisms found in the "Sweetwater Soup," and interact with computerized videos exploring how tides affect the bay in the "Moons, Tides, and the San Diego Bay" exhibit. Pet sharks and rays in the David A. Wergeland Shark and Ray Experience, see burrowing owls and migratory birds, and enjoy the xerophytic gardens.

Visitors meet a shuttle bus at the Bayfront E Street Trolley Station or at the center's parking lot at the foot of E Street and Bay Boulevard. 1000 Gunpowder Point Dr., 619-409-5903. (CHULA VISTA)

Coronado Museum of History and Art Why are Navy SEALs

called frogmen? Who were some of the streets of Coronado named after? Find out in "Coronado: We Remember," combining stories, historical vignettes of artifacts, photographs, textiles, documents from archives of Coronado Historical Association. Closes Saturday, May 1.

Ongoing exhibits explore the overall history of Coronado, Navy and Army, Tent City, and the Hotel del Coronado. 1100 Orange Ave., 619-435-7242. (CORONADO)

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

Heritage Museum An interpretive wall, replicas of the early post office and general store, and a school room are part of this museum. A mural painted by Michael Strong depicts six periods of

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Poway's past. Find the museum in Old Poway Park. 14134 Midland Rd., 858-679-8587. (POWAY)

Heritage of the Americas

Museum More than 100 Chinese jades of the Late Neolithic (4300-2500 B.C.) through the Ming periods (A.D. 1368-1644) are included in "The Stone of Heaven: The Enduring Art of Jade Age China." From ancient times, jades in China were treasured as talismans, worn on the body either as final adornments in death or as ornaments in life. See a rare and valuable jade burial suit of the Han dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 221), one of only about two dozen that have been excavated in China. The suits were made of more than 2000 square and rectangular plates of jade sewn together with threads of gold, silver, or bronze (depending upon the status of the wearer). Ongoing.

The museum features art and artifacts from South and North America, concentrating on the utilitarian and decorative artistry of crafts workers from ancient cultures. The museum also features wings dedicated to natural history, archaeology, education, anthropology, and fine art. Find the museum on the Cuyamaca College campus. 12110 Cuyamaca College Drive West, 619-670-5194. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

John DeWitt Historic Museum and Library

Museum and library, operated by the Alpine Historical Society, is located in the 1897 home/office of Dr. Sophronia Nichols. She was the first doctor in Alpine and the first female doctor in the East County. Indian artifacts from the Kingery family on exhibit. 2116 Tavern Rd., 619-659-8740. (ALPINE)

La Mesa Depot Museum

Located in a restored 1894 wooden train station, exhibits include original telegraph and telephone equipment, pot-bellied coal stove, period furniture. The adjacent freight train display features 1923 steam locomotive, 1957 refrigerator car, 1941 caboose. La Mesa Boulevard and Spring St., 619-465-7776. (LA MESA)

Magee House Museum

Magee House Museum, built in 1887 and surrounded by rose gardens, the site includes "one of the last barns still standing in Carlsbad." Docent and self-guided tours of historic house and gardens. 258 Beech St., 760-434-9189. (CARLSBAD)

Mingei International Museum

"Fisch Out of Water — Sea Creatures of Arline Fisch" is the designer craftsman's first major installation. The more than 150 objects crocheted from color-coated copper wire are life-sized re-creations of specific jellyfish species and objects suggesting sea anemones and coral. Fisch is professor of art (emerita) at SDSU, where she founded its program in jewelry and metalsmithing in 1961. Through Sunday, May 16.

"Transformed by Fire" is a career-spanning exhibition of 90 objects by June Schwarcz, considered the nation's premier enamelist. Also on view: "Fifty-Six Chinese Hat Boxes — And One Hat!" Exhibition of 56 Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) hatboxes created to hold officials' hats boasts boxes made of wood, lacquer, paper, leather, all from late 19th or early 20th Century. The hat in question is a summer hat. Both exhibits close Wednesday, March 21.

"Sonabai: Another Way of Seeing" continues through Sunday, September 5. The self-taught artist lived in enforced isolation for 15 years in a remote village in central India, developing an innovative art form that she later taught to other artists. Exhibition includes 33 sculptures by Sonabai and her family as well as 38 works by four artists trained by Sonabai. 1439 El Prado, 619-239-0003. (BALBOA PARK)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla

"Automatic Cities: The Architectural Imaginary in Contemporary Art" is innovative exhibition mapping influence of architecture on contemporary visual art in an international context. Exhibition sets work by architecturally engaged artists such as Julie Mehretu, Matthew Ritchie, Rachel Whiteread in dialogue with that of emerging practitioners including Catharina van Eetvelde, Jakob Kolding, Sarah Oppenheimer. On view through Sunday, January 31.

Museums in Miniature:

Works by Marcel Duchamp and Joseph Cornell" explores use of collage, assemblage, staged tableaux by Duchamp and Cornell "as plays on the notion of an exhibition space." Closes Sunday, January 31. 700 Prospect St., 858-454-3541. (LA JOLLA)

Museum of Making Music

"Waves of Inspiration: The Legacy of Moog," on view through Friday, April 30, highlights inventor Bob Moog's career, impact it had on world of music. See rare vintage

synthesizers, other related Moog instruments and memorabilia from Bob Moog Archives and private collections. Exhibit explores numerous musicians, engineers, colleagues who played vital roles in evolution of Moog sound. Instruments featured trace history of Moog's work.

"ON! The Beginnings of the Electric Sound Generation" presents rarely seen examples of early, electrified instruments from 1900 to 1965. Exhibit includes iconic electric and electroacoustic guitars, lesser-known electric instruments such as banjos, violins, basses, keyboards, amplifiers, effects pedals, and unusual applications of electrification such as the electric zither. Through March.

The past 100 years of American music and music making are highlighted at the museum, with over 450 vintage instruments, hundreds of audio and video clips, and an interactive stage. 5790 Armada Dr., 760-438-5996. (CARLSBAD)

National City Depot

San Diego Electric Railway Association operates museum in this historic Santa Fe depot with exhibits, video displays, trolley equipment, restored passenger car from National City and Otay Railroad. 922 West 23rd St., 619-474-4400. (NATIONAL CITY)

Oceanside Museum of Art

San Diego artist Les Perhacs interprets nature through geometry, discovering elements of geometry fused with the chaos of nature. "The Art of Les Perhacs" includes the "Chaos" sculpture series, with each piece made from a single geometric form Perhacs cuts apart to reveal the internal entropy. Closes Friday, January 8.

"San Diego NOW: Eight UCSD Visual Artists" presents work by James Enos, Jesse Mockrin, Zac Monday, Omar Pimentia, Lesha Maria Rodriguez, Tim

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Calendar LOCAL EVENTS

Schwartz, Julia Westerbeke, and Suzanne Wright. Diverse media used by each artist display “an exciting sampling of approaches from video to painting, photography, sculpture, and performance.” Closes Sunday, January 3.

Over the past two decades, John Zabrocky has been creating a series of flat relief works celebrating mysteries of technology. “Industrial Alchemy” features “hyper-detailed reliefs...at the intersection of art and science suggesting both the beauty and terror of life in a high-tech world.” Closes Sunday, March 28.

“American Dream” — a body of mixed-media work by ceramic artist Gregg Jabs — continues through Sunday, January 10. “By questioning the reality of the American dream, the myth begins to unravel with surprising results.” 704 Pier View Way, 760-435-3720. (OCEANSIDE)

Olaf Wiegthorst Museum Displays paintings and prints by Olaf Wiegthorst and features exhibits of other artists’ American West art. Adjacent to museum is courtyard with cactus gardens, 20x20-foot reproduction of Wiegthorst’s painting *Navajos at Castle Creek*, and original restored home Wiegthorst

lived in for many years starting in 1945. 131 Rea Ave., 619-590-3431. (EL CAJON)

Ramona Pioneer Historical Society and Guy B. Woodward Museum Complex of historical buildings includes the Verlaque House (the only Western adobe home of French provincial design still in existence), wagons, antique exhibits, and artifacts. There is a cowboy bunkhouse, women’s clothing and accessories from 1700 to 1800, a ranch blacksmith shop and tack room. The Casey Tibbs Memorial Exhibit is dedicated to Tibbs, a local resident who was a world-champion rodeo rider. The Bancroft Memorial Rose Garden is on the grounds. Rare documents, historical exhibits, books, photographs, and a research library are also part of the complex. 645 Main St., 760-789-7644. (RAMONA)

San Diego County Sheriff’s Museum The 150-year history of the sheriff’s department is highlighted at the museum, which is located “just feet away” from the original cobblestone jail site, built in 1850. The museum boasts artifacts, photographs, equipment, uniforms, and vehicles, along with exhibits from each of the departments making up the organization such as crime scene, K-9, court service, detentions, crime lab, bomb squad, and many others.

OUT & ABOUT

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Join Knickerbikers for a 45-mile loop around Lake Cuyamaca and back to Pine Valley, Sunday, December 27.

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2384 San Diego Ave., 619-260-1850. (OLD TOWN)

San Diego Model Railroad Museum Annual Lego train exhibit continues through Friday, January 15. View “thousands of Legos of train tracks, trains, skyscrapers, and the most detailed residential area you have ever seen.”

Museum celebrates American railroads with “the largest permanent operating model railroad and toy train exhibit” in North America. Four scale-model railroads of the Southwest, the “San Diego County Relief Map” exhibit, and an interactive toy train. There is a multimedia presentation on railroading, an operating railroad semaphore signal, and interpretive

displays on railroads and model railroading. The museum is downstairs in the Casa de Balboa building. 1649 El Prado, 619-696-0199. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Museum of Art “Calder Jewelry” boasts approximately 90 works by the famed modernist — including necklaces, bracelets, brooches, earrings and tiaras — demonstrating the artist’s love of abstraction and his mastery of this wearable art form. “Conceiving of his objects as ‘wearable mobiles,’ Calder individually hammered, chiseled, shaped, and composed more than 1800 pieces of jewelry.” Closes Sunday, January 3.

“From Rembrandt’s Studio: The Prints of Ferdinand Bol” fo-

cuses on printmaking in Rembrandt’s Holland. Exhibit documents efforts of Dutch painter/printmaker Ferdinand Bol “to arrive at his own style while working with Rembrandt, the greatest artist of his time.” Closes Sunday, March 7.

“Oceanic Art: A Celebration of Form” features 97 works of art primarily from Melanesia and Polynesia, as well as objects from Micronesia and Taiwan. Closes Sunday, January 3. 1450 El Prado, 619-232-7931. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Natural History Museum “Darwin: Evolution I Revolution” celebrates life and work of the 19th-century British naturalist with specimens, artifacts, live animals, memorabilia related to Darwin. Exhibition coincides with celebration of bicentenary of Darwin’s birth and 150th anniversary of publication of *On*

the Origin of Species. Through Sunday, February 28.

Twenty of the 2009 winning and honorable mention images of the 2009 Olympus BioScapes Digital Imaging Competition are on display through Saturday, February 6. Olympus selects authorities in microscope imaging as judges for the competition, which is open to users of any brand of light microscope equipment.

Imagery by *National Geographic* photographer/author/expedition leader Ralph Lee Hopkins is gathered in “Baja California,” continuing through Sunday, January 3. In addition to photographs by Hopkins, images by American and Mexican photographers may be seen.

Also on view: “Fossil Mysteries,” a permanent exhibition. From dinosaurs to mastodons, discover the rich fossil history of our region. Current “giant-screen films” are *Ocean Oasis*; and 3-D *Dinosaurs Alive*. 1788 El Prado, 619-232-3821. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Public Library “Subjects of Interest to Young People” provide theme for traveling exhibition of artist’s books by San Diego Book Arts members. “See the book in a whole new light” through December. 820 E St., 619-236-5800. (DOWNTOWN)

USS Midway Museum Permanent exhibits include 25 restored aircraft. Former World War II pilots and other veterans share personal stories with guests in front of a restored SBD Dauntless dive bomber on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays. Navy knot-tying demonstrations and activities for youngsters offered most weekends. Self-guided audio tour narrated by former *Midway* sailors. 910 North Harbor Dr., 619-544-9600. (DOWNTOWN)

Veterans Museum and Memorial Center “Japanese Americans in the Military” tells stories of men and women of Japanese descent who have served in U.S. armed forces. Exhibition draws from historical society’s photograph and artifact collection. Sections are devoted to Japanese nationals volunteering for service around 1900, heroism of Japanese Americans who served during World War II, stories from home front, differences between segregated armed services and what was later experienced by Korean, Vietnam, and Gulf Wars veterans. Closes Monday, May 31.

Memorial to men and women who served in U.S. Armed Forces, Coast Guard, and Wartime Merchant Marine. Located in the former San Diego Naval Hospital Chapel, the museum features original service-inspired stained glass, as well as historical murals painted by Richard DeRosset. Main exhibit hall features displays, exhibits of historic artifacts, documents, photographs, memorabilia, artwork honoring men and women who served. Museum is also home to San Diego Vietnam Peace Memorial and Veterans Memorial Garden. 2115 Park Blvd., 619-239-2300. (BALBOA PARK)

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Ringtone Rappers When Swagg was nine years old, the rapper's father shot his mom and then himself. He's grown up around gang violence. "I've seen people get shot in my street," he tells me.

format for sports.

Swagg, 20, has taken all these setbacks in stride. He says it's the ringtone rappers who are killing him.

"Ringtone rappers are slowly deteriorating hip-

ting out is more like a jingle with three repetitive words. I mean, 'Superman' by Soulja Boy? Come on. It's simple shit like that that is categorized as hip-hop, but it's not really rap."

Swagg says his music "will always be street." He grew up around Oceanside's Deep Valley gangs.

"My music is reality-based. Oceanside is still really segregated. It is still ghetto. There are bad activities going on. I knew five people who were murdered near my house [from 1995 to 1998]. But I could separate in my mind the people that are just grinding to live from people who are just doing it to fuck up society."

Swagg says local hip-hop artists are starting to get more opportunities to perform, thanks to Escondido venues like Woodies and Anita's and SD venues such as Brick by Brick, Belo, and Deco's that have started to open up to live hip-hop artists. Swagg records on his own label, B\$.T. Music.

"I did the *American Idol* auditions last year. I made it through three rounds. I stood in front of Simon, Paula, and Randy. There is a lot of politics behind *American Idol*. They tell you to come and audition, but they don't tell you that you have to be there at midnight and wait outside until the sun comes up. They already had in mind who was

going to win in advance. There was a few thousand people who didn't even get to perform who waited in line. When I was told they were gonna send me home, they had a dude in a banana suit that couldn't sing a lick of harmony and they passed him on to the next round."

— Ken Leighton

Stop Calling Me Otis When blues-rock duo the Black Keys asked San Diego sound engineer and record producer Mark Neill if he would load up his vintage recording equipment and bring it to Muscle Shoals Sound Studios in Alabama for a ten-day, 16-song recording session last August, Neill didn't hesitate to say yes.

"I encouraged the ten-day schedule," said Neill, who back in 2008 produced the solo project for Black Keys singer-guitarist Dan Auerbach. "I can tell by listening to the way they write that they were ready to make [it] happen."

During that ten-day recording session, which will make up the Black Keys' sixth album, Neill, Auerbach, and drummer Patrick Carney followed a regimented schedule.

"We would get up at eight every morning, shave, shower, go get breakfast at the Cracker Barrel restaurant, and talk about records. Then

At his East County studio, Soil of the South Music, Neill has completed mixing the songs from the recording session and says the record is



THE BLACK KEYS AND ME, MARK NEILL

we would get back to the studio and work until we had three songs finished...or at least two and a guitar riff for the next song. That was the rule."

Out of the 16 songs the Black Keys laid down, Neill says 14 should appear on the record.

"It is by far their biggest statement," said Neill of the new album during a December 5 phone interview. "This is it. It is the equivalent to Radiohead's *OK Computer*, and that's because of the songs.... Vocally, [Auerbach] is the closest thing we have to Otis Redding. A few times I'd slip up and call him Otis."

due out in April 2010.
— Dorian Hargrove

She Has 1984 on Vinyl

Margaret Noble says local clubs gave her the cold shoulder when she set out to become a DJ here. "The Underground Lounge was the most receptive. Bar Dynamite was a great place to play, and then Lips on Fifth Avenue, when it was this hot house music club."

But there wasn't enough work, so she moved to Chicago in 2002. She says she was into house music, that Chicago was ground zero for house, and that

(continued on page 64)

the inside track blurt

Born as G. Ford, Swagg says he was scammed by a record producer when he was 12. After he started to get

hop." He says the hip-hop industry has become dominated by one-hit wonders who make silly but catchy



SWAGG'S NO MAN IN A BANANA SUIT

local radio airplay this year for his CD *Respect My Swagg*, that station, Blazin' 98.9, dropped its hip-hop music

tunes that can generate millions of lucrative ringtone downloads for their labels. "What these people are put-

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Chicago clubs were more receptive to women DJs. For the record, Noble spun vinyl records. She calls the skill of matching beats a sport as well as an art form.

"Everybody's watching you, and the expectation is that you're gonna blow it even more if you're a female. But," she says, "there's only so much satisfac-

tion you can get from mixing two records. I killed it, like, pretty hard for three years, and I felt that everything I had wanted to achieve I pretty much did."

Noble went back to school and finished her master's degree in 2007.

"That's when I learned production and let go of dance music."

These days, Noble calls herself a sound artist and a producer. "I mess around with a lot of toys," she says, meaning various noisemakers, such as a kalimba, or thumb piano, and a zither-like bowed instrument.

"There are pickups on them and they're running through [electronic] devices, and then I'm overdubbing and looping them and mixing textures and layers."

It's music, but can you dance to it? "I don't like to alienate people," she says, "but I want to challenge them on some level. I want anybody to be able to walk in and get something. But I don't want to be so soft and so pop that it's generic."

Noble, 37, teaches digital



MARGARET MAKES POP-CULTURE MASH-UPS

art and sound production at High Tech High School in Point Loma. She says that her students like the experimental pieces she generates.

Her newest performance will be a mixed bag of industrial noises, recorded dia-



logue, and connective music. "I'm going to do a surround-sound experimental radio piece that is actually a remix of George Orwell's 1984. I have an old vinyl recording of it," she says. "I've been taking snippets of it and comparing it with media now, and it's kind of morphing into a satirical pop, electroacoustic thing." Noble will channel her soundscape through eight speakers, a process that she calls stressful.

"But," she says, "hopefully, it will be worth it and the audience has a good experience."

Margaret Noble will appear with Susan Naruki as part of the Fresh Sound Series on January 5 at Sushi Performance and Visual Art.

— Dave Good

Everyone Hates Us "It seems like we don't fit in with what's going on in San Diego

and everyone hates us," says John Wayne Gacy Daycare singer Davit Buck. "Maybe it's our name," he says, referring to the pedophile serial killer who spawned the band's handle.

He describes their sound as "Jesus Lizard meets Eyehategod. I'm doing the same style vocals I do in my punk band Homeless Sexuals, but the music is slower stoner rock, sludge stuff, very Sabbath-y. Most punk rockers don't think we're punk enough, and the sludge-stoner rockers think we're too messed up. Our drummer's dad says we're like a bad acid trip, really psychotic sounding, like

mental-patient music."

His fellow band members also occasionally go mental over the music. "When I first started using my loop station, playing my vocals backwards and layering in screams and weird sounds, our guitarist



DAVIT BUCK DRIVES DOGS NUTS

got sick and almost passed out. He put his guitar down and went and threw up. When I started playing my coyote distress call at one

show, the drummer almost passed out. Even at practice, the dogs outside go nuts.

"It's definitely a disturbing sound we're forming, but we're not trying to piss everyone off. We really want people to understand what we're doing. Last show we played at Radio Room, the room cleared out. Wasn't a lot of people to begin with, but those who watched us didn't stick around.

"Our goal is to get at least one person from each show to like us. We figure if we play a hundred gigs and one person from each show gets into it, eventually we'll have a crowd."

— Jay Allen Sanford

CONTRIBUTORS

William Crain, Dave Good, Larry Harmon, Ken Leighton, Bart Mendoza, Jay Allen Sanford, David Stampone

<p>etix Sunday, December 27</p> <p>MICHAEL SCHENKER GROUP (Schenker/Barden Reunion)</p> <p>"THE WINTER SOLSTICE ACOUSTIC TOUR"</p> <p>JIM EARP'S TRIBUTE TO CLASSIC ROCK</p> <p>LIZARDFISH</p>	<p>BRICK BY BRICK</p> <p>Saturday, December 26 NSD NEVER SAY DIE</p> <p>G EVANS • ILLITARY</p> <p>MAC FETTI • ENO • BAliAN</p> <p>CHASE DREAMS ENT.</p> <p>DJ W. STEELE</p> <p>BIG LICO & ZOO CLICK BANG</p> <p>BUBBLE BOYS</p> <p>CRAZY BOY RECORDS • ATO</p> <p>Friday, January 8</p> <p>PARKER & THE NUMBER MAN AS THE SUN SETS FIRE (CD Release)</p> <p>DAYGO PRODUCE DOOMTRAIN</p> <p>Sunday, January 10</p> <p>SILENT CIVILIAN</p> <p>BLIND WITNESS</p> <p>Thursday, January 14</p> <p>BLACK RESUME</p> <p>I-45 • H.E.L.P. • GORDO</p> <p>Friday, January 15 etix</p> <p>ADEMA (All original members)</p> <p>UNSET • SILENCE BETRAYED</p> <p>BREAK THE CHAIN</p> <p>MONDAY'S ALIBI</p> <p>Saturday, January 16</p> <p>"THE INTENSE INDIVIDUAL PARTY" #6</p>	<p>Wednesday, January 13 etix</p> <p>ALLAN HOLDSWORTH, TERRY BOZZIO, TONY LEVIN, PAT MASTELOTTO (Together in an all-star band)</p> <p>SCIENCE FICTION • BLUE MARBLE</p>
<p>etix Saturday, January 9</p> <p>ILL REPUTE</p> <p>CRITICAL ME</p> <p>PASS THE AXE</p> <p>THE AGGRONAUTS</p>	<p>Saturday, January 2</p> <p>AIZEN</p> <p>DESPITE THE WOLVES</p> <p>Wednesday, January 6</p> <p>SUMMER CIRCUS</p> <p>VOICE IN THE DARK</p> <p>1/27 That 1 Guy • 1/29 Agnostic Front (25 Anniversary Tour)</p>	<p>etix Tuesday, January 19</p> <p>Stu</p> <p>FEATURING CISCO ADLER</p> <p>TROUBLE ANDREW</p> <p>CHRIS YOUNG & KELLEY JAMES</p>



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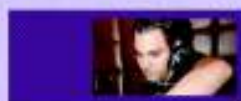
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THURSDAY DECEMBER 31ST 2009

NYE 2010



Chameleon

“I have recurring dreams where I have found a way to breathe under water.”

I was married in Virginia when I was 23, with a career and a business suit, but I gave it all up to play music in Southern California,” says singer-songwriter Megan Combs, who arrived in San Diego in summer 2008.

“I like to consider myself a bit of a chameleon with music. If I hear something I like, I’ll try to put that vibe out in my own songs. I love everything from Jay-Z to Missy Higgins and everything in between, so separating or identifying genres can be confusing for me.”

Now living in Ocean Beach, Combs seems to have fully embraced the Left Coast’s culture. “I think I definitely have a Southern California, laid-back feel to my music. It’s similar to Jack Johnson, Joni Mitchell, Colbie Caillat, or Tris-tan Prettyman, with an emphasis on reflective lyrics. At the same time, I was an East Coast child, so the angst still keeps showing up in my songs.”

Of late, the beach has served as both crib and muse. “When I start to lose inspiration for things to write about, I go sit and play my guitar on the cliffs and watch the waves roll in. I’ve been running every day, mainly for the view but also because now that I’ve started I can’t stop. I’ve been surfing almost every day, too. I want to try this thing they call ‘surgery,’ where you catch a wave and ride it all the way underneath the pier. Don’t have the balls just yet, but it won’t be long.”

WHO ARE YOU LISTENING TO?

1. “As far as locals, I’m a huge fan of Mike Pinto. His CD has been in my car for a year and a half. Kind of reggae-rock storytelling — he’s amazing.”

2. “I’m digging a cool lady I don’t know much about yet, Antje Duvekot. I heard her song ‘Long Way’ on Pandora a while back and became an instant fan.”

MUSIC
JAY ALLEN SANFORD

3. “Brett Dennen’s *Hope for the Hopeless* is on regular rotation in my life. It’s a good album to jog to.”

4. “Her name is Caitlin Crosby, the song is ‘Still Have My Heart,’ the album is *Flawz*. I like this chick. She’s just like all of us struggling female singer-songwriters, but her spunk and sarcasm stands out in her music. Plus, her melodies are totally on point.”

5. “You don’t mess around with Jim. Not in my car, at least. Jim Croce’s triple box set has been in my car since my dad got it for me back in 2000. I just learned to do the song ‘Operator’ and hope to include it in my live show.”

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

“*The Power of Now*, by Eckhart Tolle. This one’s a frustrating read but well worth your time. I also have to give props to the *Conversations with God* books, which do not necessarily promote religion. I can honestly say that without these books I would still be living in Virginia instead of living my dreams.”

MOST ANNOYING TV COMMERCIAL?

“Oh, by far the damn Snuggies commercial. ‘Snuggies! The blanket with sleeves!’”

WHO SHOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE?

“Kate Hudson.”

ANY SUPERNATURAL ENCOUNTERS?

“When I was seven, I was out on my back porch on Christmas Eve with my brother, sister, mom, and dad, and a real sleigh flew over our heads, with

white lights, jingling bells, the whole nine. My parents were shocked and couldn’t explain it to us. Remote control? UFO? Not sure, but it was definitely a flying object and unable to be identified by my family that night.”

WORST GIFT RECEIVED?

“Magazine subscriptions for gifts are horrible, especially when you get billed for them later, and you’re not sure who the gift-giver was.”

MOST VISITED WEBSITE?

“Jason Mraz’s blog. Reading his blogs are like reading an entertaining novel in about ten minutes. His words always inspire my day and seem to have symmetry in what’s going on in my own life.”

SINISTER URGE?

“I take care of my trashy-celeb fix while standing in line at any grocery-store checkout. Can’t bring myself to actually buy one, but they’re great for temporary distraction.”

WHERE DO YOU HANG OUT?

“I’m a huge fan of the OB Noodle House. We always have an amazing time there. They offer sake bar bombs called *pho* — pronounced ‘fuh’ — where everyone in the place does a bomb together, creating a sense of community.”

BEST EATS?

“Portugalia in Ocean Beach. The owner Jason has a passion for Portuguese food that is second to none. They also have an open-mike night every Tuesday, where he feeds everyone who comes in for free, and the food is incredible.”



Megan Combs

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHAD CAVANAUGH

TEN THINGS WE DON’T KNOW ABOUT MEGAN COMBS?

1. “I had open-heart surgery when I was five to fix a birth defect.”
2. “I have a black 150-pound great dane Ollie, who is the love of my life.”
3. “I have recurring dreams where I have found a way to breathe underwater.”
4. “I love hippie stones and the energy they give off.”
5. “I have a crazy sweet tooth.”
6. “I see hummingbirds everywhere.”
7. “Growing up, my mom’s nickname for me was Peanut.”
8. “I was a gymnast power tumbler for 12 years.”
9. “My mom breeds thoroughbred horses, and I’ve always ridden and shown them.”
10. “I’ve wanted to be a rock star since I was five.” ■

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THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

4th&B: 345 B St., Downtown, 619-231-4343. *Wednesday*, 8pm — Rock Odyssey. Pop/rock. \$20. 21 and up.

Anthology: 1337 India St., Little Italy, 619-595-0300. *Saturday*, 9:30pm — Wild Child. A tribute to the Doors. Covers/rock. \$20.

Belly Up Tavern: 143 South Cedros Ave., Solana Beach, 858-481-8140. *Saturday*, 9pm — Cash'd Out. A tribute to Johnny Cash. Country/covers/rock. \$15-\$17. 21 and up. *Sunday*, 8pm — Hepcat. Ska. \$19.

21 and up. *Tuesday*, 8pm — Cracker and Camper Van Beethoven. Alternative/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. *Saturday*, 7:30pm — Balian. With DJ Operator. Hip-hop/rap. \$10. 21 and up.

The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Bl., Little Italy, 619-232-4355. *Thursday*, 8:30pm — Exile on Kettner Boulevard. Rock. Free. 21 and up. *Saturday*, 8pm — Lemon Sun. With Scarlet Symphony, Fing, and Da Bears. Indie/rock. \$8. 21 and up.

Copley Symphony Hall: 750 B St., Downtown, 619-235-0804. *Tuesday*, 7:30pm — The John Mayer Trio. With Mayer Hawthorne and the County. Folk rock/soul/blues. \$60.

Dirk's Niteclub: 7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove, 619-469-6344. *Friday*, 9pm, *Saturday*, 9pm — The Sellouts. Rock.

Harrah's Rincón: 777 Harrah's Rincón Way, Valley Center, 760-751-3100. *Saturday*, 8pm — Federal Funk. Soul/funk/jazz. Free. *Sunday*, 10am — Patrick Yandall. Jazz.

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill: 5500 Grossmont Center Dr., La Mesa, 619-713-6900. *Saturday*, 9pm — Donald O'Brien and Brian Baynes. Rock. Free.

NOTE

BY WILLIAM CRAIN

Reel Big Fish has been playing ska-punk since the early '90s and is best known for the 1997 hit "Sell Out," but to me they will always be the band that created one of my favorite album titles of all time: *Why Do They Rock So Hard?* The cover of the 2001 album featured the band members in silhouette against a background of stars, a little like the logo for *Charlie's Angels*. Front and center was a guy playing a double-neck guitar and flashing the devil-horns sign. Around him were other musicians in various poses of severe rockitude. I didn't notice at first that

most of these metal maniacs were holding not Flying Vs but trumpets and trombones.

Reel Big Fish dipped into the well of ironic metal again early this year with *Fame, Fortune, and Fornication*, an album of tongue-in-cheek covers including not one but two Poison songs. The concept doesn't take a lot of imagination: Reel Big Fish began as a cover band, and throughout their career they have been alternating their sarcastic originals with ironic covers. Their version of "Mama Weer All Crazee Now" sounds exactly the way you would think a ska-punk take on the Slade/Quiet Riot song would sound like.

But the whole album is redeemed by "Talk Dirty to Me," a duet between lead singer **Aaron Barrett** and guest Tatiana DeMaria. In the Reel Big Fish version, the Poison song is stripped down



REEL BIG FISH

to little more than vocals, a minimal drumbeat, and some rockabilly-ish guitar. What once seemed like a boneheaded hair-metal hit turns out to be a great pop song.

REEL BIG FISH: House of Blues, Tuesday, December 29, 6:30 p.m. 619-299-2583. \$19.

House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-299-2583. *Saturday*, 8pm — "'80s Christmas Hangover Party." Featuring the Cured, Blasphemous Rumours, and Rio. Covers/pop/rock. \$10. 21 and up. *Tuesday*, 6:30pm — Reel Big Fish. With La Banda Skalavera and Starpool. Punk/rock/ska. \$19.

Humphrey's Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Point Loma, 619-224-3577. *Monday*, 7pm — Chet Cannon's Blue Monday Blues Party. Blues.

Java Joe's at Café Libertalia: 3834 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-9360.

Sunday, 7:30pm — Happy Ron's Open-Mike Night. Featuring local bands. Free.

Kirin Sushi — Point Loma: 4111 Voltaire St., Ocean Beach, 619-223-3388. *Saturday*, 6:30pm — Vic Moraga. Covers/jazz/rock. *Tuesday*, 6:30pm — Chris Cornish. Pop/rock/ska. *Wednesday*, 6:30pm — Vic Moraga. Covers/jazz/rock.

Last Call: 4977 El Cajon Bl., City Heights, 619-287-9505. *Wednesday*, 7pm — Taters Invaders. Blues/covers/rock. Free.

Main Stage Bar at Valley View Casino: 16300 Nyemii Pass

Rd., Valley Center, 866-843-9946. *Sunday*, 9pm — Aunt Kizzy's Boyz. Blues/rock/soul. Free.

McP's Irish Pub and Grill: 1107 Orange Ave., Coronado, 619-435-5280. *Thursday*, 8pm — Jackson/Jesus. *Saturday*, 9pm — The Offbeats. Covers/rock. *Wednesday*, 8pm — Jackson/Jesus.

Molly Malone's: 1270 Main St., Ramona, 760-789-9050. *Saturday*, 9pm — One Thread. Metal.

O'Connells Pub and Nightclub: 1310 Morena Bl., Linda Vista, 619-276-5637. *Sunday*, 9pm — Neon Cough. With

Masked Monster Beast and Doves and Desperados. Alternative/blues/funk. 21 and up. *Monday*, 8pm — Mystery Train. Pro-invitational blues jam. *Wednesday*, 9pm — Knock Out Bell. With Electric People, Ryan Blue, Louder With the Lights On, and DJ Gonzo. Rock. 21 and up.

Patrick's II: 428 F St., Downtown, 619-233-3077. *Friday*, 9pm — The Bayou Brothers. Zydeco/blues/R&B. *Saturday*, 9pm — Missy Andersen. Blues/funk/soul. *Sunday*, 9pm — Len Rainey & the Midnight Players. Blues/jazz. *Monday*, 9pm — Jasper and Ain't Misbahavin'. Rock.

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LIVE
ENTERTAINMENT

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anthology
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

12/31 MOTOWN NEW YEAR'S MOTOWN EVE
2 SEATINGS
5PM & 9:30PM

In the Midnight Hour

12/26 ROCK WILD CHILD
A DOORS TRIBUTE
VTIX 9:30 SHOW ONLY

1/2 SWING SQUIRREL NUT ZIPPER
VTIX 9:30 SHOW ONLY

1/8,9 LATIN JAZZ PETE ESCOVADO ORCHESTRA
w/ SHEILA E

1/8 BLUES ERIC SARDINAS

1/15,16 BLUES MAVIS STAPLES

12/30 MANNY CEPEDA ORCHESTRA
LATIN

1/1 KPRI HOME GROWN
ROCK

1/6 JOSH NELSON w/ PETER SPRAGUE
ROCK

EVERYBODY LOVES A DEAL!

FRESH VIBE Tuesdays
5:30 - 9:00PM
ALL NIGHT HAPPY HOUR
CHEF'S HOME COOKIN' \$4-\$15
ANTHOLOGY HOUSE BAND \$5 COVER

\$10 V-TIX

+ EVERY Ticket \$10* - Upper Level Seating
Full View Excluded
• NO Minimum
• Sat. 7:30pm Shows Excluded

*Look for Blackout dates on calendar.
All shows subject to change without notice.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
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SECOND WIND BARS

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SINCE 1986
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ATM & credit cards welcome.

New Year's Eve Party - Dec. 31
2 Great Bands • 2 Clubs • 1 Cover
Party Favors & Champagne Toast
Serious Guise 6 One 9
(Navajo) (Santee)

Navajo
8515 Navajo Road • 619-465-1730
(Albertsons shopping plaza at Navajo & Lake Murray)

Saturday, December 26 • 9 pm

Classic Rock
Outta Sync

Monday, December 28
Karaoke

Wednesday, December 30
Three Fifths Human
Spiral Pitfall • Fury Never Fades

Upcoming:
January 1 & 2 • 9 pm
Classic Rock
Serious Guise

Santee
8528 Magnolia Avenue • 619-596-8350
(Corner of Prospect & Magnolia)

Wednesday, December 23
Sergulath • Perdition
Ruins ov Abaddon

Friday & Saturday, December 25 & 26 • 9 pm

Classic Rock
5 Miles High

Upcoming:
January 1 & 2 • 9 pm
'80s Rock
6 One 9

Pool Tables • Dart Boards • Free Parking
Hot Spot & Lotto • Free WiFi Access

Tuesday, 9pm — Jeff Moore & the Witch Doctors. Blues/rock.
Wednesday, 9pm — Johnny "V" Vernazza. Blues/soul/rock.

Qualcomm Stadium: 9449 Friars Rd., Mission Valley, 619-283-0460.

Wednesday, 2:30pm — Joey and the Sting Rays.
Blues/country/rock.

Queen Bee's Art and Cultural Center: 3925 Ohio St., North Park, 619-255-5147.

Saturday, 7:15pm — Nemetacyst. With guests. Hardcore/metal. \$10.
Wednesday, 7pm — The Taxpayers. With Eskera, Skamikaze, and Unknown Motive. Reduced admission with three cans of food. Punk. \$5-\$7.

RT's Longboard Grill: 1466 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-270-4030.

Saturday, 9pm — Rad Fish. Rock.

Ruby Room: 1271 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-7372.

Saturday, 8pm — Starrset. With CAS. Alternative/electronica.

Seaport Village: 849 West Harbor Dr., Downtown.
Sunday, 1pm — Midnight Heat. Covers/standards. Free.

Whistle Stop Bar: 2236 Fern St., South Park, 619-284-6784.
Friday, 6pm — "Merry Funkin' X-MAS." Featuring DJ's ADAMNT, Riddles, Rudy Palos, and Gary Thomas. Pop/rock. Free. 21 and up.

Lucky 7 Match

SPEED DATING
Thursday, January 14
Ages 24-34, 33-45 & 45-58
The Keating Hotel
Thursday, January 28
Ages 25-37, 38-48 & 48-62
The Keating Hotel
Check-in 7 pm, event 7:30 pm
Advance registration required.
See website for details.
www.lucky7match.com
(619) 890-7117

A Christmas Champagne Buffet
To Make The Family Jolly

The Tickled Trout Restaurant at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Mission Valley is the perfect location for your family's...

Free-Flowing Champagne Buffet

Delicious Carving Station
Prime Rib • Turkey • Ham

Spectacular Seafood Station
Shrimp • Salmon

Cooked-To-Order Omelet Station
Belgian Waffle Station

\$23.99 per person • \$9.99 children 5-11 • Children under 5 free
*Plus tax & 18% gratuity. Other beverages not included.

10 am-6 pm
Reservations Recommended:
619-291-6500

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Fine Food & Drink at the Ramada Plaza Hotel

RAMADA Plaza Hotel
2151 Hotel Circle So.

U-37

NFL Ticket
Sat. & Sun., Open 9:30 am
18 New Flat-Panel TVs
Free Buffet Sunday
10-11:45 am

EVERY MONDAY
LADY DOTTIE & THE DIAMONDS
Wednesday, December 23
No cover. \$3 Calls all night.

Wednesday, December 30
DJ PRESTOOON
No cover. \$3 Calls all night.

Thursday, December 31 • \$10
NEW YEAR'S EVE
JR. THE DISCO PUNK
ATARI • DISC-O
Party Rock • Mashups
Free champagne toast!

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North Park
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PATRICK'S II
Blues Soul & Rock N' Roll

LIVE MUSIC in the Gaslamp

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Celebrate the New Year with one great party band
"Dennis Jones"
Ring in 2010 with Hats • Horns Noisemakers Food • Fun
Champagne Toast at Midnight
\$25 in advance

See our ad in "Happy Hour" section for this week's shows.
HAPPY HOUR DAILY TILL 8 pm
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DOORS OPEN AT 7PM.
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NEW YEARS EVE

\$10 AT THE DOOR GETS YOU 2 DRINK TICKETS

\$15 BUFFET SERVED TILL 10PM.

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NOW TAKING RESERVATIONS FOR NEW YEARS EVE
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AGUA DULCE

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(INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAY 5 & D STREET)

JUST ANNOUNCED!

ELLIOTT YAMIN
ON SALE NOW!!
JAN. 24 ALL AGES

THE USED
ATREYU
ON SALE NOW!!
JAN. 27 ALL AGES

ON SALE NOW

sonic-youth sic alps
JAN. 7 ALL AGES

STATE RADIO LET IT GO THE AGGROLITES
JAN. 14 ALL AGES

Reel Big Fish
THE WINTER IS FORMAL TOUR
STARPOOL / LA BANDA SKALAYERA
DEC. 29 ALL AGES

WHERE'S THE BAND?
JAN. 8 ALL AGES

UMPHREY'S MCGEE
ON TOUR 2009
JAN. 15 ALL AGES

12/27 - BONE PRESIDENTS
12/28 - THE BURNING
12/29 - GUN MASSIVE
1/1 - BUCKLE UP! PRESENTS
1/2 - BUCKLE UP! PRESENTS
1/3 - SET THE BAR 2010
1/4 - ON THE VODKOD STAGE
1/5 - BETWEEN THE
1/6 - BETWEEN THE
1/7 - FIRE FINGER DEATH PUNCH

1/23 - BONE PRESIDENTS
1/24 - THIRLAND
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FOR PRESALES AND SPECIAL OFFERS FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @LIVENATIONSD
OR BECOME A FAN AT FACEBOOK.COM/HOBSANDIEGO

All dates, acts and ticket prices subject to change without
prior notice. Subject to applicable service charges.

RESTAURANT NOW OPEN
M-F AT 11:30 AM FOR LUNCH!
SAT-SUN OPEN AT 12PM

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LIVE
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FOURPACK
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McAfee
CHARGE BY PHONE: 800.745.3000

DreamCatcher at VIEJAS

Get Lucky \$500 Hot Seat

Just play your favorite slot with your V Club card from 9pm to 1am and you might be one of 40 winners to win \$500 cash!

December 31
9:00-1:00 AM

Get Lucky Chain Reaction

Just play your favorite slot with your V Club card from 11:30pm to Midnight and if you're playing when the Get Lucky Chain Reaction hits, you'll win \$20.10 Free Play Cash GUARANTEED.

December 31
11:30-12:00 AM

ZAPP

Egyptian Lover
JJ Fad & Twilite 22

JAN 16

DAVID SANBORN

LIVE IN CONCERT

FEB 19

DAVID PATRONE

FREE Every Sunday THE Jan. 10 - Mar. 28
5pm-9pm

Free Dance Lessons from 5pm to 6pm.

Nationally Acclaimed Live Swing Bands

1st place \$5,000
2nd place \$3,000
3rd place \$2,000

Dance couples sign up at the door.
Free Show, Food and Up

No Competition Feb 7 or Mar 14

Easy to Get To. Hard To Leave.

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Cajon
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CHARGE BY PHONE 888.512.SHOW :: MUST BE 21+

UPCOMING
SHOWS

AMSDconcerts: 4650 Mansfield St., Normal Heights, 619-303-8176.
January 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 Trio.
February 6 — Eric Bibb.
February 9 — Fred Eaglesmith.
February 12 — Chris Smither.
February 20 — Jack Tempchin.
March 5 — Ellis Paul.
March 6 — Incendio.
March 12 — Lucy Kaplansky.
March 13 — Berkley Hart.
April 17 — Houston Jones.
April 26 — Rory Block.
May 1 — Neil Innes.

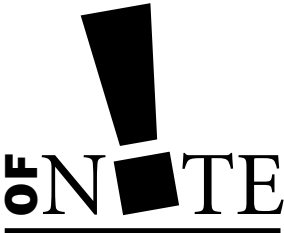
Anthology: 1337 India St., Little Italy, 619-595-0300.
January 2 — The Squirrel Nut Zippers.
January 7 — Abrina.
January 8 — The Pete Escovedo Orchestra, Eric Sardinas.
January 9 — The Pete Escovedo Orchestra.
January 14 — The John Jorgenson Quartet.
January 23 — Thunder Road.
January 27 — Sophie Millman.
January 28 — Janiva Magness.
January 29, January 30 — The Legendary Count Basie Orchestra.
February 4 — Dave Davies.
February 5 — Mark Hummel’s Harmonica Blowout.
February 10 — Me’Shell Ndegéocello.

February 11 — Tommy Emmanuel.
February 12 — Al Stewart.
February 14 — Anthology House Band: Motown Revue.
February 23, February 24 — Al DiMeola.
February 25, February 26 — Dave Mason.
February 28 — Ray Manzarek.
March 3 — Mike Doughty.
March 5 — Mark Hummel’s Harmonica Blowout.
March 6 — Diane Schuur.
March 13 — Ladysmith Black Mambazo.
April 23 — Benny Golson.
May 15 — Richie Havens.
May 28 — The Average White Band.

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 Trio.

Balboa Theatre: 868 Fourth Ave., Downtown, 619-570-1100.
February 28 — David Garrett.
April 21 — Monterey Jazz Festival.

Belly Up Tavern: 143 South Cedros Ave., Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.
January 1 — Del tha Funky Homosapien.
January 2 — 40 Oz. to Freedom.
January 6 — New Acoustic Generation.
January 7 — Robben Ford.
January 8 — Pato Banton.
January 15 — Keb’ Mo’.
January 20 — Cowboy Mouth.
January 22, January 23 — Ozomatli.



BY DAVE GOOD

Camper Van Beethoven is a California band and were somewhat big in the ’80s. CVB integrates country rock, psychedelic, and faux ethnic things with violin. Imagine the Grateful Dead doing a Strawberry Alarm Clock retrospective with a little ska beat here and there. I sat in radio-programming meetings back in the 1980s in which we openly made fun of CVB and groups like them. What they did to earn our disdain I don’t recall because Camper Van Beethoven had had the kind of chart success with a cult following that cannot be denied (or explained).

Their cover of “Pictures of Matchstick Men” was a radio hit and smart going at that. No better band for them to cover than Status

Quo, a forgotten British garage band from the 1960s with more hit records in their day than just about anyone. But that was the high-water mark for the first decade of Camper Van Beethoven. They went missing in the early ’90s, with bassist-founder David Lowry having gone on to form a more popular band called Cracker.

Twenty-five years older now, the members of CVB are back out on the road. Revived in 2000 (they recorded their first studio CD in 15 years in 2004), they’ve all grown up. Yet Camper Van Beethoven seems locked in step with their original charter, which apparently has not changed much since the band launched out of Santa Cruz in 1985. Witness lyrics from the new CD: “Who could be calling waking me from my dreams/ Of John, Paul, and Ringo with Keenan Wynn/ (or George)/ That gum you like is back in style, again,” compared to lyrics from the ’80s: “I



CAMPER VAN BEETHOVEN

had a dream about you, my friend/ I had a dream I wanted to sleep next to plastic.” So, did we underestimate Camper Van Beethoven? I don’t think so.

Cracker also performs.

CAMPER VAN BEETHOVEN: Belly Up, Tuesday, December 29, 8 p.m. 858-481-8140. \$20; \$22 day of show.

January 30 — Atomic Punks.
February 3 — Rhett Miller.
February 11 — ALO.
February 13 — Los Lonely Boys.
March 3 — Galactic.

Copley Symphony Hall: 750 B St., Downtown, 619-235-0804.
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.

House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-299-2583.
December 31 — NYE 2010.
January 7 — Sonic Youth.
January 8 — Where’s the Band Tour.
January 14 — State Radio.
January 15 — Umphrey’s McGee.
January 16 — Between the Buried and Me.

January 22 — Timbaland.
January 27 — The Used.
January 29 — New Found Glory.
January 30 — Tainted Love.
January 31 — Nile.
February 3 — The Anvil Experience.
February 5 — Badfish.
February 9 — The Editors.
February 12 — G. Love & Special Sauce.
February 17 — Medeski Martin & Wood.
February 20 — Winter Blackout 2010.

February 28 — George Thorogood & the Destroyers.
March 4 — Rebelution.
March 11 — Brandi Carlile.
March 12 — Melissa Ferrick.
March 13 — Black Rebel Motorcycle Club.
March 19, March 20, March 21 — Bad Religion.
March 24 — Kreator.
March 28 — HammerFall.
April 21 — Overkill.
April 29 — The Avett Brothers.



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January 20 — Joe Firstman.
January 29 — Jordan Reimer.
The Loft: 9500 Gilman Dr.,
UCSD, 858-534-8497.
January 23 — Health.
February 9 — Justin Townes Earle.
February 11 — Brooklyn Rider.
February 16 — Suzanne Vega.
February 18 — Mauger.
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March 17 — Kalamand Balogh & the
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April 7 — Gretchen Parlato.

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Pechanga Resort & Casino:
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April 15 — Mark Knopfler.
San Diego Civic Theatre:
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570-1100.
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Bacchus House: *Saturday*, 9pm: Therapy. Featuring DJs Bryan Pollard and Detonator. Gothic/industrial. \$3-\$5. *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 Smoovgrooves, Hobbs One, Eclectic, 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.,

EVERYONE'S A CRITIC



Phrazes for the Young

CD Review
by Matthew Penna

A throwback to '70s arena-rock with '80s synth-pop dropped in for good measure, this melodic, angst, and ultimately upbeat solo debut from Strokes frontman Julian Casablancas

manages to find its modern sound. At points, one hears Trans Am's *Futureworld*, but *Phrazes* evokes even more of a carnival-midway feel than that 1999 indie-rock staple.

Casablancas's voice drones through the bitter to some occasionally sweet lyrics. Lines such as "Everything seems to go wrong when I start drinking" and "Somewhere along the way, my sadness turned to bitterness" suggest that the 31-year-old pop star's life isn't all we might imagine it to be.

The album's title comes from Oscar Wilde's "Phrases and Philosophies for the Use of the Young." Wilde says, "The first duty in life is to be as artificial as possible. What the second duty is no one has as yet discovered." It seems Casablancas might be searching for that answer in this collection.

At about five minutes each, the songs are longer than the average pop track, but the time goes by quickly and, too soon, this engaging eight-track album ends.

Music Reviews from Our Readers

Hello Hurricane

CD Review
by Scott Wilson

For his seventh studio session, homegrown rock star Jon Foreman reaches into his bag of tricks, pulls out all the hooks, and assembles them in a strategic fashion beneath an arsenal of lyrical bombs that detonate in the battlefield of the mind.

While most youths point fingers at society, the government, the law, or ex-lovers, the

Switchfoot front man points the finger at himself. This is evident in the hit single "Mess of Me" and on tracks such as "Free" and "Yet." When Foreman turns his finger at the audience, it is to call out and demolish mediocrity and self-inflicted limitations on tracks such as "The Sound" and "Bullet Soul."

Hello Hurricane's set list takes on a similar shape of previous albums — rock to ballad to tech-pop — with a slight push at the edges, but the difference on this album is its production. After excusing themselves from Columbia/Sony, Switchfoot decided to record and produce the tracks in their newly built StudioX in San Diego. Then they announced that lowercase people records (their own independent label) was licensing the album to Atlantic Records.



\$50 for your concert review, \$20 for your CD review. Submit at SDReader/critic.com

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. 619-233-5979.

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.

Club 67: *Wednesdays*, 9pm: DJ Power. Electronica. Free. 12381 Mapleview St., Lakeside. 619-443-4100.

Confidential: *Fridays*, 10pm: DJ Henry Diaz. With Tone Capone and Omar. Electronic/hip-hop/

lounge. 901 Fourth Ave., Downtown. 619-696-8888.

The Coyote 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 Hip-hop/rap/reggae. *Sundays*, 9pm: DJ Demond. '80s/hip-hop/pop. Free. 21 and up. *Mondays*, 9pm: DJ Undaground. With guests Hip-hop/rap/reggae. *Wednesdays*, 9pm:

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Music Reviews from Our Readers

Moz and the Men in Black

CD Review
by Owen Wright

Morrissey was in a fine mood at Copley Symphony Hall. After a few songs, he acknowledged to the crowd of over 2000 that his last two San Diego performances were "a bit rough." (Morrissey walked off the stage at his last San Diego show due to sound problems and a vicious security squad.) He then thanked the crowd for coming and for their loyalty. He and his band tore through 19 songs to an enthusiastic crowd that never

took their seats.

Morrissey introduced his band members one by one. They all dressed and looked alike in black pants and shirts, and had haircuts that could've been shorn on any military base in town. The guitar players changed instruments for nearly every song. They played mostly vintage Fender guitars, with one Gibson Les Paul thrown in for some extra punch. The Smiths' songs ("This Charming Man," "How Soon Is Now," "Is it Really So Strange," "Death at One's Elbow," "Cemetery Gates," and "Ask") seemed to garner the loudest applause, but the new songs shined, especially a rockabilly number where a standup bass was slapped.

At 50 years old, Morrissey still puts on an energetic show. For the encore, he and the band joined hands at the front of the stage, took a long, low bow, and returned to their positions for the final song, "The First of the Gang to Die." As the song neared its end, he ripped off his shirt and threw it into the audience, where a brief shirt fight ensued.



Paula Goes to Poway

Concert Review
by Peijean Tsai

When Paula Cole performs, it's part concert, part group meditation. Fans were entranced watching the singer-songwriter croon her poetic, self-revealing lyrics at the Poway Center for the Performing Arts. Between songs, Cole's emotional interludes further connected her and the audience, whom she conversed with from stage and thanked for "this family reunion."

Dressed in a black tank dress over tall

zippered boots, the Grammy-winning soprano opened her show by playing a lingering clarinet solo before she delved into the soulful, melancholy "Suwannee Jo" and slowly pumped a steel pedal to back it with a tribal, hypnotic beat.

Guitarist Ben Butler and drummer Ben Wittman added dimension, playing the backup tools with a style as to make the common instruments unrecognizable. In a ten-minute improvisation of the sensual "Feelin' Love" (surprisingly, the top choice of female pole-dancers, Cole prefaced), Butler's guitar solo inspired the audience to erupt in lengthy applause. The jazz-trained Cole accompanied her band on grand piano, pumping through the fiery indie rock of "Mississippi" and playing the delicate melodies of "Me."

Cole is best known for "Where Have All the Cowboys Gone?" and the *Dawson's Creek* theme "I Don't Want to Wait," from the feisty album *This Fire*, so she teased fans by exiting after ten songs, coming back onstage to encore both hit songs.



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J & Biko. Hip-hop/reggae. 9143 Campo Rd., Spring Valley. 619-698-2204.

The Filling Station: *Fridays*, 9pm, *Saturdays*, 9pm: DJ 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. 760-722-0081.

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*: DJ Kiki. 2895 University Ave., North Park. 619-295-1688.

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.

Pacific Beach Bar & Grill: *Wednesdays*, 10pm: DJ Tony. 860 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach. 858-272-7278.

Piervue 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: DJ Famous Dave. Mixes music videos. 1466 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach. 858-270-4030.

Ruby Room: *Monday*, 8pm: "Stewed, Screwed, and Tattooed." Featuring live art and DJs. *Sunday*, 8pm: Pied Piper. Electronica. *Thursday*, 8pm: Xmas Eve Holiday Party. Featuring a DJ set by Hannibal Selector. Electronica. 21 and up. 1271 University Ave., Hillcrest. 619-299-7372.

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 Achiotte marinated chicken breast, chipotle mash, cranberry chutney & citrus braised leeks.
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 Peppercorn seared beef tenderloin, creamy vegetable polenta, roasted asparagus & St. Sideburn gastrique.

THIRD COURSE: Chocolate dipped strawberries & champagne toast.

\$24.95 PER PERSON
 For reservations call:
 858-581-BEER (2337)

\$3 U Call Its - 10PM Until Close Nightly

New Extended Patio Hours - Open Until 2AM

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 SAN DIEGO, CA

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**Rock 'n Roll
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NYE TICKETS GOING FAST
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2010

DINNER PACKAGE INCLUDES:
*Guaranteed Seat, Prime-Rib Buffet, Dessert,
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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ALL NIGHT LONG!*

PARTY PACKAGE & VIP BOTTLE SERVICE ALSO AVAILABLE



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Live Music
710 Garnet Ave.

710

BEACH CLUB & GRILL

Thurs. 24th <i>Christmas Eve</i> Drink Specials COME ON DOWN TO CELEBRATE!	Fri. 25th  Merry Christmas FROM 710 STAFF
Sat. 26th  <i>Local Music Night</i>	No Cover Before 10PM Upcoming New Years Eve Meet Liz & Angel from WHI'S TOUGH LOVE 2 BOOM SNAP CHIMNEY FISH

- EVERY SUN. - WEDS. NO COVER -

- Sun-** Dueling Pianos (Rated R) 7pm 
- Mon-** HAPPY HOUR ALL DAY ALL NIGHT
- Tues-** Game Night/Beer Pong Tourn. 
- Weds-** Trivia/\$3 DRINKS 9pm -CLOSE w/ DJ KAUSTIC and LIVE ART SHOW 

SPORTS






UFC 108
 JAN 2nd 6am
 Evans vs Silva

GRILL Check out what the locals are raving about!

- CheeseSteaks
- Baja Fish Tacos
- Seared Ahi
- 25 cent Wings (Tues. 8-close)
- \$2 Fish Tacos (All Day Fri.)

Details at: 710bc.com / (858) 483-7844



Winston's

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619-222-6822
www.winstonsob.com

EVERY Tuesday-Thursday No Cover
One drink minimum

Thur. 12/24	Christmas Time Karaoke Festival
	
Fri. 12/25	Our lamp ran out of oil. Closed for the Holiday.
Sat. 12/26	Candler Creative Presents: A Night of Rock N Roll

**MISC. AILMENTS
THE GET DOWN
THIS IS MANIC
COPILOT**

Sun. 12/27	 <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <p>5:20 PM: Redskins vs Cowboys</p> </div>
----------------------	--

TONIGHT

OB•O•KE

HOSTED BY
JOSÉ SINATRA

\$2 drinks 9 pm to close



Mon. 12/28	<p>6-8 PM: Drunk Poets Society</p> <p>An evening of music from the Grateful Dead</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
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Tues. 12/29	<p>6-9 PM: Think 'N' Drink Trivia</p> <p>NO COVER NIGHT Rock Band</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">MR. T's JAMBAND</p>
Wed. 12/30	<p>4-8 PM: Dub Master Cue meets Seismic Levelers</p>

TONIGHT



Thur. 12/31	<p style="font-size: 3em; font-weight: bold; letter-spacing: 0.5em;">NO COVER NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em;">with</p> <p style="font-size: 4em; font-weight: bold; letter-spacing: 0.5em;">THE ELECTRIC WASTE BAND</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div>
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John Mayer Trio, December 29, Copley Symphony Hall

Sapphire Mediterranean Lounge & Hookah 18+:
Saturdays, 9pm: Rasta Nation
Posse. Reggae. 4076 Bonita Rd.,
Bonita. 619-470-8000.

Satin Lounge: *Thursdays, 9pm:* Hot Latin Beats. Reggaeton, salsa, and meringue. 18 and up. *Fridays, 8pm:* Funky Fresh Fridays. Hip-hop/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 hip-hop hits. *Saturdays:* I
 Girth. Spins hip-hop and rock
 hits. *Sundays:* Soul Glo Sundays.
 With DJ Girth and friends.
Wednesdays: Beer Pong. With DJ
 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.



THURSDAY: DECEMBER 24
HAPPY HOUR
ALL DAY & NIGHT

SATURDAY: DECEMBER 26
 SupaJen™ presents
A Gift for the Gifted
KAUSE AND CRAZE
ATTABURR • MR. RIDLEY
ORKO ELOHEIM
DJ ARTISTRY • DJ ERUPT

SUNDAY: DECEMBER 27
NEON COUGH
MASKED MONSTER BEAST
DOVES & DESPERADOS

MONDAY: DECEMBER 28
BLUES JAM hosted by
MYSTERY TRAIN 8 pm

WEDNESDAY: DECEMBER 30
KNOCKOUT BELL
ELECTRIC PEOPLE
LOUDER WITH THE LIGHTS ON
RYAN BLUE • DJ GONZO

THURSDAY: DECEMBER 31
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
 "No Cover"
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SOCIAL GREEN
PROJECT: OUT OF BOUNDS
SATURDAY 1/2 • 9 PM

SALSA



Orquesta Prima
SUNDAY 1/3 • 8 PM

NEW ACOUSTIC GENERATION
MICHAEL TIERNAN



LEE COULTER & GEORGE WIT
WEDNESDAY 1/6 • 8 PM

"TRAIL BY FIRE"
ROBBEN FORD



MICHAEL LANDAU, JIMMY HASLIP & GARY NOVAK
THE GRASS HEAT
THURSDAY 1/7 • 9 PM

PATO BANTON & NOW GENERATION



COLIN GILES
FRIDAY 1/8 • 9 PM

BRAZILIAN PRODUCTIONS PRES.

BRAZILIAN PRE-CARNAVAL 2010



SUNDAY 1/10 • 8 PM

COWBOY MOUTH'S ROCK'N ROLL MARDI GRAS w/JUNIOR BROWN



TUESDAY 1/12 • 8 PM

STAN RIDGWAY



SARA PETITE
WEDNESDAY 1/13 • 8 PM

JACKIE GREENE



TRUTH AND SALVAGE CO.
THURSDAY 1/14 • 9 PM

CROSS CANADIAN RAGWEED



RANDY ROGERS BAND
SATURDAY 1/16 • 9 PM

"GUITAR LEGEND" DICK DALE



THE HEAVY GUILT
WEDNESDAY 1/20 • 8 PM

PURE PRAIRIE LEAGUE



w/GUEST
THURSDAY 1/21 • 9 PM

STANLEY CLARKE BAND



SUNDAY 1/24 • 8 PM

ALYSSA JACEY ALBUM RELEASE SHOW



JASMINE COMMERCE JOSH DAMIGO
WEDNESDAY 1/27 • 8 PM

REGGAE NIGHTS STRANGER



DJ CARLOS CULTURE
THURSDAY 1/28 • 9 PM

STEPPING FEET: DAVE MATTHEWS BAND EXPERIENCE



ROB CARONA
FRIDAY 1/29 • 9 PM

ATOMIC PUNKS



I-90 GENERATOR
SATURDAY 1/30 • 9 PM

DAVE RAWLINGS MACHINE



TUESDAY 2/2 • 8 PM

RHETT MILLER AND THE SERIAL LADY KILLERS



LESLIE AND THE BADGERS
WEDNESDAY 2/3 • 8 PM

THE ENGLISH BEAT



2/5 w/THE LIFTERS
2/6 w/BLASPHEMOUS GUITARS
FRI. 2/5 & SAT. 2/6 • 9 PM

JUST ADDED!
2/14 Mighty Diamonds
2/28 Raul Malo
3/2 Midlake

MATINEES
1/2 Bayou Brothers 4 PM
1/30 Firehouse Swing w/Hi Lo Playboys 3 PM
3/7 Laugh for Recovery 2 PM

HAPPY HOURS 5:30 PM
12/31 NYE Happy Hour w/ Atomic Groove \$5
1/1 Buick Wilson Band \$5

UPCOMING SHOWS:

1/31 Nathan James Blues -Matinee
1/31 Salsa Sunday
2/7 The Thermals
2/10 St. Vincent
2/11 ALO

2/13 Los Lonely Boys Acoustic Brotherhood Tour w/Alejandro Escovedo & Carrie Rodriguez
2/17 Henry Rollins Frequent Flyer Tour
2/19 Steve Poltz w/Mojo Nixon

2/25 Willie K w/Joe Cano
2/27 The Mother Hips
3/3 Galactic featuring Cyril Neville
3/6 Pine Mountain Logs
3/7 Blind Boys of Alabama
3/8 Jake Shimabukuro
4/27 Rogue Wave

Wine, dine & skip the line next door at the Wild Note Café • 858-720-9000

Belly Up Party Week!

an evening with
WED 12/23 8:00 PM GREYBOY ALLSTARS

SAT CASH'D OUT 12/26 with Hell on Heels, Tornado Magnet & DJ Gonzo
9:00 PM

SUN 12/27 8:00 PM HEPCAT w/ Skavolutionary Orchestra & The Amalgamated

TUE 12/29 8:00 PM CRACKER and Camper Van Beethoven

New Year's Eve Bash! featuring: **B★SIDE PLAYERS**
Dec 31st @ 9PM hosted by "DJ Solrak" & "D210"

FRI DEL THE FUNKY 1/1 HOMOSAPIEN w/ Busdriver 9 PM

Los Lobos Jan 9th
Keb' Mo' Jan 15th
Ozomatli Jan 22nd & 23rd
Concert tickets make great stocking stuffers!

BellyUp 858-481-8140
EST. 1974 BellyUp.com
143 S. Cedros Solana Beach

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.



Celebrate New Year's Eve at the Jewel Box

NO COVER
Free Party Favors
Champagne Toast at midnight
Open New Year's Day
7 am-2 am

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Leucadia • 760.753.2094

Every Tuesday
Open Mic Night

Wednesday Night
Reggae Night with DJ Roger Orange

Thursday, December 24
DJ Fish Fonics • DJ Digital Opinion
DJ Frankie Lektro

Friday, December 25
Chill Boy & Friends

Saturday, December 26
Jeff Moore & the Witchdoctors

Sunday NFL Ticket
12 TVs • We get all the games!
Sundays • 8:30 pm
"After the Game Karaoke" with Spencer

Happy Hour 4-7 pm daily
\$2.75 Wells • \$2.50 Beer-of-the-Month
4 Regulation Pool Tables
Shuffleboard • Darts
Free Pool Tues.-Thurs. 11 am-7 pm
Wireless Internet Available



Cabo Grill

Sunday Champagne Brunch
10 am-3 pm
Extended hours open 'til 1 am

Ocean-view dining • Live entertainment • DJs & dancing • No cover

Every Friday & Saturday Night
In the Basement • 10 pm-1 am
Dancing w/DJ Sinn

Every Tuesday
Rooftop Open Stage • 6:30-9:30 pm
Still Smoking

Every Sunday • Street Level
NFL Games w/Food Specials
Champagne Brunch 10 am-3 pm
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Food served 'til 1 am! • Dress code strictly enforced in the Basement
21 and over for the basement • All ages on Street Level & Rooftop
212 N. Tremont St., Oceanside • 760-637-2450
Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 11:30 am-midnight & Fri. 11:30 am-1 am,
Sat. 10 am-1 am & Sun. 10 am-midnight

New Shows Coming Soon...Check MysteryCafe.net for details

OUR 19th YEAR!



THE GOOD THE BAD! THE UDDERLY RIDICULOUS

written by
James Pascarella & Victoria Velasco
directed by Victoria Velasco

www.MysteryCafe.net

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619.276.1620

the new Morena Club

[new year's eve]
no cover
drink specials 9:00pm - close
[new year's day]
open at 6:00am
drink specials 6:00am - 10:00am

2010

music by [mic-e]



Adult Night Skating

Roller Skating Excitement
Now every Tuesday 7:30-10:30 pm \$8

Adult Learn-to-Skate Clinic \$6
Every Tuesday 6:30-7:15 pm.
Coupon applies to session only.
Skate rental and blade rental extra.
Family Fun Saturday & Sunday
\$7 All Day • 1:30-5 pm

Come join the fun!

2 for 1

Admission Adults-Only Night!
Valid Tuesday, December 29, 2009.
*Buy 1 admission and receive 2nd admission free.

Holiday Skate Sessions
Wed. 12/23 & 12/30 • 1:30-5 pm
Admission \$7 • Skate Rentals \$4

New Year's Eve Skate
Thurs. 12/31 • 8 pm-1 am
Admission \$12 • Skate Rentals \$4

SKATEWORLD
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myspace.com/SanDiegoSkateworld

6907 Linda Vista Rd. • 858-560-9349
or further info: 858-560-9278
(3 blocks south of Genesee, 1 mile north of USD)



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SAN DIEGO
Reader

IMPACT PRODUCTIONS & EPIC EVENTS PRESENTS

NEW YEARS EVE 2010
SAN DIEGO'S SEXIEST NEW YEAR'S PARTY!

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 31, 2009 | 9:00PM

MOËT & CHANDON CHAMPAGNE BAR : VIP PARTY FAVORS

JOIN BELO NIGHTCLUB, IMPACT PRODUCTIONS & EPIC EVENTS AS WE BRING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH A COUNT DOWN TO 2010 AT MIDNIGHT! THERE WILL BE A CHAMPAGNE BAR BY MOËT & CHANDON CHAMPAGNE. RESERVE A VIP TABLE AND RECEIVE A COMPLIMENTARY BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE AND PARTY FAVORS!

SAN DIEGO'S HOTTEST DJ'S MIXING
DJ MIKESKI | DJ PHOBIK | DJ KAOS

SAN DIEGO'S SEXIEST VIP AREAS
VIP TABLES STARTING @ 3 BOTTLE MINIMUM
(INCLUDES COMPLIMENTARY CHAMPAGNE & PARTY FAVORS)

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DREAN @ 619-507-0843 OR VIP@BELOSANDIEGO.COM

CLUB LIST NOW WWW.CLUBLISTNOW.COM
VIP ACCESS TO THE HOTTEST EVENTS IN YOUR AREA

FOR PRE-SALE TICKETS PLEASE GO TO:
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21+ DOORS OPEN @ 9PM • CLUB ATTIRE REQUIRED & ENFORCED DRESSCODE & ADMISSION IS AT THE DOORMAN'S DISCRETION
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Moët & Chandon **epic**

HAPPY HOUR

More information about these establishments can be found online at SDReader.com/drinks, including driving directions, coupons, food specials, and more.

HOW TO SUBMIT A DRINK SPECIAL: Call 619-235-3000 x700, night or day by 5pm Friday, the week prior to publication. You may also fax to 619-231-0489, mail to Reader Happy Hours, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186, or submit information online at 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.

Wet Stone Wine Bar and Café: Tuesday-Saturday, 5-7pm: \$3 bottled craft beers, \$5 tropical white & stone fruit red sangria, select glasses of wine. \$2 off small bites. Sunday, 4-6pm: \$3 bottled craft beers, \$5 tropical white & stone fruit red sangria, select glasses of wine. \$2 off small bites.

BAY PARK

Offshore: Tuesday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$2 domestic, \$3 sangria, well and micro import, \$5 Tommy Bahama mojitos.

BONITA

Sapphire Mediterranean Lounge & Hookah 18+: Tuesday, 5-9pm: All well drinks two-for-one. \$4 six-piece chicken wings, falafel, or mozzarella sticks, \$5 small hummus, \$2 six-piece dolmades. All day: 1/2-off hookahs. Wednesday-Saturday, 5-9pm: All well drinks two-for-one. \$4 six-piece chicken wings, falafel, or mozzarella sticks, \$5 small hummus, \$2 six-piece dolmades.

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.

Mr. Peabody's: Monday-Friday, 10am-6pm: \$2.50 domestic beers, wine, spooli shots, wells + juice. \$3.50 margaritas. Free taco bar 3pm to 6pm with drink purchase.

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, 4-7pm: \$2 margaritas. \$1.50 tacos.

Veni Vidi Vici: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: \$1 off all drafts, wells.

CLAIREMONT

Fat Tony's Pizza: Thursday, 5pm-close: \$2 Karl Strauss, \$4 taps.

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.

Casa Machado: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$2.75 domestic, \$3.75 margarita, wells. Free nachos and quesadillas.

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

Beach 'n' Diner: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$3 beer, wine. \$2 off shakes, floats, malts, appetizers. All day: \$3 beer of the month.

Lil' Piggy's Bar-B-Q: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$3 beer, wine. \$1 off appetizers, \$1.50 sliders. All day: \$3 beer of the month.

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.

Village Pizzeria: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$3 beer, wine. \$3 slices, 1/2-off appetizers. All day: \$3 beer of the month.

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: Monday-Sunday, 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.

The Field Irish Pub and Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$3.50 wells. 1/2-off appetizers. Saturday-Sunday, 9am-5pm: \$3.50 wells. 1/2-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-Thursday, 3-6pm: \$3.75 draft, \$3.95 wells, \$2.95 domestic beer. \$.95 oysters, \$4 fish tacos, \$5.75 mahi mahi sliders.

The Fleetwood: Monday-Friday, 5-6pm: \$4 calls.

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.

La Gran Tapa: Tuesday, 5-7pm: \$3 cask wine, sangria, draft. \$3 tapas. Wednesday, 5-7pm: \$3 cask wine, sangria, draft, 1/2-off select bottles/wine. Thursday, 5-7pm: \$3 cask wine, sangria, draft, \$10 pitcher sangria/draft.

Las Hadas Bar & Grill: Monday-Saturday, 5-7pm; 10pm-midnight: \$2 Bud Light/Coors Light drafts, \$3 margaritas, wine, wells, sangria. 1/2-off 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: \$2 drafts, \$3 wells & wines, \$4 martinis, 1/2-off select appetizers.

Karl Strauss Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: \$3.50 beer.

The Local: Monday, 4pm-close: \$3 Bud Light, Miller Lite. \$6 burgers. Tuesday, 4pm-close: \$3 Corona, Pacifico, Dos Equis. \$2.50 chicken/steak tacos. \$3 lobster/fish tacos. Wednesday, 4pm-close: \$10 big pitchers. \$2 BBQ pork slider, corn dogs. Thursday, 4pm-close: \$3 Jäger, wells, drafts, bottled beer. \$3 lobster tacos. Friday, 3-7pm: \$1 off wells, wine, drafts. Saturday, 8-10pm: \$5 premium liquors.

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 Haoale mai tai, Lilikoi mojito, Coconut Kiss martini, large Sapporo, house wine. \$5 sushi roll specials, pu pu specials.

O'Brothers: Every day, 3:30-6:30pm: \$3 bottled beer, \$5 glass of wine. \$7 sliders with fries.

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.

Rock Bottom Brewery, Downtown: Monday-Thursday, 4-7pm, 10pm-close: \$3.50 pints, wells, house wine, \$4.95 specialty drinks/martinis.

Rockin' Baja Lobster: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$3.50 margaritas. \$4 Long Islands. \$3-\$5 drafts.

San Diego Wine and Culinary Center: Tuesday-Saturday, 5-8pm: \$5 house wine, wells, \$7 Christopher's Cuvee, 12-9pm: tasting flights.

The Shout House: Tuesday, \$2.50 Karls, \$5 cosmos, \$3 fish tacos. Wednesday, \$1.50 domestic bottles, \$3 fish tacos. Thursday, \$2.50 Miller Lite drafts, \$10 Miller High Life buckets, \$2 lunchbox shots. Friday, 6-7pm: \$1 any draft. Sunday, \$2 domestic drafts, \$3 wells, wine, Jäger.

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.

Tabule: Monday-Friday, 5-6pm: 1/2-off all drinks and appetizers. Saturday-Sunday, 2-6pm: 1/2-off all drinks and appetizers.

Taste & Thirst on Fourth: Monday-Saturday, 3-8pm: All drinks two-for-one.

Tequila 100: Monday-Wednesday, 8-11pm: \$2 drafts, \$4 margaritas, mojitos & glasses of wine, \$5 Patron shots. \$5 select appetizers. Thursday-Sunday, 3-7pm: \$2 drafts, \$4 margaritas, mojitos & glasses of wine, \$5 Patron shots. \$5 select appetizers.

Tivoli Bar: Every day, 4-7pm: \$1 off pitchers, \$.50 off liquor.

Xavier's Bar & Grill: Tuesday-Saturday, 4-8pm: \$3 wells, drafts. \$2 off wine. \$2 off appetizers.

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.

East Village Tavern and Bowl: Monday-Thursday, 3-7pm: \$3 drafts, wells, wine. \$4 premium drafts, margaritas. Friday-Saturday, 11pm-close: \$3 drafts, wells, wine. \$4 premium drafts, margaritas. \$4 Jäger, Bacardi, Svedka.

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.

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HAPPY HOUR

Dream Street Live: *Tuesday-Saturday*, 4-6pm: \$2 wells, domestic pints. \$4 Guinness pints.

Portugalia: *Tuesday-Sunday*, 10pm-1am: \$3 domestic beer, \$5 wine; \$4-\$10 food specials.

The Vine: *Every day*, 4-6pm: 1/2-price entire wine and specialty beer list.

Winstons: *Monday-Saturday*, 1-8pm: \$3.50 wells. \$1 off all beer/wine.

OCEANSIDE

333 Pacific: *Every day*, 4-7pm, 9-10pm: \$7 vodka cocktails (100+ types of vodka). \$7 appetizers (calamari, oyster trio, Caesar salad).

The Flying Bridge: *Every day*, 4pm-7pm: \$3 beer, \$4 wine, 20% off appetizers.

Hana Japanese Restaurant: *Every day*, 5-7pm: \$3 beer, 1/2-off cocktails.

Harney Sushi: *Thursday*, \$5 specialty cocktails.

PCH Sports Bar & Grill: *Monday-Friday*, 4-7pm: \$2 domestics, \$1 off premiums, \$3 house wines. *Saturday*, 2-8pm: \$2 domestics, \$1 off premiums, \$3 house wines. *Sunday*, 2pm-close: \$2 domestics, \$1 off premiums, \$3 house wines.

Pierview Pub/Bub's Whiskey Dive Bar: *Tuesday*, 4-7pm: \$2 cans of Tecate.

Tremont Street Bar & Grill: *Monday-Friday*, 4-7pm: \$4 wells, house wine. \$1 off all beer.

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

710 Beach Club: *Monday-Friday*, 1-7:10pm: \$7.10 beer & shot. *Saturday-Sunday*, 12-7pm: \$7 pitchers.

The Australian Pub: *Monday-Friday*, 7-9pm: \$3 Long Islands. *Saturday*, \$2.50 Karl Strauss. *Sunday*, \$3 Bloody Marys.

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.

Hooters: *Monday*, 11am-10pm: \$4 drafts, \$14.99 pitcher Pyramid Haywire & Hefeweizen. *Tuesday-Wednesday, Friday*, 3-6pm: \$2.50 Bud, Bud Light, Coors Light, Miller Lite drafts, \$3 wells, 1/2-price appetizers. *Thursday*, 11am-10pm: \$4 drafts, \$14.99 pitcher Newcastle Brown Ale. *Saturday*, 11am-11pm: \$3 drafts, \$10.99 pitcher Coors Light, Miller Lite. *Sunday*, 11am-10pm: \$3 drafts, \$10.99 pitcher Bud Light, Budweiser & \$3.50 drafts, \$11.99 pitcher Shock Top.

Johnny V: *Tuesday*, 4pm-close: \$3 wells, drafts, selected wines. \$1.95 street tacos, \$3 off appetizers. *Wednesday*, all day: \$3 wells, drafts, selected wines. *Friday*, 4-9pm: \$2

drinks. Complimentary appetizers. *Saturday*, all day: \$2.50 Bud Light bottles, Absolut, \$3 margarita.

Lights Out Hooters After Dark: *Monday*, 5-8pm: \$1 wells, \$1 domestic drafts. 8pm-close: 2-for-1 drinks. *Tuesday*, 5-8pm: \$1 wells, \$1 domestic drafts. 8pm-close: beer and a shot, \$5. *Wednesday*, 5-8pm: \$1 wells, \$1 domestic drafts. 8pm-close: \$2 you-call-its. *Thursday-Saturday*, 5-8pm: \$1 wells, \$1 domestic drafts. *Sunday*, 5-8pm: \$1 wells, \$1 domestic drafts. Industry Night: 1/2 off the bill.

Miller's Field: *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm: \$1 wells. \$2 street tacos.

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.

Pacific Beach Bar & Grill: *Tuesday*, \$2.50 Mexican bottled beer, \$3 frozen margaritas. *Wednesday*, \$2 off all drinks, \$2 beers. *Thursday*, 8pm-close: \$2 wells, drafts, 1/2-price drinks. *Friday*, 3-10pm: \$2 drafts, wells, 1/2-price drinks. *Saturday*, 4-10pm: \$3 wells, wine, drafts.

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.

C-Level: *Monday-Friday*, 3:30-5:30pm: \$3.50 Bud Light, Karl Strauss, Stone IPA, \$5 specialty drinks, wells, house wine. \$5 crispy calamari, ahi tuna poke, steamed Fox River mussels.

Extreme Pizza: *Monday*, all day: \$1.50 domestic drafts. *Tuesday*, \$6 wine carafes, beer pitchers. *Wednesday*, \$.50 wings night. *Thursday*, 3-6pm; 8-10pm: 1/2-off any pizza. *Friday*, \$18 large pizza and pitcher of beer. *Saturday*, \$2 bottled beer of the month. *Sunday*, \$5 domestic beer pitchers.

Humphrey's Backstage Music Club: *Every day*, 5-7pm: 1/2-off all drinks & menu items. Excludes holiday/concert nights.

Paradise Lounge and Grill: *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm: \$2.50 well drinks, domestic bottles, \$6.50 domestic pitchers. 8-9:30am: 1/2-off breakfast. *Saturday*, 3-7pm: \$2.50 well drinks, domestic bottles, \$6.50 domestic pitchers. *Sunday*, all day: \$2.50 well drinks, domestic bottles, \$6.50 domestic pitchers.

Pete's Grill: *Every day*, 4-7pm: \$2.50 Bud drafts, \$3 microbrew drafts, house wines. \$0.99 sliders, \$1.99 fish tacos, \$5.99 for a 1/4-lb. burger, fries, small soda or Bud draft.

Point Loma Sports Grill & Pub: *Monday-Friday*, 4-7pm: 1/2-price appetizers.

Riley's Music Lounge: *Monday*, 4-7pm: \$4 calls. *Tuesday, Sunday*, 4-7pm: \$2.50 pints. *Wednesday*, 4-7pm:

\$4 Jäger bombs. *Thursday*, 4-7pm: \$3 kamikazes, \$4 Jäger bombs. *Friday*, 4-7pm: \$3 calls. *Saturday*, 4-7pm: \$5 Long Island/Long Beach.

POWAY

Kaminski's BBQ & Sports Bar: *Monday, Wednesday-Friday*, 3-6pm; 9-11pm: \$1 off all wells, drafts, bottles & wine. \$5 appetizers.

Phileas Fogg's Bar & Restaurant: *Monday-Friday*, 4-7pm: \$2.50 domestic pints/\$7.95 pitcher, \$3.50 import pints/\$11.95 pitcher. \$2.95 cheese quesadilla, \$3.95 chicken wings, more.

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: *Every day*, 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.

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

Hamilton's Tavern and Café: *Every day*, 5-8pm: \$1 off local drafts.

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 & Mexican 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.

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Milan Modern

Bice (pronounced “BEE-chay”) had been open only five weeks when I ate there, because I didn’t have the patience to wait the standard, tactful three more weeks before trying it — not just because the menu offered so many dishes I wanted to sample, but also because it’s a sophisticated international chain with a chef who has opened several other locations (including Bice Beirut). I figured they wouldn’t need much time polishing up the choreography here. Besides, if the food was a shuck, I could title the review, “Life’s a *bice*, then you diet.” Instead, my posse and I were charmed, delighted, excited, wishing we could come back the next night to delve deeper into the vast choice of authentic Italian artisanal cooking.

Founded as a mom ‘n’ pop restaurant in Milan in 1926, Bice became a local favorite and a half-century later evidently acquired corporate backers, expanding to locations in ultra-competitive New York (1987), plus Beirut, Kansas, Dubai, Los Angeles, etc. (Downtown San Diego even had a prior incarnation back in 1990, until the Paladion Shopping Center, where the restaurant was located, went belly up.)

Even with remarkably moderate prices (here in San Diego, that is — not in NY), Bice more closely resembles chef chains (such as the international empires of Wolfgang Puck, Nobu, Jean-Georges, et al.) than suburban fill-’er-ups. Urbane Italian cuisine mingles past and future with sleek, chic decor, but the cuisine looks lovingly backward to rural foodways. It’s traditional Italian “slow food” — unfussy dishes showcasing seasonal fresh vegetables and full-flavored craftsmanly products, such as arresting local cheeses (and condiments to complement them), cured meats from specially fed pigs, hand-crafted pastas with personality, breads with character. For barely a few dollars more than at our unspeakable mall-Italians, you can enjoy some of those legendary ingredients that celeb chef Mario Batali touts and that generally can’t be found in San Diego at all.



PHOTOGRAPH BY ALAN DECKER

The site is a start-from-scratch former industrial building remade as a restaurant. You enter via a lounge with low white couches for awaiting your party, set near a busy bar with dramatic lighting, which offers a serious bar menu. (Wagyu beef carpaccio, anyone?)

A few steps up, the dining room carries through the Milano-moderno neutral scheme of black, white, and grey, including charcoal carpeting (*grazie!*, we’re so sick of restaurant din). One wall of the dining room is dedicated to a cheese-and-*salumi* bar, a boon to singletons and couples eating casually but well. Choices from this bar (not the booze-bar) are also available at the tables; just ask your server for the menu. The diners mainly ran over the age of, say, 32; the men wore changed-my-shirt business casual; the women were a tad dressy, like back when “eating out” meant putting on something niftier than office clothes.

The bread plate is a class act. It includes large, delicate, golden house-made crackers, house-made focaccia, and Bread & Cie baguette slices and comes with a lush, soft mascarpone cheese blend ringed with balsamic. So we’re already on the

path to glory.

Our server (from Naples) was terrific by nature, by training. Above all, Bice seems dedicated to giving pleasure. When we asked

for the cheese-bar menu, he brought the booze-bar menu, too, and my eyes lit up when I spotted *mozzarella en carozza* (rounds of mozzarella stuffed with anchovy and fried in a light bread-*ing*), a dish I loved in San Francisco but have found rarely down here. Whoops. The bar menu is bar only. But the chef not only made the dish up for us but sent it out “compliments of the house.” (It was quite firm, and I didn’t love it half as much as my favorite melty-goopy version at a

DINING REVIEW

NAOMI WISE

★★★★ Bice (Excellent)

425 Island Street, downtown, 619-239-2423, bicesandiego.com.

HOURS: Open daily, 5:00–10:00 p.m., until 11:00 weekends.

PRICES: Three-course prix fixe including matched wines, numerous choices, \$40, until 6:30 p.m. nightly. (After 6:30, whole table must order prix fixe.) Antipasti, \$8–\$16, cheese-and-*salumi* bar, \$3–\$23; pastas, \$10–\$18; entrées, \$16–\$28; sides, \$5; desserts, \$8.

CUISINE AND BEVERAGES: Authentic Italian food with Milanese slant, including a cheese-and-*salumi* bar with artisan products (items available at tables); fine local produce, house-made pastas, house-baked and local breads. Mainly Italian wine list, wide price range; Italian beers including Moretti. Full bar. Corkage \$20.

PICK HITS: Buffalo mozzarella with *bottarga* (cheese bar) or with prosciutto; burrata mozzarella with Chino Farms peppers (cheese bar); *porchetta* (special, cheese bar); house-made “calamarata” pasta with clams; filet of black cod with pesto and celery-root sauce; panna cotta with almonds and balsamic syrup.

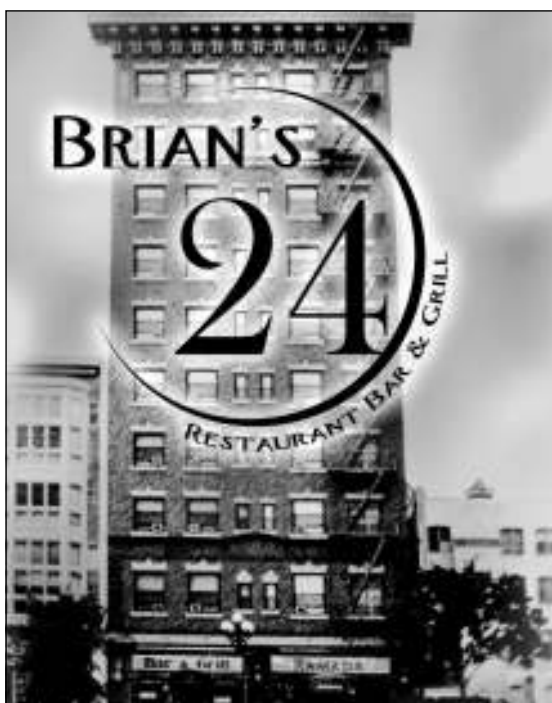
NEED TO KNOW: Valet parking \$15. Reservations a must, near-full house most nights. Cheese/*salumi* bar and regular bar are first-come, first-served. Dining room a short flight up; hidden wheelchair elevator, ask at hostess station. Mostly business-casual dress or a touch snazzier. Loads for lacto-vegetarians. Will be open (earlier hours) Christmas and New Year’s Day; longer hours New Year’s Eve.

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.

neighborhood joint in Noe Valley — I felt like such an ingrate!)

But if you love mild, gooey cheeses, the cheese-bar menu is your passport to Eden. (Also true if



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Calendar RESTAURANTS

you love weird, strong, sheepy cheeses, etc.) I reluctantly passed up mozzarella burrata (the softest and creamiest) garnished with roasted cherry peppers from Chino, in favor of buffalo mozzarella garnished with a waft of tomato confit and a sprinkling of *bottarga* ("poor man's caviar"), dried and salt-cured mullet roe — at last, a chance to try one of those exotic "Mario things"! The sprinkling was so dainty I'm still not sure what *bottarga* tastes like, but it added an indefinable dark note to the ethereal cheese, the touch of earthiness that turned it heavenly. The buffalo cheese is also available on the regular menu with a garnish of imported prosciutto. (I think you already know that buffalo cheese comes from water-buffalo milk and bears no relationship to Buffalo chicken, where the cheese is blue.)

We leaped on the evening's special of *porchetta*, also from the *salumeria* selection, another

adventure in Mario-land: slices of herb-cured, lightly roasted, pink pork shoulder. Oh, was that a hit — so tender, sweet, and interesting!

Along with composed appetizers and bruschetta, the cheese bar also offers tastes of single Italian cheeses or plates of several — your choice, plus condiments (fruit spreads, exotic honeys) to complement them. The cured-meat selection is generous. Next time: I need that "duel" plate pitting prosciutto di Parma against its rival, prosciutto San Daniele. They have "speck," too (separately), so if you're into food scholarship you can add that to your comparisons and finally figure out the taste differences.

Our one regular antipasto choice was a salad of fork-tender octopus, pounded flat, serving as the bottom layer for a heap of sliced fresh fennel in a parsley-and-lemon dressing. Needed something more. I wouldn't send it back but wouldn't order it again, given the wealth of choices. The *contorni* (sides) menu offers some tremendous temptations that

could stand in for starters, like a Belgian endive salad and, somewhere or other, I spotted a dish of tempura-fried cheese-stuffed squash blossom, worth trying if only to see how it rivals Cucina Urbana's rendition. (Bice stands to become Cucina Urbana's main competition, with a similarly flexible menu — worse location, but more genuinely Italian food.)

Bice's management has no problem at all with people eating family-style, like Italians, and that means that even if our foursome had shared just one pasta and one entrée after our antipasti, there'd be no hateful little "split plate" charge. But of course I needed to try as much as possible, so we got two of each and (given the early-morning commutes of several tablemates) opted to have pastas and entrées served at the same time, rather than pastas first, proteins second.

The evening's special of soft, fresh-made fettuccini with a medley of six mushrooms (none of them precious) was simple but fun. But what captured me entirely was a riveting house-made "calamarata" pasta

(thick, hollow, striated shells, shaped like short calamari tubes) with fresh clams in their own shells and squash blossoms sauced with garlic, olive oil, a touch of hot pepper, dry white wine, and the juices exuded by the clams. It's one of those *Ratatouille*-type revelations, a simple peasant dish rising to the fore — fierce with its in-your-face flavors.

Our first entrée choice was black cod, cooked just right to tender, coated with a light pesto and a touch of celery-root purée. It came with a mixture of string beans and diced sautéed potatoes, but the main thing was that this fine, rich fish was shown the respect it deserves in the perfectly timed cooking.

It was the relative "bargain" price that tempted me on the most expensive entrée, beef tenderloin filet (\$28, compared to most local restaurants' high-\$30s for this cut) — that and the garnish of foie gras. There was not all that much foie gras, just a bit of frou-frou on top. The beef was rare as ordered, and the Barolo wine-reduction sauce was pleasing. The prob-

lem is, beef tenderloin is tender but not very flavorful compared to, say, rib-eye or skirt steak. The mashed potatoes alongside tasted buttery but not creamy. The horizontally split roasted head of garlic proved delicious, but what do you spread it on if you've already used up the nightly carb-count on breads and pastas?

We went and consumed more carbs, after all, but they were "worth-it carbs" on exceptional desserts. Pastry chef Francesca Penoncelli rivals our local Jack Fisher (currently at 910 Restaurant) in the trembling tenderness of her panna cotta, a rendition fancied up rewardingly with balsamic reduction sauce, almonds, and fresh basil. (Panna cotta is a sort of gelatinized cream, with any flavoring desired. Done right, it's probably the airiest, most delicate dessert ever invented.) We also enjoyed her special ricotta tart — lean, clean, not too sweet. My espresso, served hot and fresh with dessert as requested, was rich, balanced — perfect.

My fear for Bice is this: Chef Mario Cassineri and sous-chef

Francesca Penoncelli have been traveling together for five years, opening new Bice locations around the world. That is, they're the "opening chefs," with the expertise to get new restaurants off the ground. Then they leave them to other chefs they've presumably trained. Will Bice still be this good in three or six months or a year, after this duo has wafted off to Abu Dhabi?

"I want to come back for another meal to taste some more pastas," said Lynne. "And then come back again for a whole night exploring the cheese-and-*salumi* bar." "I'm with you," said Sam. "I want to try the entire menu at the regular bar," said Jerry. "I want to eat it all," I said.

Our food bill (including the most expensive entrée on the menu) came to \$35 each, for an experience that was all pleasure. Watch out, Cucina Urbana, with your noise and crowds — a new Italian stallion has just galloped into town, with saddlebags packed with the precious homeland goodies we've long heard about and are yearning to taste. ■

Tapas Bar - Restaurant

"Sensational Spanish Cuisine!"

NEWS 8

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NEW YEARS CELEBRATION

3768 Mission Boulevard • Mission Beach

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

Alpine Inn 2225 Alpine Bl., Alpine, 619-445-5172. Beef-lovers heaven, with a juicy special ground-in-house (so rare-cooked is feasible) Texas burger. Crowded week-ends. Moderate to expensive.

Baja

From the United States use the prefix 011-52 when calling Mexico.

Chiki Jai Avenida Revolución #1388, Tijuana, 664-685-4955. The food's Spanish, so paella is big (with soup, salad, French bread, and bleu cheese), but try baby eel appetizers, chorizo (pork sausages), bacalao (cod fish) à la vizcaina, trout with olive oil and garlic. Inexpensive to moderate.

La Escondida Santa Monica #1, Tijuana, 664-681-4458. House specialties at this hidden mansion are more interesting than the regular fare. Try the seafood casserole (cacerola de mariscos); the tambor (a dish of layered beef, cheese, and pork); or the roasted baby Monterrey goat (cabrito tatemado). Moderate.

La Fonda Baja Highway 1, km. 59, Rosarito, 646-155-0307. The bilingual

menu, written on chalkboards, changes nightly, featuring American and Mexican seafood entrées and deluxe meats aged in-house, Baja wines. Great breakfasts, lavish Sunday brunch buffet, blissful patio seating. Inexpensive to moderate.

Original Ortega's Calle Principal (next to Casa de la Langosta), Puerto Nuevo. The spiny lobsters (once local but now from who-knows-where) are fried in lard, finished off on the grill, and served with melted margarine blend, frijoles, rice, tortillas, and salsa. Many other starters, entrées, desserts available. Moderate to high, low-moderate specials.

Los Pelicanos Calle Cedros #115, Rosarito, 661-612-0445. This hotel dining room is El Nido's little sister, with a shorter menu. It serves good steaks and surf 'n' turf in a handsome room and, at lunch, on a pretty ocean-view terrace. Moderate.

Tacos Varios y Aguas Frescas Corner of Constitución and Third, Tijuana. The cart is only here from 6pm to 6am, but from tongue to chicken mole to milanesa, steak ranchero, carne asada, chile relleno, and pescado (fish), they create meals right there. Inexpensive.

Balboa Park

Japanese Tea Pavilion 2215 Pan American Way, Balboa Park, 619-231-0048. The teriyaki bowl with salmon, the sweetish udon soba noodle soup with tofu kitsune, and even the California sandwich piled high with "krab" meat are good and feel Japanese. Inexpensive.

The Prado 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, 619-557-9441. Exquisite setting in the park offers generous portions on a something-for-everyone menu. Top choices: meaty crab cakes, slow-roasted pork loin, banana tres leches cake. Moderate to expensive.

Over 900 more restaurant listings at SanDiegoReader.com



Banker's Hill

Alex's Brown Bag 2550 Fifth Ave., Banker's Hill, 619-231-2912. The re-born Alex's (now in the Mr. A's building) is a deli rightly famous for its Original Philadelphia Cheese Steak Sandwich. Inexpensive.

Avenue 5 2760 Fifth Ave., Banker's Hill, 619-542-0394. Chef-owner Colin MacLaggan offers a short, tasty menu of creative, seasonal, French-influenced California cuisine (and house-made desserts) in a chic, classy-casual neighborhood bistro. Happy-hour bargains at bar; otherwise high-moderate.

Azuki Sushi Lounge 2321 Fifth Ave., Banker's Hill, 619-238-4760. Skillful, creative sushi and sashimi in a convivial atmosphere. Don't miss the spicy Pon Hama (yellowtail sashimi with yuzu juice and chili powder) or the fusion-y RU Kidding Me roll, the owner's favorite. Moderate to expensive.

Cucina Urbana 505 Laurel St., Banker's Hill, 619-239-2222. Uptown food at neighborhood prices. The creative, playful Italian menu emphasizes light, shareable dishes — mini-bites on



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Ages 3-6 \$3.49
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Mon.-Sat. 11 am-4 pm
Free Drink

Lobster Sunday with Buffet
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Fri. and Sat. (Dinner)
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Free entrée
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Kabob Cuisine



\$10 off dinner
Buy 2 entrées and 2 beverages, get \$10 off. One coupon per customer. Not valid on holidays or with any other offers.

1441 Highland Avenue
National City
619-474-3222

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Cafe La Maze



Get 1 free order of steak fries
with purchase of any large Philly Cheese Steak.

312 Ballantyne Street
El Cajon
619-442-2036

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PHILLY STEAK SUBS



One free yogurt
With purchase of yogurt of equal or greater value. Not valid with any other offer.

153 N. Highway 101
Solana Beach
858-345-1451

Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

Desserted Island Yogurt & More



50% off entrée
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6625 Flanders Dr.
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Poway
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3186 Vista Way
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HOOTERS of Oceanside

San Diego Reader December 24, 2009 89

Calendar RESTAURANTS

through appetizers, pizzas, polentas, and interesting pastas and entrées, with adventurous wines priced only \$7 over retail. Lively, comfortable, noisy. Bar grazing until midnight. Moderate.

Joe's New York-Style Deli 3401 First Ave., Banker's Hill, 619-295-7666. Go for wraps, jumbo hot dogs with sauerkraut, or East Coast-generous sandwiches like corned beef, dry Genoa salami, cotto salami, bologna, or liverwurst. That Boar's Head liverwurst is da bomb. Inexpensive.

Borrego Springs

La Casa del Zorro 3845 Yaqui Pass Rd., Borrego Springs, 760-767-5323. The menu offers elaborate seafood appetizers and entrées with subtle sauces, fresh veggies from nearer the coast, and rather mild-flavored, tender meats, evidently chosen to be gentle to the denures of the duffers. Very expensive.



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Carlsbad

Joey's Smokin' B-B-Q 6955 El Camino Real, Carlsbad, 760-929-1396. Also 4645 Carmel Mountain Rd., Carmel Valley, 858-350-1317. It's not Southern so much as SoCal "Q," but the meats are genuinely smoked. Pulled pork offers reasonably credible Memphis-style flavor; ribs come in three versions. Inexpensive to moderate.

Pizza Port 571 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad, 760-720-7007. Also 135 N. Coast Hwy. 101, Solana Beach, 858-481-7332. Pizza Port brews their own beer (try Sharkbite Red) and flings their own pizzas, New York style. Filling combos can be great, like the Pizza Carlsbad or the Pizza Solana. Inexpensive.

Carmel Mountain

Athens Market Café 11640 Carmel Mountain Rd., Carmel Mountain, 858-675-2225. Vickie Pappas (sis of Mary) serves up the Greek classics at this offshoot of Athens Market, with particularly flavorful lamb souvlaki and lamb chops. Inexpensive to moderate.

Carmel Valley

Arterra 11966 El Camino Real, Carmel Valley, 858-369-6032. Local, sustainably raised ingredients in treatments growing bolder over the years, offering treats for both palate and mind. A blithe patio, sushi bar, and happy hour at the booze bar offer more casual (still serious) eats. Expensive-plus.

Chollas View

Thai Garden 110 47th St., Chollas View, 619-527-8890. They do Thai here, but cognoscenti come for the Lao cooking. This place is the town's unofficial Lao Embassy, and the *larb* and fresh-pestled green papaya salad are the real thing. (A great place for buying Lao silks, too.) Inexpensive.

Chula Vista

La Bella Pizza Garden 373 Third Ave., Chula Vista, 619-426-8820. Rustic-looking family-run restaurant offers Italian-American standards, big portions, low prices, late hours. The hit with kids is "Papa's Favorite" eight-inch pizza. Inexpensive.

El Dorado Seafood & Grill 311 Palomar St., Chula Vista, 619-426-4545. Zesty Peruvian dishes include *papa releno* (creamy potato with a lively beef

and raisin filling), *seco de cabrito* (young goat in a complex, herbal stew). Mexican-style seafood served here, too. Inexpensive to moderate.

City Heights

El Borrego Restaurant 4280 El Cajon Bl., City Heights, 619-281-1355. Specializes in fascinating Mexican lamb dishes, including spicy, smoky *mixiote* (lamb cooked inside thin maguey skin) and *pancita*, similar to haggis. Inexpensive.

Red Sea Restaurant 4717 University Ave., City Heights, 619-285-9722. You'll find richly seasoned Ethiopian cuisine served on a porous pancake, *injera*. The *kitfo* (spicy beef tartare) is good, the *gored gored* (meat in spicy butter) is excellent. Vibrant veggies, too. Inexpensive.

Super Cocina 3627 University Ave., City Heights, 619-584-6244. Mexican housewives prepare specialties for the restaurant. They're complex meat or poultry stews made without border compromises. The dozen entrées change daily from a rotating repertory of about 100. Inexpensive.

Tom's Chinese BBQ 4414 University Ave., City Heights, 619-563-8225. The roast ribs, roast pork, and BBQ spare ribs are excellent. So is pork fried rice and the dim sum. But you should also try the pig's rectum, duck's feet, stomach lining, ears, and wiggly small intestines. Inexpensive.

Van Hoa Vietnamese Restaurant 4016 54th St., City Heights, 619-582-2642. They have 20 versions of *pho* — *dac biet* ("special combo") is a good place to start — plus rice and rice vermicelli plates and Vietnamese crepes and spring rolls. Inexpensive.

Clairemont

Boomerangs Gourmet Burger Joint 4577 Clairemont Dr., Clairemont, 858-483-9500. Create-your-burger options include horseradish, artichoke hearts, carrots, cranberries, cheeses, and mushrooms. Chop and tuck these into raw burger meat, like a joey into mama roo's pocket. Inexpensive.

Lightnin' Jack's BBQ 4705-H Clairemont Dr., Clairemont, 858-270-8227. Mall atmosphere, but hickory-fueled Texas-style pit barbecue turns out tender, moist pork ribs and reasonably smoky brisket. Nice fried catfish, too. Hush puppies and sweet potato fries are the tastiest sides. Inexpensive to moderate.

College Area

4.0 Deli 5844 Montezuma Rd., College Area, 619-281-4040. Try the Montezuma, a toasted sub with grilled chicken cutlets, chorizo, Monterey Jack, and a kick-butt Southwestern dressing. Inexpensive.

San Diego Desserts 5987 El Cajon Bl., College Area, 619-287-8186. What was just a wonderful bakery has expanded to include full sit-down lunch, dinner, and Sunday brunches. Comfort dishes like meatloaf and chicken pie, sandwiches, salads. Good wines, wicked desserts, great patio. Inexpensive to moderate.

Woodstock's Pizza 6145 El Cajon Bl., College Area, 619-265-0999. Crusts — white or sweetly robust whole wheat — are pressed, tossed, and folded over at the edge, producing a spongy, crunch-crusted rim. The mozzarella is rich, gooey whole milk; the marinara sauce is dark and spicy. Inexpensive.

Coronado

Bistro d'Asia 1301 Orange Ave., Coronado, 619-437-6677. The relaxing restaurant attached to the hardy Lizard Lounge serves gentled-down dishes from East Asia. Good sushi bar in the Lounge. Moderate.

Crown Room Hotel Del, 1500 Orange Ave., Coronado, 619-435-6611. In this vaulted dining room, presidents, princes and Marilyn Monroe have chowed down. Open only for elaborate Sunday brunch, with cooking not quite up to the visual grandeur. Expensive.

Island Pasta 1202 Orange Ave., Coronado, 619-435-4545. Sidewalk tables, daily made-on-the-premises semolina pasta — and dog-friendly, too, plus a nice wine list. A good vege-

tarian special: *verdure* pasta, with artichoke hearts, spinach, capers, mushrooms, onions, and olives. Inexpensive.

Mexican Village 126 Orange Ave., Coronado, 619-435-3111. Old restaurant revives with new (Mexican) owner. Old Coronadans say the signature burritos (filled with tripe, pork and potato, chorizo and eggs, etc.) match even their gilded Korea- and Vietnam-era memories. Inexpensive to moderate.

Rhinoceros 1166 Orange Ave., Coronado, 619-435-2121. Meat and fish choices are prepared simply with generic veggie accompaniments. Why, then, is Rhino so popular? Pasta is the answer — that's where the kitchen shines. Moderate (pastas) to expensive.

Del Mar

Osteria del Pescatore 1201 Camino del Mar, Del Mar, 858-509-9293. Italian seafood, garden setting. Best are the daily specials, including spaghetti *a cartoccio* (baked in parchment) and lobster risotto. Save room for dessert, especially if offerings include *torta alla nonna*. High-moderate to expensive.

Poseidon 1670 Coast Bl., Del Mar, 858-755-9345. It's all about the glorious seaside view. Lunches run to sandwiches, burgers, and fried seafood. Dinner dishes mingle Pacific Rim-Mediterranean-Mexican flavors, with some emphasis on seafood. Moderate to expensive.

Red Tracton's 550 Via de la Valle, Del Mar, 858-755-6600. Manly retro atmosphere, huge portions. The selection is generous: steaks, prime rib, seafood, chicken, and pork — all expertly prepared and served in record time. Expensive.

Sbicca American Bistro 215 15th St., Del Mar, 858-481-1001. Pristine California cuisine highlights local produce in deluxe, seasonal dishes that engage the mind along with the palate, e.g., a lemon-pistachio cake that changes as you cut it, crumbling into a berry coulis. High-moderate to expensive.

Downtown

Acqua Al 2 322 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-230-0382. Mainly plain Tus-

can cuisine, highlighted by pleasing vegetarian pastas and risottos featuring earthy porcini mushrooms. Moderate (pasta) to expensive.

Bandar Fine Persian Cuisine 825 and 837 Fourth Ave., Downtown, 619-238-0101. Skillful, healthful cooking from an ancient high cuisine. Refined entrées featuring rice with poultry are elaborately garnished; rose-flavored Persian ice cream is a romantic ending. Moderate.

Beach City Market 3 Horton Plaza, Downtown, 619-232-2491. Enjoy soup-and-sandwich deals like minestrone and the Londonport roast beef sandwich flavored with port, white herbs, and spices; or the Deluxe roast beef with horseradish. Inexpensive.

Café Sevilla 555 Fourth Ave., Downtown, 619-233-5979. A loud, convivial tapas bar adjoins a quieter, romantic Spanish restaurant, but you can get tapas in the restaurant and entrées at the bar. At both, the choices are varied, interesting, and cosmopolitan. Great sangria. Moderate.

Café de L'Opera 1354 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-234-0425. Pastry chef Thierry Cahex offers a genuine French feeling and food, in a pâtisserie with exquisite dessert pastries, breakfast croissants, and Gallic lunches like mini-pizzas and *croque monsieurs* (toasted cheese sandwich with ham). Inexpensive.

Candelas 416 Third Ave., Downtown, 619-702-4455. Don't look for tacos here — chef Eduardo Baeza specializes in sophisticated, delectable Mexican haute cuisine made with French techniques. Interesting but expensive wine list; food expensive.

China Too 916 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-239-4283. The menu claims "New York-Style Fine Chinese Cuisine." How about decent Bronx-style eat-in/take-out? Cheap but good fare, including huge lunch specials, made with no MSG, minimal cornstarch. Free delivery to a wide area. Inexpensive.

Downtown Johnny Brown's 1220 Third Ave., Downtown, 619-232-8414. At this Euro-style sidewalk café, try the spicy grilled breast of chicken burger with soup of the day or fries. Soup's bobbing with fresh-cut vegetables. Also salads: taco or Southwest chicken. Inexpensive.

The Field Irish Pub and Restaurant 544 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-232-

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9840. This spirited, colorful saloon, transported whole hog from the Ould Sod, offers Irish music live most nights. Try the herb-rich Irish stew, or the boxty — potato crepes with a variety of fillings (salmon, beef, etc.). Low-moderate.

Greystone 658 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-232-0225. The Italian steak-house fare here centers on Prime beef, game meats, lobster, and pastas. Loud, conventioneer-y ambience. Extremely expensive.

Hub Market & Deli 748 Sixth Ave., Downtown, 619-544-1917. Take-out only, with a hot pastrami sandwich that draws long lines. Breakfast? Try the giant three-egg burrito stuffed with sausages and hash brown patties. Open morning till late night, daily. Inexpensive.

Lou and Mickey's 224 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-232-4900. Fifties-style surf 'n' turf owned by King's Seafood, with fine fish quality, simple fare. Best dishes include New Orleans BBQ shrimp — a buttery, spicy Creole extravaganza (available as starter or entrée) — and the huge, juicy rib-eye Cowboy Steak. Fish moderate, meats expensive.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant Omni Hotel, 675 L St., Downtown, 619-645-6545. Nationwide seafood chain with good, simple, fresh-fish dishes. Awesome weeknight happy-hour offers. Each for under two bucks: steamed mussels, chicken satay, a half-pound burger and fries, California rolls, fish cakes, cheese plate. Regular entrées upper-moderate.

Mister Tiki Mai Tai Lounge 801 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-233-1183. Asian fusion items, elementary sushi, and the occasional sprint into fusion-cuisine seafood are ballast for the real gourmet fare: tropical umbrella drinks. Moderate.

Morton's of Chicago 285 J St., Downtown, 619-696-3369. Swanky, manly Chicago steakhouse offers juicy, marbled grain-fed beef in numerous cuts and sizes, wet-aged and grilled to your specification, or good fish. Pricey à la carte sides. Very expensive.

Oceanaire Seafood Room 400 J St., Downtown, 619-858-2277. The best dishes tend to be the least ambitious, from the "Simply Grilled and Broiled" section. Or you can gamble on more elaborately composed entrées. Great crab cakes. Happy hour at oyster bar moderate, dinner very expensive.

Osetra Watergrill 904 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-239-1800. Las Vegas glitzy decor here. Appetizers tilt Asian, but most entrées are Italianate seafood. The restaurant has switched from the endangered Caspian caviar it's named for to a California-farmed sturgeon product (at the same steep tab). Very expensive.

The Palm 615 J St., Downtown, 619-702-6500. The fare features tender dry-aged and wet-aged USDA Prime beef from the chain's own wholesale butcher and, for high-rollers, monster-sized Nova Scotia lobsters. Also consider shrimp Bruno (with a Dijon sauce), baked crab cakes. Very expensive.

Panda Inn 506 Horton Plaza, Downtown, 619-233-7800. Family-friendly menu offers greaseless dishes to suit all tastes. Tofu with eggplant and the Mongolian Hotpot, a meatball casserole with Chinese cabbage, are among the more authentic choices. Lunches inexpensive, dinners moderate.

RA Sushi 474 Broadway, Downtown, 619-321-0021. Big and splashy, this Arizona-based chain restaurant creates a high-energy atmosphere with loud music and louder decor. The grazing menu features sushi, sashimi, and hosts of Asian-oid appetizers, plus substantial noodle dishes and entrées. Moderate.

Super Jr. Market & Deli 1036 Seventh Ave., Downtown, 619-232-6367. Sandwiches include Boar's Head meat, cheeses, and fixings galore. Hot dishes sold by the pound: pork loin, chicken fa-

jititas, honey ham, turkey, catfish, tilapia — all with two side dishes like rice, veggies, baked potato. Inexpensive.

Taka 555 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-338-0555. Top-quality seafood enlivens exquisite sushi, with rice freshly made all evening and savory appetizers like miso-baked cod and mushroom-topped *agedashi* (lightly fried) tofu. Reserve and go early for quiet. Most dishes inexpensive, but they add up.

East Village

El Vitral Restaurant 815 J St., East Village, 619-236-9420. This huge spiffy room with Petco-facing patio offers creative, deluxe revisions of multi-regional Mexi-classics, backed by an impressive array of house-made *masa* creations. Huge tequila list, multinational wine list. Expensive mains, but better yet are affordable grazes on soups, starters, gourmet tacos.

Gen Lai Sen Hakka Seafood Restaurant 1065 12th Ave., East Village, 619-239-5478. Stick to their Hakka specialties, like the sizzle plate stuffed tofu — deep-fried crisp rectangles with a pork meatball inserted in the tender centers, resembling meat-flavored roasted marshmallows. Mainly inexpensive.

Juice in the Raw 1060 J St., East Village, 619-550-1240. Algae, anyone? This fitness bar serves raw, organic, meal-sized smoothies loaded with stuff like goji berries, almond butter, hemp protein, bee pollen, ground chia seeds, blueberries, plus bars loaded with blue-green algae from Lake Klamath. Just call it antioxidant central.

Sole Luna Café 702 Ash St., East Village, 619-232-0436. Umbrella-strewn terrace is fun. Many items taste straight from Milano, like the breakfast croissant with prosciutto and smoked mozzarella, the Rustico Panino, and the Siciliana salad. Inexpensive to moderate.

El Cajon

Downtown Café 182 E. Main St., El Cajon, 619-440-5687. A Mexican-style patio restaurant serving gringo food. Reasonable prices for baby-back pork ribs, burritos, or Louisiana chicken strips. Or even the veggie burger. Inexpensive to moderate.

Geno's Barbecue 291 W. Main St., El Cajon, 619-444-3667. Try #5, pulled pork and slaw, or #9, shredded beef, melted Jack, and sautéed onions. Sides like dirty rice and cornbread are good, but if you're light of pocket go for the Ripcurl (hot dog). Inexpensive.

Greek Town Buffet 345 W. Main St., El Cajon, 619-441-9708. Have gyros, but also try chicken souvlaki (grilled lemon chicken) or start with excellent dolmades (grape leaves wrapped around beef and rice). Don't skip Greek desserts. Inexpensive.

Encinitas

Jamroc 101 Caribbean Grill 101 N. Coast Hwy. 101, Encinitas, 760-436-3162. Kick back to reggae with a fresh coconut water and the Jamaican sampler, including luscious soft-fried plantains and splendid patties (empanadas to you and me) with a choice of fillings. The jerk's way mild. Inexpensive.

Savory 267 N. El Camino Real, Encinitas, 760-634-5556. Chef-owner Pascal Vignau serves a changing menu of southern French and Mediterranean cooking spotlighting seasonal local produce. Highlights include a rich macaroni-and-ham casserole. Moderate.

Tomiko 87 Encinitas Bl., Encinitas, 760-633-3587. Great sushi, including fabulous *uni*, world-beating silky *tora*.

Appetizers like salmon tower tartare and drunken black cod are rewarding, as are the simple, excellent fusion-tinged seafood entrées. Moderate.

I Trulli Trattoria 830 S. Coast Hwy. 101, Encinitas, 760-943-6800. The signifiers of seriousness are the pink peppercorns, goat cheese, sun-dried tomatoes, and light cream sauces that coexist with the more traditional mozzarella-tomato sauce arrays. Moderate.

Tuscan Sun Italian Deli 1070 N. El Camino Real, Encinitas, 760-633-4546. Domestic and imported meats and cheeses, fresh-baked breads and focaccia, marinated veggies, and gourmet products from Italy. The specialty is the Caprese sandwich on focaccia bread. Inexpensive.

Escondido

Bistro 221 221 E. Grand Ave., Escondido, 760-737-7398. Simple dishes shine at this genteel bistro, like sophisticated lunch quesadillas and dinner appetizers like Florida gumbo and Maryland crab cake. Moderate.

El Galeón 503 W. Mission Ave., Escondido, 760-746-5951. Mexican seafood stars here. Shrimp and langostino ("squat lobster" in fishermen's terms) are house specialties. Consider a marlin taco (squeeze some lime onto this rich, strong fish) or savory *albondigas* soup. Inexpensive to moderate.

Hacienda de Vega 2608 S. Escondido Bl., Escondido, 760-738-9805. In gorgeous surroundings (mansion and garden), Señora Vega offers sophisticated Mexico City cuisine. You'll find interesting appetizers along with entrées featuring complex sauces and a huge bargain-priced Sunday brunch. Inexpensive to moderate.

Fallbrook

El Parque 2659 Reche Rd., Fallbrook, 760-731-2775. Good combination plates include the tostada with beef taco and the burrito with enchilada. Better yet, on Sunday morning, agricultural workers pour in here for menudo, cooked in a three-foot-high pot. Inexpensive.



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Wayside Café 507 South Main Ave., Fallbrook, 760-723-9633. The place used to be a gas station. You can even sit in the old lube bay to eat. Count on generous servings, especially the mountain piles of red-skinned home fries as a side at breakfast. Inexpensive.

Hillcrest

Babbo Grande 1731 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-269-8038. This is becoming your neighborhood drop-in place for Uptowners. Big breakfasts, really cheap-but-plentiful daily lunch specials like beef stroganoff with mushrooms, sour cream, wine sauce. Beautiful, dog-friendly patio out back. Inexpensive.

Baby Back Jack's Barbecue 1290 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-574-1644. Jack's Sampler (four-bone baby back ribs, one half chicken, one portion of BBQ beef, fries, and slaw) is a good intro. Or pork-rib tips or just a Cajun sausage sandwich or one of Jack's chili cheeseburgers with bacon. Inexpensive.

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Calendar

RESTAURANTS

Bread and Cie 350 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-683-9322. Crusty European peasant breads include anise-fig and black-olive loaves. Focaccia pizza and savory sandwiches (many with thick bread and thin fillings) are available to take out or eat on the spot. Inexpensive.

City Delicatessen 555 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-295-2747. Some folk come for the Jewish-American food (chicken-in-the-pot, brisket of beef, chopped liver), others to soak in the art-deco colors until midnight (3am weekends). Inexpensive to moderate.

Ichiban 1449 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-7203. The best values are at lunch, with weekday specials like Bento combos (sushi rolls, crab, salmon, rice) and filling soups overflowing with veggies and thick *udon* noodles. Inexpensive.

Lucky Buck's Patio Bar and Grill 1459 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-297-0660. The only question: which burger? The Buck 'n' Bleu Ribbon Burger (with bleu cheese, bacon, onion strings, and chipotle sauce)? Buck's on Fire (pepper Jack, bacon, and jalapeño peppers)? Buck's Lucky Mushroom? Inexpensive.

Pasha Mediterranean Grill & Café 3614 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-294-4444. Turkish specialties (including grilled beef cubes over eggplant mashed with garlic and yogurt) distinguish this Turkish-Lebanese *halal* restaurant from generic Middle Easterners, with which it shares a menu of kebabs, *shawerma*, salads, et al. Loads for vegans. No alcohol. Moderate.

Picasso Spanish Restaurant 3923 Fourth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-294-3061. Some top Basque tapas here include chicken-stuffed empanadillas, baby eels in garlic sauce, stuffed green lip mussels, and an outstanding paella (available as both a tapa and entrée). Moderate.

Pizza Fusion 3827 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-278-0057. Everything's green and organic at this eco-conscious chain. The pizzas are odd-shaped but tasty, with multigrain oval crusts, plenty of veggies, cheese, and sweet Italian sausage or organic steak. Inexpensive to moderate.

St. Tropez 3805 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-497-0297. Additional locations in Encinitas, Rancho Bernardo, downtown. These bright cafés with indoor-outdoor seating offer scores of yummy house-baked breakfast pastries, desserts, and good coffee, plus Parisian-style *croque monsieur* and *madame*, crepes, quiche, onion soup, sophisticated sandwiches, and panini. Simple French dinners at some branches. Inexpensive.

Terra 3900 Vermont St., Hillcrest, 619-293-7088. Generously sized tapas can serve as appetizers or as a sustaining

bite before venturing into Trader Joe's across the street. The dinner menu changes seasonally, featuring barbecue items during the summer, comforting fare in colder weather. Moderate.

Imperial Beach

Olive Oil Organic Café 600 Palm Ave., Imperial Beach, 619-429-1779. Great vegan sandwiches on ciabatta or focaccia — the eggplant Baby Greens and the Vegan Fusion (imitation smoked turkey and salami, cheese). But the carnivorous sandwiches are also way better than they have to be. Also pizzas, salads, house-made soups. Inexpensive.

The Tin Fish 910 Seacoast Dr., Imperial Beach, 619-628-8414. Also 170 Sixth Ave., Downtown, 619-238-8100 (lunch only). The bill of fare features fish — fried, grilled, chowdered, or wrapped into burritos, tacos, or sandwiches. Great crab cakes. Inexpensive to low-moderate.

Imperial Valley

Owl Café 674 Main St., Imperial Valley, 760-336-0298. This café, over 50 years old, serves rib-sticking food. Try breakfast special #1: pancakes, two eggs, and two bacon strips. For lunch, the French dip sandwich. Full-plate diners include roast beef and chicken-fried steak. Inexpensive.

Kearny Mesa

B & B Deli & Catering 8690 Aero Dr., Kearny Mesa, 858-292-1636. Air-men's Comfort Food Central, offering plate-bursting lunch specials with all the fixin's: roast pork loin, meat loaf, curried chicken, Polish sausage, pepper steak, cabbage rolls. Generous breakfasts, too. Inexpensive.

Dumpling Inn 4619 Convoy St., Kearny Mesa, 858-268-9638. Tiny, plain setting offering authentic northern Chinese and Szechuan dishes. Ten fish and green-chive dumplings, spicy three-ingredient lo mein (with jumbo shrimp, calamari, and chicken) and superb jellyfish salad are challenging and exciting. Inexpensive.

The Philadelphia Sandwich Company 3904 Convoy St., Kearny Mesa, 858-571-0888. The menu centers on Philly's two cult sandwiches: the hoagie and the cheese steak. The mixed-meat hoagie is more flavorful than a mere hero. For cheese steak, try the luscious "everything" with provolone, unless you're a Philly-born purist. Inexpensive.

San Tong Palace 4690 Convoy St., Kearny Mesa, 858-571-6837. Hybrid Korean-Chinese menu draws from

What the Chef Eats

by Pamela Hunt-Cloyd

MOM'S BANANA WALNUT SALAD

BY CHRIS IDSO

Executive Chef, Pacifica Del Mar

One of my biggest accomplishments as a chef has been to use the local food that grows in San Diego. It was a challenge when I first moved here from the Bay Area. It was a culture shock. As far as the food scene, it was just really different. Number one was finding out what was grown here locally. In San Francisco, most of my ingredients came from a 100-mile radius. In San Diego, there were tons of farms, but all the vendors were from L.A. I couldn't understand it. There were great farms all along the I-5 and there were mushroom growers in San Marcos. I thought, *why can't we work with the local vendors?*

But back then the vendors didn't even live in my area. We used seafood out of L.A. Fish was trucked from Mexico through San Diego but I had to go to L.A. to get it. It was ridiculous. So, a few chefs and I really worked to bring the indigenous products to the table. Now I go to Chino Farms and use Brandt Beef. I'm always trying to provide what's sustainable and affordable.

I usually have Sundays and Tuesdays off. Monday is my admin day, and I cook that night at home. I have three boys, aged 16, 13, and 11. They're good eaters. On Mondays I'll do a salmon dinner or fresh seafood at home. We hang

out. My youngest son especially is intrigued by the kitchen. He tells me he wants to be a chef. I practice yoga and go to the beach, too. That's what my life entails.

I work on the holidays. That's what my holiday dinners turn into. One of my favorite dinners is a prime rib I do at Christmas at Pacifica. I do a salt cure on the beef for ten days. It cures it and infuses it with herbs and garlic so I have this steak that's beautifully seasoned throughout. The curing breaks the tissue down so it's got this tender bite.

At home, one of my traditional dishes is a banana walnut salad with



whipped cream, marshmallows, with a vinegar-mustard base. It's incredible, but it's good for a few hours only. It's a family recipe of ours. I finally got the recipe about five years ago. Before that, my mom just handed me the mustard base in a mason jar and wouldn't tell me how to make it. We just passed the mason jar from house to house with her secret sauce in it. It's an addicting salad, and we only make it on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

these regions' tastiest styles. Try the delicious Rainbow Salad and outstanding dumplings, especially the seafood ones. The jellyfish salad is a treat for the adventurous. Inexpensive.

La Jolla

Barbarella 2171 Avenida de la Playa, La Jolla, 858-454-7373. Nestled in an English garden, you can dine indoors or out enjoying house-baked sourdough and a daily changing eclectic menu, cooked with imagination. Outstanding fresh fruit crepes in season. Moderate.

Clay's La Jolla 7955 La Jolla Shores Dr., La Jolla, 858-551-3620. With a penthouse view of La Jolla, chef-owner Clay Bordan cooks up a seasonal California-fusion menu with international flavors, featuring organic vegetables,

wild fish, naturally raised meats and fowl. Expensive.

Come On In 1030B Torrey Pines Rd., La Jolla, 858-551-1063. Suave Euro bistro with tree-shaded patio, serving sophisticated breakfasts and healthy lunches like fruit plates and veggie-mozzarella sandwiches. Inexpensive to moderate; dinners a little more expensive.

George's at the Cove — Ocean Terrace 1250 Prospect St., La Jolla, 858-454-4244. This informal rooftop eatery has the best view of anywhere of the La Jolla Cove, but the food isn't the fine cuisine of the Dining Room downstairs — it's essentially spiffy grazing. Excellent mussels are the sole memorable dish. Skip the owner's "famous" bean soup, a vanity item. High-moderate.

The Marine Room 2000 Spindrift Dr., La Jolla, 858-459-7222. Sea-level ocean view and Chef Bernard Guillas's oceanic culinary inventiveness with

fresh, exotic ingredients make every visit a voyage of discovery. Preparations are so elaborate, each menu listing reads like a whole tasting dinner. Expensive.

Nine-Ten 910 Prospect St., La Jolla, 858-964-5400. Chef Jason Knibb's culinary sophistication is big-city smart, offering adventurous seasonal cuisine emphasizing fresh sustainable or organic ingredients and fresh ideas, with flawless flavor matches. Expensive.

Sante Ristorante 7811 Herschel Ave., La Jolla, 858-454-1315. Fresh seafood specials are available every night. Excellent pasta with mushrooms, ravioli with quail, and lamb chops. Moderate (pastas) 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.

Trattoria Acqua 1298 Prospect St., La Jolla, 858-454-0709. The seasonally changing menu could be called avant-garde Italian, a style that more than pushes the Italian envelope with international influences. Desserts are superb. Moderate (pastas) to very expensive.

La Mesa

Mario's de La Mesa 8425 La Mesa Bl., La Mesa, 619-461-9390. Tasty gringo-Mex food. Tamales are rich, pillowy clouds of cornmeal surrounding richer shredded pork scattered with raisins. Pork also gets loving treatment in the *carnitas rojas*, browned to the barest crisp. Inexpensive.

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What the Chef Eats

INGREDIENTS
SECRET RECIPE
DRESSING

1 cup sugar
3 tbsp. flour
¼ tsp. dry mustard
1 cup vinegar
½ cup water
1 tsp. turmeric powder

SALAD

4 cups heavy whipping cream
6 firm, ripe bananas cut into ½" squares
1 cup walnut pieces
4 cups large marshmallows, quartered

½ cup or more Secret Recipe Dressing

HOW TO DO IT

First make the Secret Recipe Dressing: In a small pot over low heat, combine the sugar, flour, dry mustard, vinegar, and water. Cook, stirring constantly, until the sugar is completely dissolved and the sauce becomes smooth, thick, and clear. Remove from heat and stir in the turmeric. Cool completely and reserve

for later use.

For the salad: Once the dressing has cooled to room temperature, chill a mixing bowl for a few minutes in the refrigerator. Add the whipping cream to the chilled bowl and, using an electric mixer, mix on high speed until the cream forms stiff peaks. Set aside.

In a large bowl, mix together the bananas, walnuts, and marshmal-lows. Fold the freshly

whipped cream with a ½ cup or more of the Secret Recipe Dressing to taste (reserve rest for another time, refrigerated) and then add into the banana mixture. Fold gently together until well com-bined. Serve and enjoy right away, as this salad is best made fresh. (To hold for a few hours, place in refrigerator until ready to serve.) Bon appétit!

To get other recipes from local chefs, go to sreader.com.

The pasta dishes and veggies are even better. Expensive.

Logan Heights

Las Cuatro Milpas 1857 Logan Ave., Logan Heights, 619-234-4460. The Estudillo family has been serving Mexican food here for three genera-tion. Rice, beans, pork tacos (no beef), pork tamales, chorizo with eggs — that’s about it. Breakfast/lunch only. In-expensive.

Tamale Cart 1852 National Ave., Lo-gan Heights, 619-338-9140. The choice of goodies stuffed in the middle can in-clude pork, beef, chicken, cheese, pineapple, strawberries, or coconut. Try the *champurrado* drink: milk mixed with masa, chocolate, and cinnamon. Inexpensive.

Midway District

Brazil by the Bay Restaurant and Sports Bar 3770 Hancock St., Mid-way District, 619-692-1410. Dishes of Bahia, Rio, and São Paulo. You can make a meal of appetizers like *coxinhas*, *paste-les*, *croquetas*, and *kube* (the Brazilian version of Lebanon’s *kibbe*). Moderate.

Mira Mesa

Bamboo Hut 9172 Mira Mesa Bl., Mira Mesa, 858-348-0414. A strip-mall taste of Hawaiian plate lunch and sushi, with outdoor wood-roofed patio. Un-even, but ahi poke, chicken katsu, and Rainbow Roll are good. Inexpensive.

Popeye’s Chicken & Biscuits 9045 Mira Mesa Bl., Mira Mesa, 858-530-1664. Several San Diego locations. Wherever you go, if you find a Popeye’s,

Mission Beach

Café Joie 3231 Mission Bl., Mission Beach, 858-488-5900. A modest café and grocery offers Puerto Rican and Latin American food and groceries. Inexpensive.

Mission Hills

Blue Water Seafood Market and Grill 3667 India St., Mission Hills, 619-497-0914. Delicious simple fish cookery in no-frills eatery, plus a fish counter offering restaurant-quality fresh raw seafood including big, buttery oysters. Inexpensive to low-moderate.

Saffron Noodles and Saté 3737 India St., Mission Hills, 619-574-7737. It’s the smell of the spicy Thai chicken grilling that gets you. Choice of five sauces, from peanut to sweet pepper. Also try delicious, spicy noodle soups, like Tom Yum with shrimp. Inexpensive.

Mission Valley

Bali Thai Café 407 Camino del Rio South, Mission Valley, 619-297-0800. This cute spot mingles chefs and dishes from Indonesia and Thailand. Standard Thai fare, but unique Balinese corn fritters, spicy shrimp, comforting chicken noodle soup. No reservations on week-ends. Low-moderate.

Seau’s 1640 Camino del Rio North, Mission Valley, 619-291-7328. Vast sports bar offers 70 TV screens and var-

Lakeside

The Neighbor’s Pub and Grub 12169 Woodside Ave., Lakeside, 619-561-8890. A neighborhood place beloved by locals serves until midnight (2am weekends). Big portions of sim-ple, filling food, with standard pub grub and daily specials like meat loaf, roast beef, fish ‘n’ chips, pork tender-loin. Inexpensive.

Linda Vista

Andrés Restaurant 1235 Morena Bl., Linda Vista, 619-275-4114. Nice in-troduction to Cuban cuisine, including lush “Cuban sandwiches” of pork, ham and cheese, and *ropa vieja* (“old clothes”) — shredded beef sautéed with mushrooms, peppers, tomatoes. Inex-pensive to moderate.

Sushi Diner 7530 Mesa College Dr., Linda Vista, 858-565-1179. Most places, you can eat good or cheap. Here, you

can eat good *and* cheap. No surprise that students from Mesa College cram in at lunchtime for rolls, bowls, curries. Inexpensive.

Little Italy

The Glass Door Restaurant & Lounge 1835 Columbia St., Little Italy, 619-564-3755. Great bay and city views (especially from roofed balcony tables) draw a lively young crowd that enjoys the loud music and cut-price tasty drinks and grazes during the ex-

tended happy hours. Fun scene, not se-rious cuisine. Happy hour inexpensive, dinners 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 mod-erate, dinner moderate to expensive.

Po Pazzo 1917 India St., Little Italy, 619-238-1917. The USDA Prime steaks are flash-roasted at 1700 degrees, and if they’re a little chewy, they’re also fla-vorful — especially the Sicilian steak.

 <p>50% off burger</p> <p>Buy any burger and get a second burger of equal or lesser value for half off. Valid at San Diego Cheeburger location only.</p> <p>12002 Carmel Mountain Rd. Carmel Valley 858-613-1576</p> <p>Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</p> 	 <p>50% off pizza</p> <p>Buy one pizza and get a second pizza for 50% off.</p> <p>834 Kline St. La Jolla 866-264-0533</p> <p>Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</p> 	 <p>50% off frozen yogurt</p> <p>Buy one frozen yogurt and get one of equal or lesser value 50% off. Toppings not included. No stamp cards.</p> <p>5131 College Ave. College Area 619-286-4200</p> <p>5664 Mission Center Rd. Mission Valley 619-295-9648</p> <p>Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</p> 	 <p>Free entrée</p> <p>With the purchase of any entrée of equal or greater value & 2 beverages. One coupon per table. Dine-in only. Max. value \$10. Not valid with any other offer. Not valid on holidays. Lunch specials not included.</p> <p>3492 Adams Ave. San Diego 619-283-3153</p> <p>Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</p> 
 <p>50% off lunch or dinner</p> <p>Buy one lunch or dinner and get a second of equal or lesser value for half off.</p> <p>309 W. Mission Avenue Escondido 760-480-1348</p> <p>Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</p> 	 <p>Free edamame or miso soup</p> <p>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.</p> <p>7710 Hazard Center Dr. #D Mission Valley 619-295-2080</p> <p>Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</p> 	 <p>Free entrée</p> <p>With purchase of any entrée & two beverages at regular price. Receive 2nd entrée of equal or lesser value free. Up to \$8 value. Dine-in only. Not valid with breakfast specials, discounts, on holidays or with any other offer. One coupon per table.</p> <p>9449 Kearny Mesa Rd. Mira Mesa 858-271-4670</p> <p>Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</p> 	 <p>50% off entrée</p> <p>Buy one entrée and get the 2nd for 50% off. 2nd entrée must be of equal or lesser value. (Dinner only).</p> <p>9910 Mira Mesa Blvd. #A Miramar 858-578-1468</p> <p>Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</p> 
 <p>Free entrée</p> <p>With the purchase of an entrée of equal or greater value and two beverages.</p> <p>391 N. Escondido Blvd. Escondido 866-545-3736</p> <p>Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</p> 	 <p>15% off entire check</p> <p>Excludes catering and alcohol. With coupon. Not valid with any other offer.</p> <p>124 Lomas Santa Fe Dr. Solana Beach 858-481-FISH (3474)</p> <p>Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</p> 	 <p>\$5 off</p> <p>Any purchase of \$20 or more. Excludes beverages.</p> <p>9978 Scripps Ranch Blvd. Scripps Ranch 858-695-8088</p> <p>Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</p> <p>WATAMI SUSHI</p>	 <p>50% off frozen yogurt</p> <p>Buy one, get the second of equal or lesser value at 50% off.</p> <p>16588 Bernardo Ctr. Dr., Ste. 130 Rancho Bernardo 858-673-4204</p> <p>Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR</p> 

Calendar

RESTAURANTS

ied pub grub: pizza, hefty burgers, wings with three sauces, sushi, and Junior Seau's family recipe of Samoan teriyaki "plate lunch." Inexpensive to moderate.

National City

Birrias, Chivos & Cheves 2401 Highland Ave., National City, 619-477-7660. Goat is what you get here, and it's good. Guadalajara style. The taste is rich but not too gamey. Inexpensive.

Dakine's Plate Lunches 1635 Sweetwater Rd., National City, 619-477-8494. Although the Hawaiian-style kalua pig here isn't cooked in a hole in the ground, it tastes like the real thing and comes with an islander platter of cabbage, rice, mac salad, and kimchi. Inexpensive.

Point-Point Joint 916 E. 8th St., National City, 619-474-2866. Dozens of Filipino dishes are available, from the familiar (chicken grilled on a bamboo spit) to more mysterious choices like *kare-kare* (peanut butter sauce with beef and tripe) and *dinuguan* (pork meat and blood stew). Inexpensive.

Normal Heights

Antique Row Café 3002 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, 619-282-9750. Fill up on all-day breakfasts including huge omelets; Philly Steak Heaven (you choose: steak, ham, or turkey) is a popular lunchtime dish. Inexpensive.

North Park

El Comal 3946 Illinois St., North Park, 619-294-8292. Also 262 Third Ave., Chula Vista, 619-420-3811. Home cooking from the mainland (Michoacan, Guerrero, others). Stuffed tortilla dishes (no numbered combos) are appetizers or lunches. For entrées, look to casseroles like tongue in tomatillo sauce, tender goat in a lively red "barbecue" sauce, and sweet-spicy mole poblano chicken. Inexpensive.

Old World Deli & Café 3930 30th St., North Park, 619-238-0568. Fine mittel-European casual food, with house-made sauerkraut the badge of honor. Try the bounteous sausage platter or the Great Grilled Grueben sandwich. Inexpensive.

The Philly Grill 2041 University Ave., North Park, 619-688-9437. This tiny café takes Philly cheese steak seriously: delicious thin slabs of rib-eye steak with "fourteen-ingredient seasoning" plus onions, cheese, optional mushrooms — and garlic. Plus a Philly hoagie and an Atkins Lite Philly (on lettuce). Moderate.

Ocean Beach

The Bar-B-Que House 5025 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach, 619-222-4311. Genuine "Q" of meats and poultry smoked "low and slow" over oak, then charbroiled. Southern-style sandwich (choice of protein plus coleslaw and tangy, spicy sauce) is a good value. Inexpensive.

Kaiserhof 2253 Sunset Cliffs Bl., Ocean Beach, 619-224-0606. Big, convivial German *Bierstube* with all the usual dishes. Good schnitzels, potato pancakes. Avoid entrées with one-sauce-fits-all brown gravy. The excellent apple strudel is the only dessert made in-house. Moderate.

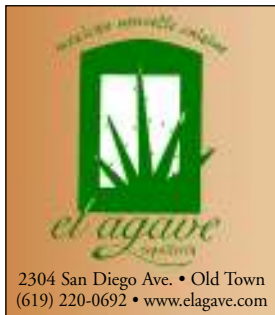
Oceanside

101 Café 631 S. Coast Hwy. 101, Oceanside, 760-722-5220. Cooks have been flipping burgers here since 1928. Try the Original Cheeseburger with secret sauce. Inexpensive.

Johnny Mañanas 308 Mission Ave., Oceanside, 760-721-9999. On the mainly Mexican menu there's a Caribbean chocolate-y, black bean, paprika, curry-in-the-rice thing going on. Pescado Veracruz (fish marinated in lime juice and garlic with rice, beans, and green salad) is good. The roasted chicken is delicious. Inexpensive.

Oceanside Café 1938 S. Coast Hwy. 101, Oceanside, 760-722-7337. This little place does lunch, with good burgers, but breakfast's what a lot of folks come for. Dieter's Downfall — a three-egg omelet stuffed with ham, bacon, sausage, tomato, Jack, and cheddar — is wicked. 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.

Harney Sushi 3964 Harney St., Old Town, 619-295-3272. Also 301 Mission Ave., Oceanside, 760-967-1820. These trendy spots draw mainly under-35 scenesters with a DJ turning up the amps, a vast choice of sakes, and a menu of sushi (heavy on the party rolls), Japanese appetizers, and a few mixed-ethnicity entrées. Sushi lower than most, entrées moderate.

Zócalo Grill 2444 San Diego Ave., Old Town, 619-298-9840. Tropical something for everyone — a stacked salad of shrimp and avocados or coconut-shrimp kebabs emerging from a pineapple or a huge, beautifully grilled lobster with avocado salsa. Moderate.

Pacific Beach



Baleen 1404 Vacation Rd., Pacific Beach, 858-490-6364. The menu features seafood and land creatures in refined renditions, in a room with a water view and monkey-motif decor. Very expensive.

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.

Café Athena 1846 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-274-1140. Sister restaurant, Apollonia Greek Bistro, in UTC. 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.

Costa Brava 1653 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-273-1218. The garlic-rich Spanish cuisine here includes tasty tapas and, among the entrées, a paella that's made to order (sized to serve two or four; call ahead for larger groups). Moderate.

The Fishery 5040 Cass St., Pacific Beach, 858-272-9985. The Fishery's menu is extensive, covering SoCal basics (excellent mahimahi burrito), lunchtime standards (sandwiches, fine malt-dredged fish 'n' chips), sushi, and an ambitious lineup of dinner-time entrées. Moderate to expensive.

Hoboken Pizza & Beer Joint 1459 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-270-7766. They offer thin-crust East Coast-style pizza or inch-thick, square Sicilian pizza. Crusts are airy and crunchy, and they paddle-slide your slice into the oven to finish it off, fresh and hot. Open late. Inexpensive.

Isabel's Cantina 966 Felspar St., Pacific Beach, 858-272-8400. Cheerful spin-off of Mission Café serves Latin-Asian-sorta health food. Breakfast and lunch are the main meals and include luscious scrambled eggs, huge sandwiches. Competent Latin-style dishes include tamales with airy masa. Inexpensive to low-moderate.

The Surfside 4527 Mission Bl., Pacific Beach, 858-273-2979. You'll find fresh sushi, sashimi, and California coastal cuisine, e.g., fusion-y tapas, many going for half-price during week-

night happy hours. Sushi bar with friendly chefs takes reservations. Inexpensive to low-moderate.

Point Loma

C-Level 880 Harbor Island Dr., Point Loma, 619-298-6802. The name is the grade for food, but nice for visiting aunts, with scenic heated patio at water's edge and California-Mediterranean comfort food from chef Deborah Scott in laid-back mode, lovely for a sunshiny lunch. Moderate to expensive.

Humphrey's by the Bay 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Point Loma, 619-224-3577. The kitchen features seafood, juicy meats, and Prime steaks with seasonal veggie garnishes. Preshow prix fixe upper-moderate, à la carte expensive/very expensive.

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. Low-moderate.

Roseville 1125 Rosecrans St., Point Loma, 619-450-6800. Chef Amy DiBiase invokes French classics but with twists and local produce, e.g., asparagus subbing for frisée in a bistrot salad with pancetta and egg or flawless duck confit that's France's answer to Peking duck. Expensive.

Solare Ristorante Lounge 2820 Roosevelt Rd., NTC Promenade, Point Loma, 619-270-9670. Northern Italian

**50% off pizza**
Buy one pizza and get a second of equal or lesser value for half off. Valid only at Poway location.

13332 Poway Rd.
Poway
858-679-FAST (3278)

Bongiorno's
New York
Pizzeria

Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

**\$2 off entrée**
With the purchase of one entrée and one drink at regular price. Limit 4 per coupon. One coupon per table. No separate checks. Not valid on weekends, holidays, private parties, or with any other offer.

355 6th Avenue
Downtown San Diego
619-338-9655

Broken Yolk

Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

**Buy two, get one free sushi roll**
Anytime!

12245 Poway Rd.
Poway
858-391-3080

Izumi
Izumi Sushi • Grill • Salad

Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

**Two 14" large pizzas \$20.99**
Two toppings on each pizza. Delivery special. Additional toppings \$1.25 each per pizza. With coupon only.

11255 Camino Ruiz
Mira Mesa
858-566-9666

3715 India Street
San Diego
619-692-1169

12812 Rancho Penasquitos Blvd.
Rancho Penasquitos
858-538-6868

Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

**Buy 2 rolls, get one free!**
From 2-6 pm daily. Free roll of equal or lesser value.

16405 Bernardo Center Dr.
San Diego
858-613-9000

Red Sushi

Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

**50% off Nigiri & Sushi rolls**
23 Nigiri and 36 sushi rolls to choose from!

9869 Carmel Mountain Rd.
San Diego
858-484-5300

SUSHIHANA

Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

**\$1 off buffet**
Limit one per customer.

9187 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
San Diego
858-874-3663

Village Indian Cuisine

Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

**Free pizza or large salad**
Free Z10 pizza or large salad with purchase of any extra-large specialty pizza Z18.

11975 Carmel Mountain Rd.
Carmel Mountain
858-675-9300

zpizza

Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

**Free special roll**
Buy one special roll and get a second of equal or lesser value free.

7905 Engineer Rd.
Kearny Mesa
858-634-3233

Convey Sushi & Fish Market

Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

**Free pizza**
Buy one large specialty pizza, get a free cheese pizza any size.

425 S. Melrose Dr.
Vista
760-295-3851

Dave's

Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

**Free menu item**
With the purchase of a lunch or dinner plate & two beverages.

1061 W. El Norte Pkwy
Escondido
760-480-5662

Pita King
authentic, fresh, and healthy

Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

**Free entrée**
Buy one breakfast, lunch or dinner and get a second of equal or lesser value free.

1466 Garnet Ave.
Pacific Beach
858-270-4030

RT's Longboard Grill

Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

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 expensive.

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, free-range 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

Bernard'O Restaurant 12457 Rancho Bernardo Rd., Rancho Bernardo, 858-487-7171. Brilliant modern takes on French classics. You want to know what genuine (California-adapted) bouillabaisse should be? Or squab at its best? This is the place — and desserts are ravishing, too. Expensive but not exorbitant.

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 includes 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

Cavaillon 14701 Via Bettona, Rancho Santa Fe, 858-433-0483. A great neighborhood French bistro where Philippe Verpiand offers seasonal dishes emphasizing his home region, Provence. Don't miss *panisse*, a chickpea cake with marshmallow texture. Great coq au vin, slow-baked salmon, crisp-skinned duck confit. Moderate to very expensive.

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 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. 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 Hwy. 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 delicacies expensive.

Pacific Coast Grill 437 S. Coast Hwy. 101, Solana Beach, 858-794-4632. A free-form menu integrates Mexican, Hawaiian, and Asian flavors into SoCal comfort cooking. Try the Bag of Bones (house-smoked pork ribs) and any fruit creation for dessert. Moderate to expensive.

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 *teppan* room. Mostly moderate; *kaiseki* and some *teppan* items 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 here, and the (real) crab quesadilla is delicious. Inexpensive.

Zinc Café & Market 132 S. Cedros Ave., Solana Beach, 858-793-5436. Veg-

etarian 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

Karl Strauss Brewing Company 9675 Scranton Rd., Sorrento Valley, 858-587-2739. Additional locations in La Jolla, Carlsbad, and Downtown. Go for honest-but-beautiful dishes like the mountainous Hump Day meat loaf (Wednesday). Beer influence is everywhere. Filet mignon has an Amber Lager glaze. Ribs boast a Red Trolley Ale barbecue sauce. It can get pricey; try to hit happy hour. Moderate.

WineSellar and Brasserie 9550 Waples St., Sorrento Valley, 858-450-9557. Luxurious modern French cooking, upscale but comfortable, with vast wine list at minimal markups from wine store downstairs. Lunches high-moderate, dinners very expensive.

South Park

Alchemy 1503 30th St., South Park, 619-255-0616. Arty décor and playful international grazing plates and seasonal entrées make eating fun. Cooking and service are adept. But with no reservations for small parties and noise-amplifying architecture, eat early on weeknights to avoid waits and din at this neighborhood favorite. Moderate.

Tierrasanta

Andiamo! Ristorante Italiano 5960 Santo Rd., Tierrasanta, 858-277-

3501. This is right up where Tierrasanta meets Miramar, but it's worth the trip for — seriously — the bread. Rosemary focaccia with additive tomato basil dip. Also butternut squash soup, lasagnas, and prosciutto and fig pizzas. Live music on patio Saturdays. Inexpensive.

University City

Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar 8970 University Center Lane, University City, 858-535-0078. Also 380 K St., Downtown, 619-237-1155. Less-masculine atmosphere than many steakhouses, but wet-aged Prime steaks are still the main event. Great wine list. Very expensive.

University Heights

Adams Avenue Grill 2201 Adams Ave., University Heights, 619-298-8440. Eclectic, ever-changing menu can be hit or miss, but soups are good, and lavender-infused crème brûlée makes an aromatic dessert. Inexpensive to moderate.

Gulf Coast Grill 4130 Park Bl., University Heights, 619-295-2244. The kitchen does best with the straight Southern dishes, turning out divine fried soft-shelled crabs, airy hush puppies, and delicious corn muffins. Cajun-Creole efforts are uneven. Moderate to slightly expensive.

Park Boulevard Cafe 4646 Park Bl., University Heights, 619-298-5248. The menu offers authentic Iraqi dishes plus echoes of Vietnam and Italy. Try Vietnamese-style coconut milk soup or lamb shank with red curry sauce and couscous. Open until late except Mondays. Inexpensive.



\$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 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR



Nothing Bundt Cakes



\$5 off

any purchase of \$20 or more.
Not valid on holidays or weekends.
Cannot be combined with any other offer.

5270 Baltimore Dr.
La Mesa
619-460-4423
THE OMELETTE FACTORY

Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

The Omelette Factory



\$5 off

Any check over \$25.
Not valid with any other offer.
One coupon per table.

6390 El Cajon Blvd.
College Area
619-287-6858

3750 John J. Montgomery Dr.
San Diego
858-292-4716
Casa Machado
MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

Casa Machado Mexican Restaurant




50% off yogurt

Buy one, get 50% off the 2nd cup.
2nd must be equal or less than 1st cup.

12010 Scripps Summit Dr., Ste. B
Scripps Ranch
858-549-9205
Yogurt Heaven

Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR




Free entrée

With the purchase of one entrée and two beverages.
One coupon per table. Not valid with any other offers.

3860 Valley Centre Dr.
Carmel Valley
858-792-1111

423 F St.
Downtown/Gaslamp
619-234-8000

Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR



Star of India



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
619-280-4048
Jade
Thai Cuisine

Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

Jade Thai Cuisine



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
760-436-3081

Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR



La Bonne Bouffe



1 free order of breadsticks

(\$2.99 value.) When you buy 3 or more pizzas.

9430 Mira Mesa Blvd., Ste. 5C
Mira Mesa
866-820-4949
PIZZA DEPOT

Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR



Buy one frozen yogurt, get one free

Not valid with any other offer.

1231 Camino Del Mar
Del Mar
858-720-1168
Seaside
Yogurt

Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR



\$1 off buffet

Limit one per customer.

9254 Scranton Rd., Ste. 102
San Diego
858-458-2858
SHER PUNJAB
INDIAN CUISINE

Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

Sher Punjab Indian Cuisine



50% off any breakfast or lunch entrée

Purchase one entrée and two beverages at regular price and receive a second entrée of equal or lesser value at 50% off. Limit 1 coupon per table. No separate checks. Not valid on weekends or holidays or with any other coupons, specials, offers or with private groups.

7947 Balboa Avenue
San Diego
858-565-4244
Honey's
CAFE

Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR



One free entrée

With purchase of an entrée of equal or greater value and two beverages. Dine-in only. Not valid with any other offer.

149 S. El Camino Real
Encinitas
760-635-9020
THE BULLPEN
BAR & GRILL

Expires 12.31.09 • Coupon code: G1FSDR



The Bullpen Bar & Grill

Calendar THEATER

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given us.

WELK RESORT THEATRE
All-new 2010 shows
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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 THURSDAY, 6:30PM FRIDAY, 6:30PM SATURDAY, 6:30PM SUNDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 27.

A Christmas Carol

Jonathan McMurtry playing Ebenezer Scrooge has become a holiday tradition in itself. I've seen several, and his current version at North Coast Rep ranks among my

\$15 student rush tickets

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A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Only at the NCR box office day of show beginning at noon.

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Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

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 warplings, are first-rate.

Worth a try.

NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. 8PM THURSDAY, 8PM FRIDAY, 8PM SATURDAY, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 27.

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 THURSDAY; 7PM FRIDAY; 11AM, 2PM, AND 8PM SATURDAY; 11AM, 2PM, AND 5PM SUNDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 27.

Hansel and Gretel

Lyric Opera San Diego presents Engelbert Humperdinck's musical, based on the children's fairy tale. LYRIC OPERA SAN DIEGO, 2891 UNIVERSITY AVE., SUITE 1, NORTH PARK. 619-239-8836. 2:30PM SUNDAYS, OPEN-ENDED RUN.

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, and how it's being made disappears. Along the way, the show's a treat, especially Scott Paulson's ingenious sounds, made from unlikely objects, and Tom Andrew's Craig Noel Award-winning performance as George.

Worth a try.

CYGNET THEATRE — OLD TOWN, 4040 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. 7:30PM THURSDAY, 8PM FRIDAY, 3PM AND 8PM SATURDAY, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAY, 7:30PM WEDNESDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 31.

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 Jon Lorenz, Taran Gray, 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 ORANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-437-0600. 7:30PM THURSDAY, 8PM FRIDAY, 4PM AND 8PM SATURDAY, 2PM AND 6PM SUNDAY, 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 INDIA 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 otherwise 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 "non-traditional" 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 leopard-spotted final tableau.

Worth a try.

DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BLVD., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-220-0097. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH JANUARY 2.

Shen Yun

The highly praised classical Chinese dance troupe comes to San Diego with dancers, singers, and musicians and performs routines from classical processions to ethnic and folk dances. SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE, 1100 THIRD AVE., DOWNTOWN. 619-570-1100. 7PM SATURDAY, 1:30PM AND 7PM SUNDAY, 7PM MONDAY, 7PM TUESDAY, 7PM WEDNESDAY.



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STRINGERS

continued from page 10

lost to the trolley while doing a superman leap across the tracks.

They had to use massive airbags to lift the trolley off of him.

Fortunately, all he lost was a foot.

By a2zresource
12:48 p.m., Dec 19

Dogfight

Off-Leash Hours
Contested

Encinitas — On December 13, Steve Meiche lodged a formal complaint

against Encinitas city manager Phil Cotton and director of Parks and Recreation Chris Hazeltine. Meiche picked up the scent last November, when city councilmembers debated whether to extend the off-leash dog hours at six of the city's parks after more than 20 residents were handed hefty \$445 fines for having their dogs roam free during on-leash hours.

For years, dog owners have taken the leads off their pups three days a

week, from 6 to 7:30 a.m. and then again from 4 to 6 p.m. During the November council meeting, city staff proposed extending the hours from 6 to 9 a.m. and 3 to 8 p.m. as well as opening the park on Sundays.

At that November meeting, councilmembers continued the issue until further studies were conducted and until local stakeholders signed off on the expansion of hours.

According to Meiche, a nearby resident of

Orpheus Park, that is when city administrators began misleading the city council by stating all the stakeholders in the area had given the command to extend the hours. As stated in his complaint, city officials never interviewed property owners, nor did they interview homeowners associations surrounding Orpheus, Viewpoint, and Sun Vista parks.

Meiche says that extending the hours at Orpheus Park puts the neighborhood kids,

including his own, at risk of running into a rabid hound while on their way to Paul Ecke Central School. The same goes for kids traipsing through Sun Vista Park on their way to Olivenhain Pioneer School.

By Dorian Hargrove, 12/19

Prop the Arts

Loan Forgiven, Hope
for New Model

Escondido — At a December 16 meeting, the city council voted to write off a \$530,731 loan given to the California Center for

the Arts Foundation in 2001.

"[I]f we haven't been paid back by now," said councilman Dick Daniels, "we probably aren't going to be paid back in the foreseeable ten years."

Marie Waldron said she didn't support the write-off because she was against giving the loan in 2001. However, she does support the new management model that was recently implemented for the center.

The California Center for the Arts, which cost tax-



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STRINGERS

payers \$81 million, has lost money in 13 of its 15 years. The initial plan was for the city to help pay for annual operating costs until the center became self-sufficient. Due to low ticket sales and budget deficits, that goal hasn't been reached.

By Mindy Vasant, 12/18

Explosion on Midway?

Déjà Vu HQ and Blow Out Video

Point Loma — "Late Sunday night, I was sleep-

ing in my car beside the liquor store when I heard a loud explosion," said Steward Marshall, who moved to San Diego to attend college. "I was still kind of asleep, so I thought it was an accident on Midway Drive or something. But pretty soon a fire was blazing at the building next door."

The two-story office building at 3026 Midway Drive — where a fire started at around 9 p.m. on December 13 — was almost destroyed, but no one was hurt. A Déjà

Vu strip club office and Blow Out Video occupied the building. Midway Mine and Spirits, the liquor store next door, barely escaped the blaze. Midway Drive was closed off to traffic until late Monday.

By Noel Gallego, 12/18

Don't Truck It — Pipe It

Existing SDG&E Lines Will Work

Point Loma — District 2 San Diego councilmember Kevin Faulconer and Mayor Jerry Sanders announced

on December 15 a new recycling program — the first of its kind in California — for a more environmentally safe method of transporting methane gas from Point Loma's wastewater treatment plant.

Last week, on December 8, the San Diego City Council unanimously adopted a plan that called for the recycling of the methane. The big change in the plan was the method of how the gas would be transferred — from using trucks to using pipelines.

(Several Point Loma residents had voiced their concerns regarding the safety of the trucks.) The program will use existing SDG&E fuel lines to transport the methane, and the gas will be recycled and used.

Two local sites — UCSD and the South Bay Water Reclamation Plant — will receive the gas. The project is set to begin in 2011.

By Nathaniel Uy, 12/18

Pills and Eggs

Oxycontin at a Denny's Table

Downtown San Diego — A person was reported for using narcotics at a table at the Denny's restaurant in the 2100 block of Pacific Highway at about 3:50 a.m. on Tuesday, December 15.

An SDPD dispatcher told responding police units that a suspect offered to sell a patron Oxycontin and then began using the pills at a table. The subject was described as a white male in his 30s, 5 feet 4 inches tall, wearing a black cap and dressed

continued on page 104

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continued from page 103
in all-black clothing.

By Steve Horvath, 12/17

Surfer, Actor, Purveyor of Weed Dispensary Owner Is All (Nonprofit) Business
Pacific Beach — I was walking through Pacific Beach on December 15 at about 6 p.m. and stopped to admire an enormous painting on a brick wall at 1421 Garnet Avenue when a

voice called out to me, "Hey, hi, come on in." I craned my neck to take a look at signage near the entryway: "Agape Collective — Marijuana Medicine."

I met the collective's owner, 30-year-old Walden Keyes, a competitive surfer, aspiring actor, and entrepreneur. Keyes's two-week-old collective services approximately 63 patients and is equipped with cloning stations and

a counter lined with at least a dozen jars of strains of pot.

"Strains change daily, and payment is on a donation basis," said Keyes, adding, "Our patients get a free joint with every visit."

Keyes, a Mission Bay High School graduate, shared that he had been raised by hippies and although he stated he doesn't smoke the stuff, he has seen it affect oth-

ers in a positive way...one of those being his 80-year-old father.

"Going to my parents' house, I swear it's like seeing Cheech and Chong."

By Carolyn Grace Matteo, 12/17

Good Driver Wanted Hit and Run on Sixth Balboa Park — At about 9:45 p.m. on Sunday, December 13, a driver speeding down Sixth Avenue lost control of his car after taking a sharp

turn onto Palm Street. The errant driver's car hit and smashed a parked car and then an SUV parked on opposite sides of the street.

A homeless man resting nearby saw the car back up and speed away, spewing smoke and perhaps steam. He said he thought the car was a black Jetta. He said he didn't dare approach the people inside because they were "suspicious-

looking" and that some of the occupants jumped out of the car and ran away after the accident.

By Sheila Pell, 12/16

Tow-Tow-Tow, Merry Christmas
40 Cars Hauled from Oregon Street North Park — "I was not illegally parked. I urge you to explore not my unjust treatment, but the Mafia-like collusion of tow companies and the



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City of San Diego; \$15,000 for a few hours of work smells fishy to me," wrote one North Park resident to media outlets in regards to a Saturday, December 5, mass towing operation for the North Park Toyland Parade. On that day, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. approximately 40 cars were hauled away from Oregon Street to a tow yard

owned and operated by JC Towing.

Most residents say that no signs were visible on Oregon Street, while others say the sole "No Parking" sign that was posted in front of an apartment building at 3930 Oregon, on a three-foot-tall A-frame makeshift sign, indicated that it was Idaho Street — not Oregon Street — that

was off limits to parking.

When residents returned to their empty parking place, traffic cops directed them to the JC Towing yard. Once there, some waited as long as five hours to retrieve their vehicles, while accumulating hourly impound fees. After tow fees, parking tickets, processing, and impound fees were tallied, some residents

had to pay nearly \$500.

"It seems tow companies sort of make up charges as they go along. JC Towing made over \$15,000 from this little haul, which they kick back some to San Diego," wrote one resident.

By Dorian Hargrove, 12/15

Comments

1. "For some people, this

means no extra money for Christmas...."

For people living in the Memorial area, towing is a daily occurrence and for the people whose cars they tow, it is not a question of extra money at Christmas. It is a matter of rent, food, milk for the baby, medicine for the grandmother, forget sending

money to the family back home.

I have argued for a long time now that towing is a back door tax.

*By CuddleFish
1:29 p.m., Dec 17*

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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.



Chantale Ellis
Registered Nurse
La Mesa

It would have to be my age. Nobody ever guesses that correctly. I'm 41 years old. People sometimes make a guess that's around 28. Some people will guess 30. And if I go to a bar or club, I'm usually carded.



Paula Sylvia
Fish Farmer
Rancho Peñasquitos

I guess it would be that I'm a fish farmer. Maybe I don't look like one. You can often tell the people that look like they work on water. The three keys to fish farming are growing, quality, and protein. There was no degree required to do this, even though I have one in marine biology. I have hundreds of thousands of fish, but I don't have an aquarium at home. I don't want to be responsible for any fish lives when I'm not working.



Mark Amas
Plumbing Manager
Rancho Peñasquitos

Wouldn't everyone have an answer for this? How would people be able to guess things about them? It might be that I saw Sly and the Family Stone when I was eight. I was in the front row at the Sports Arena and almost crushed when fans ran up. My dad was their tour manager. I saw Paul McCartney recording in a studio. And, I climbed Mount Whitney. It's 14,500 feet, and I did it on a whim with a few friends. I wanted to quit those last three miles and saw people on the trail that did. It took me 18 hours.



Ted Kennedy
Bodyguard
Linda Vista

I'm a black belt. I learned martial arts as a kid. Also, when I was ten, in New Mexico, I almost drowned. I was trying to keep up with my older brother and went into the deep end of a pool and sank to the bottom. I woke up on the locker-room floor. I was gasping for air and spitting up blood. Also, in a Third World country at an airport, I was involved in a shootout. I was heavily armed, and it was a private jet. I've had a lot of gunfire in my life, but during this rebellion, I felt a bullet hit my left thigh. And I was hit on the back of the head. I woke up in a hospital. I was out for two days, and I had been stabbed twice. I have the scars to prove it.



Jerry Clemmons
Electrician
Ramona

I wish a few of my friends were here to answer this. One plays professional baseball. He's so tiny, nobody ever believes that. And I have another friend that did prison time. He's so nice that nobody can believe he served a few years. My answer is a lot less exciting. Nobody would guess that I'm an expert Ping Pong player. I'm the Tiger Woods of the sport. Oh, wait...maybe I should rephrase that.



Tony Ito
Computer Repairs
Carmel Valley

It would be more fun for me to answer what people think they know about me. They think I know karate. They think I'm related to Judge Ito. They think I'm good at math or helping them with their computers. Well, okay. I can actually help them with their computers. That's the only thing they ever get right. People are often correct in guessing that I speak another language, but they rarely believe me when I tell them I can speak six languages fluently.

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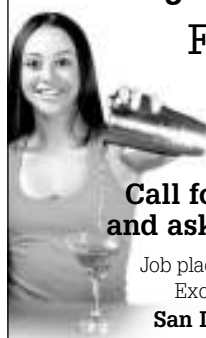
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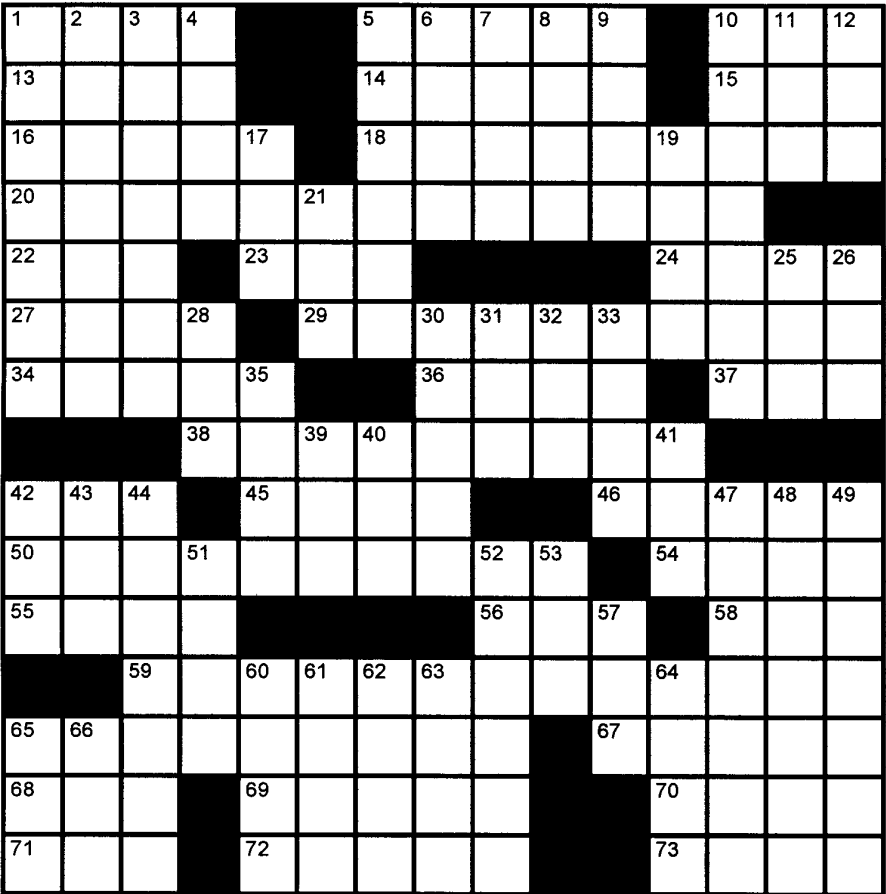
- In a 1991 hit, he sings "But we're never gonna survive unless we get a little 72-Across"
- Motif
- Suffix for many a computer attachment
- "____ deal!"
- Wore
- Piglet's pal

- "____ I can help it!"
- Band with the 2000 tune "Wonderful"
- In a 2006 hit, they sing "Well I think you're 72-Across"
- Weeks in an annus
- Gambler's inits.
- "Monday Night Football" channel
- TV's "My Name Is ____"
- In a 2001 hit, they sing "I'm going 72-Across"
- Vile smile
- Ancient Greek walkway
- "Enemy of the State" org.
- In a 1994 hit, they sing "I go 72-Across"
- "Washboard" muscles
- Paltry
- Suffer a loss, slangily
- In a 1961 hit, she sings "I'm 72-Across for loving you"
- Ear part
- Spoiled kid
- Capp and Capone
- Arthur of "The Golden Girls"
- In a 1999 hit, she sings "You drive me 72-Across"
- George Washington University athletes
- Computer text format
- Suffix with percent
- Crayola color since 1958
- Open ____ of worms
- Commercials
- Title word of many pop hits
- Pop hit, e.g.

Down

- Ones
- George Orwell, as a schoolboy
- "Top Hat" star
- Hideout
- "Fawlty Towers" network
- "____ Nagila"
- German river

- TV alien first seen on "Happy Days"
- Business letter abbr.
- Victimizes
- ____ double take
- How the pros vote
- "Kiss my grits" lady
- "12 Angry Men" actor ____ Cobb
- NYSE buy
- Nightwear, briefly
- "____ la guerra!": antiwar chant
- Grassland
- Immigrant from Japan
- A person who's short might run to it
- "There's ____ in 'team'"
- Appointment
- "Ratatouille" rat chef
- Kind of room or hall
- Where the Magic play: Abbr.
- "I'm sorry, Dave" speaker of film
- "Calling all cars" letters
- It's jumped on a high jump
- Sties : hogs :: ____ : horses
- Powerful Washington lobby
- Spaniard, e.g.
- Just kidding
- Houston baseballer, to fans
- Deny
- Dallas center?
- Health resort
- Etched: Abbr.
- Stadium level
- Wine lover's destination
- QEII part
- Spaniard's "those" org.
- "The Bourne Identity"
- Archaic



We cannot accept your entry without the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Neighborhood/City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Circle T-shirt size: L XL

Personal Message: _____

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:



THIS WEEK'S CONTENDERS:

☛ indicates T-shirt winner.

Sheila Agahan-Price, Oceanside, 12. Merry Christmas to my family
Woody Anderson, Carmel Valley, 12. Little Miss Kris- sorry your'e born so close to Christmas
Evelyn Bowser, Hillcrest, 12. Welcome Eric to San Diego
Joseph Ciprian, Little Italy, 12. Nobody understands me, except my bartender
Betsy Cory, Chula Vista, 12. This is my twelfth correct puzzle
William Cushing, Rancho Bernardo, 12. Let nothing you dismay
Ellie Hoey, Spring Valley, 12. I love New York

☛ **Ron Meyer, Santee, 12.** Merry Christmas everyone!
☛ **Douglas Meyers, La Mesa, 12.** I bet a sure thing but I made a mistake
Jim Odell, Vista, 12. Are we into the greatest depression?
Michael Panther, Point Loma, 12. Beware of weasel
Janie Redmond, Cardiff, 12. Good luck, Michaela, soccer all stars
Jerry Riccio, Rancho Bernardo, 12. Thank you Santa for the t-shirt — Merry Christmas everyone
Thelma Strickland-Hicks, Del Mar, 12. Elizabeth, thanks for helping mom. You're the best!

Glenn A. Walker, Pacific Beach, 12. Trust cannot grow in the same garden as secrets
Ric Witt, Clairemont, 12. No water for lawns plenty for new condos!
Mary Arana, Encinitas, 11. What happened to my Dec. 3 entry? Peace
☛ **Thomas Baggot, Carlsbad, 11.** Chargers can beat the Bengals!
Leslie Chase, Campo, 11. Happy holidays to all!
Craig Curtis, Escondido, 11. Happy holidays Reader readers and puzzlers! I love you Rosie!!!
D. Faulkner, University Heights, 11. Prevent potholes, ride your bike
☛ **Ron Hootman, Santee, 11.** Hoot 101, My Reader surfer T is wearing out. (hint hint)

Michael McGriffin, Bay Park, 11. Term limits for U.S. Congress!
Susan Morfey, Little Italy, 11. To tell the truth, I really really love Christmas lights!
Lisa Overton, Spring Valley, 11. What happened last week?
P. Drew Papas, La Jolla, 11. Being good for Santa baby
John Pertle, Santee, 11. Luke 1:26-37,2:1-20; Hebrews 10:5-10; John 3:16-19.
Bill Pischke, Ramona, 11. Happy holidays to all!
Eric Sandquist, Allied Gardens, 11. My correct entry last week wasn't counted
☛ **Ted Scafidi, Hillcrest, 11.** Obama: The seal of the presidents
Tom Seaman, Alpine, 11. I know you're there, I hear you caring

Bob Vollmar, La Jolla, 11. Everyone was supposed to be two words
Eric Cash, Escondido, 10. Eavan told her daddy to pay attention this time
Glen and Tesi Chavira-Courmoyer, Chula Vista, 10. Merry Christmas
Jon Connor, Oceanside, 10. The bunk is strictly suit and tie
Dale Duffala, La Jolla, 10. Merry Xmas everyone! Luve you, Carol!
Harry Engel, La Jolla, 10. Please don't lose this one
Iggie Guerrero, Bay Ho, 10. Happy Birthday big Glenn
Thomas McVeagh, Lakeside, 10. Merry Christmas to all!
Marge Nelson, El Cajon, 10. Thanks for the t-shirt

Matthew Rosello, San Diego, 10. It is gone
Clinton Smith, La Mesa, 10. Merry Christmas, and remember whose birthday we celebrate
Tom Somich, Clairemont, 10. Merry Christmas to all!
Carly Stone, San Diego, 10. Bring our troops home
David Tomasin, San Diego, 10. Al's getting hot flashes
Ron Akers, Sabre Springs, 9. Eleven days off for Christmas I can't wait
Dennis Beabout, Temecula, 9. Merry Christmas! God bless us everyone
☛ **Maria Coda, Oceanside, 9.** Merry Christmas, AL!
George Elam, Vista, 9. Don't stop winning now Chargers!

THIS WEEK'S CONTENDERS CONTINUED:

☛ indicates T-shirt winner.

John L. Drehner, North Park, 9. Downsizing has led to Mormon Tabernacle trio.

I.C. Garcia, Golden Hill, 9. Happy Holidays to everyone! From India Ink Papers

Phyllis Grant, San Diego, 9. Merry Christmas to all!

BJ Lundquist, San Diego, 9. Enjoy the season

Rich Sewell, Ocean Beach, 9. Happy Holidays to all and have a good night

☛ **Elizabeth Noll, Alpine, 9.** Happy Solstice!
Duane Tremaine, East Village, 9. The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog

Andrea Vollmer, Vista, 9. Chargers all the way!

Thomas Diehl, Escondido, 8. Santa comes here Christmas eve; Grandkids welcome if you believe!

Sean Holt, Ocean Beach, 8. Bonnie, you're a sweet little daffidil. Whats Dustins deal?

Marty Ferullo, Pacific Beach, 8. Xmas is almost here
Steve Lundquist, San Diego, 8.

Merry Christmas
Jay Sato, Carmel Valley, 8.

Feliz Molly- dad
Michael Sheridan, San Diego, 8. Tiger tail

Victor Correa, San Ysidro, 7. Waynne's World, Tim's Corner

James C Nelson, El Cajon, 7. Go Chargers!

Burr Passenheim, Linda Vista, 7. Merry Xmas

Henry Romero, San Diego, 7. Happy Holiday, sweet Mei Ling!

Norman Williams, San Diego, 7. What da fuss?

Leo Baggerly, Encinitas, 6. Well behaved women seldom make history

Phil Paradissis, San Diego, 6. Merry Xmas

Chad Griffith, Poway, 5. Happy holidays and new year to my postal customers

W. Hodgson, Escondido, 5. Illegal immigrants: gophers in the flower garden this is America

Pam Mecklenborg, Pacific Beach, 4. Happy Holidays to my friends! Go Navy! Hi Larry!

Gian Ghio, Chula Vista, 4. Merry Christmas everybody!

Stuart A. Young, San Diego, 4. He's no fool who gives what he cannot keep to...

Rick Chambless, San Diego, 3. Merry Christmas everyone!

Walter Deegan, San Diego, 3. A Boston wedding in Jan. — UGH!

Robert Ott, Mira Mesa, 3. Sawadee pee mai 2010

Ron Pollack, Encinitas, 3. For Rinkie the love of my life

Derek "Turtle" Anderson, San Diego, 2. Merry Christmas UPSers

Lindsay Tidmus, San Diego, 2. Merry Xmas mom, I love you!

Alice Bryant, Mission Hills, 1. Hey my silky honey girl
☛ **Mr. Lonnie R. Lindsay, San Diego, 1.** Keep em...

☛ **Greg Raelson, Little Italy, 1.** Great to be back in civilization!

Mimi Santos, University City, 1. Wow!

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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 slot 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:

9	6							
2		3	1		4	5		
4			7	2	6			
8	1		2		7		9	
5				4				8
	9		6		5		1	4
			5	6	8			3
		8	3		9	4		7
							6	1

MEDIUM:

		1		2		7	5	
9					4			
3		2		7	5		6	
1		5	6			4		
	7						2	
		6			9	3		8
	9		5	4		6		2
			8					5
	6	3		9		8		

HARD:

	5	9		3				
					4	2		5
				1		3		9
							7	6
7		6		5		4		3
9	2							
6		8		9				
2		3	1					
				8		6	3	

EVIL:

		8						
9	5			2				7
			7				5	9
3			8		6	1		
				1				
		1	4		7			8
7	2				1			
5				3			6	2
						4		

We cannot accept your entry without the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Neighborhood/City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Circle T-shirt size: L XL

Personal Message: _____

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

EASY:

5	4	9	1	8	6	2	7	3
6	3	2	7	4	9	8	5	1
8	7	1	5	3	2	4	6	9
9	5	7	6	2	1	3	8	4
1	6	4	3	7	8	5	9	2
2	8	3	9	5	4	7	1	6
4	1	8	2	6	7	9	3	5
7	9	5	4	1	3	6	2	8
3	2	6	8	9	5	1	4	7

MEDIUM:

9	3	2	6	1	8	4	5	7
8	5	6	2	7	4	9	3	1
7	4	1	9	3	5	6	2	8
1	6	8	5	2	3	7	4	9
2	7	4	1	9	6	3	8	5
3	9	5	8	4	7	1	6	2
5	2	7	3	6	9	8	1	4
6	8	9	4	5	1	2	7	3
4	1	3	7	8	2	5	9	6

HARD:

4	5	8	7	3	6	9	1	2
1	6	2	8	9	4	5	3	7
7	3	9	1	5	2	4	6	8
2	9	5	6	1	8	3	7	4
3	8	7	9	4	5	6	2	1
6	4	1	3	2	7	8	5	9
5	7	4	2	8	3	1	9	6
8	1	6	5	7	9	2	4	3
9	2	3	4	6	1	7	8	5

EVIL:

5	9	2	7	8	4	6	3	1
1	7	4	6	9	3	2	5	8
3	8	6	1	2	5	9	7	4
7	3	1	4	6	9	5	8	2
8	4	5	3	1	2	7	9	6
2	6	9	8	5	7	1	4	3
6	5	8	9	4	1	3	2	7
9	1	7	2	3	8	4	6	5
4	2	3	5	7	6	8	1	9

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:

- Cherie Calvo, San Diego, 12.** Christmas is coming!
- John Pertle, Santee, 12.** Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools
- Terry Thomas, Chula Vista, 12.** Smile and celebrate the season, play holiday music and volunteer
- Glenn Walker, Pacific Beach, 12.** Comfort doth shroud the recognition of indignity
- Don Bowman, Santee, 11.** What a ..., your birthday and Xmas on same day
- Ed Rull, San Diego, 10.** Happy holidays
- Pauline O'Malley, Point Loma, 7.** Just hang in there it will get better
- Jaclyn Yee, Rancho Peñasquitos, 6.** Been awhile, but I'm back! Happy Holidays everyone
- Nicole Tui, East Lake, 4.** Your tight spiders. I love it

- ☛ **Yadira Rodriguez, Linda Vista, 2.** Love you kids hure we last forever indio lv
- ☛ **Ed Stoeckel, Tierrasanta, 2.** I'm still here
- Miriam Benson, Poway, 1.** Matt is great
- Paul Bernardino, Spring Valley, 1.** God's gift - Merry Christmas
- Brandon Campos, Chula Vista, 1.** Chargers Rule!! 24
- Jeffory Ross, Chula Vista, 1.** Merry Christmas!!!
- Pretty Sarangay, Ocean Beach, 1.** Hare, I want you on my treadmill

MEDIUM:

- Skully, San Diego, 12.** Happy holidays to Moto GP, Kitten, Oldman Steve, Goldmember, R1 rabbit
- Betty Archer, La Jolla, 12.** Go Chargers!
- Roy Bartolome, San Diego, 11.** Merry Christmas and God bless Issiah, Ilyjan, Ilysah and Issach

- Linda Bible, El Cajon, 11.** Merry Christmas!
- Dr. Dave Spera, Point Loma, 9.** My trailor trash, the sweatier the better ummm
- Kathleen Allegri, Pacific Beach, 7.** You gotta believe... in next year! Go Chiefs!
- David Tomasín, San Diego, 7.** No more polar bears
- Dennis Beabout, Temecula, 5.** Merry Christmas! God bless us everyone
- Elliott Estrine, Poway, 5.** Peace to all now and forever
- M. Elliott, Rancho Bernardo, 4.** Here comes Santa Claus!
- Bill Calderwood, Clairemont, 3.** Merry Christmas
- ☛ **Tristan Meyers, El Cajon, 3.** DM Progress on Itunes
- Josie Ranches, San Diego, 3.** Happy Holidays
- ☛ **Joe Wilson, San Marcos, 3.** Go Chargers!
- Michelle Dutra, San Diego, 2.** Merry Christmas!
- Robert Lindahl, Collage Area, 2.** Merry Xmas, love you, Phyllis

- Chris Dobrowolski, San Diego, 2.** Merry Christmas to all Coaster and Reader employees!!!!
- Kathy Terrell, San Diego, 2.** Happy Holidays and thank you to the Tortoise for all...
- Greg Boss, Tierrasanta, 1.** California has two old bags for senators
- Alice Bryant, Mission Hills, 1.** I love you honey- you're a beautiful kitten
- Carolyn Dalton, Escondido, 1.** Everyone is doing their best
- George Elam, Vista, 1.** Santa! Time to get busy
- D. Faulkner, University Heights, 1.** Evil is evil
- Anne M Jackson, San Diego, 1.** To Jerry, Chris, and Christian Merry Christmas, I love you...
- Harold Kant, Clairemont, 1.** Your only here for a visit
- Phillip Lembeck, Santee, 1.** Are you for eighty-six?
- Marcia Metzger, San Diego, 1.** Happy holidays
- Justino Rochin III, Shelltown, 1.** I was found

- Jose Rodriguez, San Diego, 1.** I love you ...ttny
- Kenner Selzen, Camel Valley, 1.** Go Mavricks
- Tom Stam, Lakeside, 1.** Go Chargerz superbowl baby!

HARD:

- Amada Garcia, Chula Vista, 12.** Merry Christmas to all Feliz Navidad
- Bruce c. Mengler, Solana Beach, 12.** Merry Christmas! Peace on earth
- Douglas Meyers, La Mesa, 12.** I shall not stop 'til steel meets bone
- Glenn R. Walker, La Jolla, 12.** Happy holidays to everyone
- Lark Herrick, Alpine, 11.** Ho, Ho, Ho!
- ☛ **Dennis Jardim, Oceanside, 4.** Like Tiger, getting hard is fun
- Saad Ghulam, Escondido, 2.** One more try to get the tshirt
- Ester Hays, La Mesa, 2.** May there be Peace on Earth
- B.J. Lundquist, San Diego, 2.** Have a safe and merry Christmas

- ☛ **Rob Welder, El Cajon, 2.** All I want for X-mas is happy children
- Ruth Feria, El Cajon, 1.** Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

EVIL:

- Joe Arbusto, Rancho Peñasquitos, 12.** Joe Lieber- "FOOL" is "DROOL" 4 Healthcare
- "MULES"-4 Profit Corporations!**
- Paul Brugger, Downtown, 12.** Was this week's puzzle hard? Or was I just tired?
- Clyde Christie, East Village, 12.** Merry Christmas to all
- Joseph Ciprian, Little Italy, 12.** Heaven for the climate, hell for the company
- Roger Doughman, San Diego, 12.** The lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer
- Lily Gonzalez, Logan Heights, 12.** Feliz Navidad y prospero ano nuevo
- Dan Holslin, San Diego, 12.** Happy winter solstice
- Zdenek Hostomsky, La Jolla, 12.** This one seemed harder than usual. Kiara, welcome!

THIS WEEK'S CONTENDERS CONTINUED:

☛ indicates T-shirt winner.

Raymond Land , Escondido, 12. *Opinion always wrong at higher levels of consciousness*
Ralph Levy, La Jolla, 12. *Nice seeing you again Cheryl*
Mike Maniss, Lakeside, 12. *Miracles if only you believe like I believe*
Michael McGriffin, Bay Park, 12. *My sincere thanks for last week's T-shirt.*
P.J. Mole, Point Loma, 12. *What's par for this course?*

Bruce Ness, Mira Mesa, 12. *Does Mary Bently still play dominoes? Please call*
Lisa Overton, Spring Valley, 12. *Feeling a lack of fame and glory*
Michael Panther, Point Loma, 12. *Dear Santa, please bring John one left arm*
Bill Petty, Bay Ho, 12. *'Tis the season!*
Rich Sewell, Ocean Beach, 12. *Ho, Ho, Ho, Merry Xmas*

Yuko T. , San Diego, 12. *Go Saints! 14-0!!*
Harry R. Walker , La Jolla, 12. *Good to see the sun again*
Ric Witt, Clairemont, 12. *Trust your congress and swallow your healthcare*
☛ **Mark Xitco, San Diego, 12.** *Merry Xmas*
Bliss Beedle, Encinitas, 11. *Christmas peace*
Thomas Daley, San Diego, 11. *Moving to the big league*
Julio Magno, San Diego, 11. *Merry Christmas*

Gary Lorenc, Encinitas, 11. *Good things come in threes... Ho, Ho, Ho! Season's Greetings!*
Martin Mucciaroni, Carlsbad, 11. *Lets try again: Go S...all!*
Joe Steinbach, Clairemont, 11. *Save gas - ride a bicycle.*
Jane Flammang, Encinitas, 10. *Ho Ho Ho, Merry Christmas*
Belmont Hope, Vista, 10. *Merry Christmas everyone*
David Schwartz, Clairemont, 10. *Missed last week... laz-y-d'do*
Duane D. Tremaine, E. Village, 10. *Now is the time for all good men*

Loren Boyer, El Cajon, 9. *Xmas wish list- Cameron or one on the Doll House*
Larry Clark, Clairemont, 9. *Big cats are dangerous...*
Junito Gerardo, Mira Mesa, 8. *How are hope and change working for you lately?*
Linda Kokel, Tierrasanta, 7. *We're having a great time with you Marlene and Suzanne*
Tess C. Sutton, San Diego, 7. *Have a joyful Christmas*
Charles Reader, Del Mar Heights, 6. *Frank is Italian*

Sonia Ostovar, Mira Mesa, 4. *Thank you for the tshirt*
☛ **Bridgett Gist, Escondido, 3.** *Happy one year babe! I love you sooo much! Muah*
Mandy Smith, Boulevard, 3. *Happy Birthday Jesus, and I'm not evil for doing evil*
Butch Hays, La Mesa, 2. *Have a very Merry Christmas*

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THEATER AUDITIONS. Poway Center for Performing arts is seeking 2 young actors/ singers. Ages 19-25, male and female to sing duet for show. Call 858-569-0988, or 858-546-0209.

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COUNSELING & SUPPORT GROUPS

NOTICE TO READERS: The advertisers in this section include licensed mental health providers, unlicensed counselors, and support groups.

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NOTICES

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1pm. El Cajon Community Center. 175 East Douglas. Free. Refreshments/ parking. 619-464-2987.

ADDICTED TO INTERNET pornography/ sex? Out of control? You are not alone. Call Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, a 12- step fellowship. P.O. Box 3791, San Diego 92163 or 619-685-7211 or www.slaa-san-diego.org.

AL-ANON. Grupo paz mental. Sufre por el alcoholismo en su familia? Juntas sesionan Martes, 5:30pm-7pm, y Sabados, 1-2:30pm. 3450 Bonita Road, #207, Bonita, CA 91902.

ALCOHOLICOS ANONIMOS. Reunion de mujeres. Sesion Miercoles, 9am-10:30am. Desea dejar de beber? Lleve una vida util y feliz! 3450 Bonita Road, Suite #207. 619-280-7224.

ALCOHOLICOS ANONIMOS. Problemas con el alcohol? Nosotros le ayudamos a vivir mejor. Sesiones Lunes-Viernes, 7am y 8pm. Sabados, 8am y 7pm. Domingo, 8am y 5pm. Grupo Bonita Hispano, 3450 Bonita Road #207. 619-280-7224.

CAN PRAYER HEAL? Discover freedom and wellness. Find out how prayer works for you to eliminate chronic disease, pain, fear, anxiety, depression. 858-272-3246.

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CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS. Candle, children's program, Sign language interpretation. Hill Country Bluegrass Band. Service Thursday, December 24, 6pm. www.hillcountrychurch.org. 619-561-1965. 8950 Lakeview, Lakeside.

CO-OP. Assorted food items. \$15 per share. Terrific value and it's always different. Thursdays in North Park, 5pm-6pm. Must be reserved. Call 9am-noon Thursday to reserve yours, 619-283-3066.

DEBTORS ANONYMOUS is a 12- step program for people with problems with money and debt. Contact us at www.dasandiego.org or 619-525-3065.

DINNER-ON-A-DOLLAR. Free newsletter. Get yours: http://www.dinneronadollar.com/newsletter.html. email: hungry@ dinneronadollar.com. Can cost \$1.99, but under \$2. We need your recopies, too. Thanks. Claudia, 858-693-3939.

DIVORCECARE. Sundays, 9am. 10791Tierrezanta Boulevard, East Wing CVCF Campus. Support group— those heart broken by divorce/ separation. Free childcare. DVD seminar/ conversation. Refreshments. Bruce, 619-461-4480.

FAMILIA DE ALIMENTOS. Donacion .50 centavos minimo. Pan, pasteles aveces, otros productos. Martes 12:30-2:15pm, Iglesia de Grace, esquina Fairmount Avenue en Redwood y Poplar. No necesita reservar.

FAMILY FOOD LINE. Donation requested. 50 cents minimum. Bread, sometimes pastries, produce, others. Tuesdays 12:30-2:15pm, Grace Church, corner of Fairmount Avenue at Poplar & Redwood. No reservation needed.

FOUND: Saudi War photo album, "Army 410th OM DCT." 619-564-8105.

FREE CUSTOMIZED EMPLOYMENT Program for Veterans with a Service Connected Disability or those Honorably Discharged within the last 48 months. Space is limited. Call 619-424-6860.

FREE PRESCHOOL. Alpha Kappa Alpha Head Start is now enrolling children ages 3-5 years old from low- income families in the East County, and children with special needs/ disabilities. 619-444-0503.

FREE PSYCHIC HEALING/ Lecture Clinic. Free readings for new visitors. Mondays, 7:30pm, 1/4, 2/1, 3/1, 4/5. Vessa's Clairvoyant Program students. 4455 Morena Boulevard, #108, 858-509-7582.

GET DISH. Free installation, \$19.99/ month. HBO and Showtime free, over 50 HD channels free. Lowest prices. No equipment to buy! Call now for full details, 866-747-5096. (AAN CAN)

MOVIE BUFFS. Interested in watching movies then discussing them afterwards (like book clubs)? Ages 25 to mature welcome. Please call 619-850-6075 or 858-231-0647.

NATIONAL CITY online survey. www.nationalcity.ca.gov. Public input is an important part of the General Plan update process. Share your vision for National City's future.

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE Anonymous. 12 step meeting for people with OCD/ interested others. Free. Mondays, 6-7pm. Department of Health Services Complex, 3851 Rosecrans Street.

OLD SKOOL CHRISTMAS party with DJ Monterrosa. At Down Broadway, Saturday, 12/26. No cover, \$2 wells until 11pm. 2638 Main Street, Chula Vista. 619-429-7900.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Meetings daily. No dues or fees. 619-521-2538. www.oasandiego.org.

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RESEARCH STUDY VOLUNTEERS. Do you have Type 2 Diabetes? Dr. Henry and his associates have a Clinical Research Study that is looking at the safety and effectiveness of an investigational medication (similar to aspirin) compared to placebo, in the treatment of Type 2 Diabetes. The study drug is approved by the FDA to treat arthritis, but has been approved for Diabetes. See if the TINSAL study is right for you. Duration: approximately 55 weeks total; 11 clinical study site visits at UCSD. Study visits may include an initial screening visit, vitals, laboratory samples, physical exam, EKG, medical history, quality of life questionnaires, blood sugar readings from provided glucose monitor. If you meet the following criteria, you may be eligible to participate. Inclusion Criteria: males or females aged 18-74. Diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes. Diabetes controlled with diet and exercise of up to 3 medications, stable for 8 weeks (excluding current use of Actos, Byetta and insulin). HbA1c between 7.0-9.5%. No recent weight loss greater than 10 pounds or currently on any weight loss drugs. No Plavix, Heparin, Coumadin or any other anticoagulants (aspirin OK). Qualified participants will be compensated for participation up to \$700. To find out if you are eligible, please contact Research Coordinator at 858-552-4326.

SEX/ RELATIONSHIP PROBLEMS? Out of control? You're not alone. Call Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous. 12 Step fellowship. PO BOX 3791, San Diego, 92163. 619-685-7211. www.slaa-san-diego.org.

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SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY Roundtable Discussion. San Diego Public Law Library Downtown, 1105 Front Street, from 12:30pm-1:30, December 26; and 11:30am-2pm, December 29. Open to the public interested in applying for disability. Limited to 20 people. Lectured by attorney. 619-813-7955. Please RSVP, mark@blanellaw.com or fax 619-946-7835.

SURTIDO DE ALIMENTOS. CO-OP. \$15 por donacion. Siempre diferente. Jueves en Parque Norte, 5pm-6pm. Primero debe llamar para ser reservados de 9am-12pm Jueves, al 619-283-3066.

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VOLUNTEER NEEDED. San Diego Organic Farm needs volunteer in exchange for free veggies. Provide your home as a drop- off location in North County. morningsongfarm@gmail.com.

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PERSONALS

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BRANDON, It's really simple. I want a cat! Love Stephanie.

MR. PALMER, Love is patient. Love is kind. I am so grateful you are mine. I love you more each day. I'm forever yours. Stephanie.

MR. PALMER, Yes, you and only you! Miss S.

MUSIC EQUIPMENT / INSTRUMENTS

AMPS AND GUITARS: Epiphone Korina V \$449, Epiphone Les Paul \$365, 2005 Gibson Les Paul Standard Plus \$1750, 2005 Gibson ES335 \$1699, Jackson Performer \$299, Genz-Benz El Diablo \$599, Peavey Classic 30 \$199, Fender Princeton Reverb R.I. \$750, Fender Cyber Twin \$550, Fender Princeton Chorus \$250, GK 800RB \$369, Magnatone Melody Air \$349. At www.mozeguitars.com, 619-698-1185.

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CATS/ KITTENS. Clairemont Mesa Petco. 3994-A Clairemont Mesa Blvd. (Clairemont Town Square). Monday-Saturday 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 Mira Mesa Blvd./ Camino 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 evenings. Fee includes spaying/ neutering, vaccination, microchip, more. Photos/ locations: www.rescuehouse.org.

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KITTENS/ CATS. La Costa Petco. 3239 Camino De Los Coches, 92009. Monday-Saturday 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.

KITTENS/ CATS. Encinitas Petco. 154 Encinitas Blvd., west of I-5. Monday-Saturday 9am-9pm; Sunday until 7pm. Interact with kitties Saturday 9-11am, 5-7pm; Sunday 9-11am, 4-6pm; most weekday early mornings/ evenings. Fee includes spaying/neutering, vaccination, microchip, more. Photos/ locations: www.rescuehouse.org.

KITTENS/ CATS. Mission Valley Petco. 10310 Friars Road/ Mission Gorge. Monday-Saturday 9am-9pm; Sunday until 7pm. Interact with kitties Saturday/ Sunday 1-3pm; most weekday evenings. Fee includes spaying/neutering, vaccination, microchip, more. Photos/ locations: www.rescuehouse.org.

KITTENS/ CATS. La Mesa Petco. 8501 Fletcher Parkway, 91942. Monday-Saturday 9am-9pm; Sunday until 7pm. Fee includes spaying/neutering, vaccination, microchip, defeaing, more. Photos/ locations: www.rescuehouse.org.

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LA MESA. 2- room suite, private bath in big house. Summer pool, nice kitchen, street parking. Golfing, lake, Cowles Mountain in neighborhood. No pets. \$1200. 858-772-0005.

LA MESA. \$450, plus utilities. Deposit. Sunny room, hardwood floors. Share quiet, comfortable house. Laundry. Large yard. 15 minutes— Downtown San Diego/ SDSU. No pets/ smoking. 619-466-7500.

LA MESA. \$540. Room with sliding glass door. Unfurnished or furnished. Laundry. Quiet street. Easy parking. Close public transportation. Pet(s) possible. Storage. Leave message, 619-287-6903.

LA MESA/ LAKE MURRAY. \$685. Room with own bath. Utilities included with cable. Peaceful, huge Spanish home on quiet cul-de-sac street. Private entrance. Secluded pool area. Air conditioning, ceiling fans, washer/ dryer. Walk to lake, SDSU, Von's shopping center, restaurants, etc. \$300 security deposit. Purr welcome. 619-517-7119.

LINDA VISTA. Move- in special! \$470. 3 bedroom home. Ocean view, central, tropical yard. Quiet. Marble. Laundry. \$300 deposit. No smoking/ pets. Male preferred. 858-518-1517.

LOGAN HEIGHTS. \$400. 4 bedroom house, looking for tenant. Shared kitchen, bath, living room, utilities, backyard. Close to bus, park. \$200 deposit. No pets. 619-804-5478.

MIRA MESA. Miramar College/ I-15. Upstairs room in large home. Roadrunner wireless. Pool, Jacuzzi. Male. No smoking/ drugs/ pets. \$530 including utilities. Available now. 858-361-1094.

MIRA MESA. 1/2 off first month. \$525, utilities. Large home. \$250/ deposit. Fireplace. Large kitchen. Dayroom. Dishwasher. Washer/ dryer. Maid service. No pets. Available. BJ, 619-708-4924.

MISSION HILLS. \$650. Room in bright/ sunny 2 bedroom. Top floor, bay view. Shared bath. Laundry, barbecue, Jacuzzi coming soon! Close to downtown/ I-5. 619-254-4645.

MISSION VALLEY/ SDSU. Beautiful home. Few blocks from transportation. Room with bath, parking. \$595. No pets. Smoking OK. Available. Female preferred. Habla espanol. Mary, 619-487-1610.

NORTH PARK. \$600, utilities included. No smoking/ pets. Own bathroom. Share 2 bedroom apartment with male adult. On- site laundry. Close to public transportation. 619-254-1658.

OAK PARK. House to share. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. \$750/ month, \$500 deposit. You get larger bedroom. Gas/ electric, cable included. Washer/ dryer. Small pet OK. Couple/ single. 619-262-6264.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$795. Open house Dec. 30th: 12-2pm, Dec. 31st: 10am-12pm. Share 2- bedroom, 2- bath condo.

Near bay/ beach. Parking spot, washer/ dryer. 858-220-1237.

POINT LOMA/ OCEAN BEACH. Share large house. Nice location. Views. Near beach/ everything. Easygoing, respectable roommates. Laundry, Wi-Fi. No pets/ smoking. \$700 includes utilities. 619-241-9845.

POINT LOMA/ SUNSET CLIFFS \$675. Room in 3 bedroom, 3 bath Sunset Cliffs home, 3 blocks to ocean. Seeking male. No smoking/ pets. 619-347-3552, 619-269-6626.

SAN CARLOS. Room for rent. Share bathroom. \$600/ month. \$250 security deposit. No drugs/ smoking. Male or female. References required. 619-698-3435.

SAN CARLOS. 2 rooms for rent. Master bedroom/ bath, \$625. Second bedroom, \$525. Utilities included. Washer/ dryer, full house privileges, quiet neighborhood. Security deposit. 619-818-8746.

SERRA MESA. Master bedroom with private bath. \$575, plus 1/3 utilities and deposit. No pets/ drugs. 858-715-1640. 619-846-4946.

SPRING VALLEY. Sober living. \$450 plus \$50 deposit. Christmas special: Move in before January, pay no rent for December. Furnished. Shared utilities. Near bus and shops. 2 homes available. 619-303-2030; 619-303-1301.

SPRING VALLEY/ LA MESA. \$85-\$105/ week. No deposit. Utilities, furnishings, amenities included (Cable, Internet, free long distance, gym equipment). At 94/ 125 freeways. No drugs/ alcohol. Thomas, The Treehouse. 714-787-8744.

VISTA. \$550, plus deposit. Shared bath. Includes utilities, Internet, cable, laundry, kitchen, parking. Near 78 freeway. Must like dogs, no additional pets. Available now. 760-599-3956.

VISTA. \$500, \$500 deposit. Private bath, Internet, laundry. No smoking, drugs. Utilities included. Near 78. Available now. 619-665-3103.

ROOMMATE SERVICES

ALL AREAS. ROOMMATES.COM. Browse hundreds of online listings with photos and maps. Find your roommate with a click of the mouse! Visit: www.Roommates.com. (AAN CAN)

HOME SHARE. Seniors offer rooms for rent \$450-\$600 throughout San Diego County. Pay lower rent for household help. Background check required. ElderHelp of San Diego, 619-284-9281.

RENTALS COMMERCIAL

BANKER'S HILL/ DOWNTOWN: Secure 2- car garage plus storage; \$200 month. Call Steve, 619-696-7500.

CITY HEIGHTS. New storage sheds, 10'x10'. 1st month free! 12- month lease. \$49/ month. \$49/ deposit. Available now. Dry storage only, no cars. 619-368-9410.

EL CAJON COMMERCIAL/ retail space, \$725. 1st month free! Great location! Busy intersection of 2nd Street and Broadway. 1333 Broadway Street. 619-384-9219.



GASLAMP ART SPACE! \$150/ up. High ceilings, tall windows. Gallery venue for shows. Uniquely affordable. 100-600 square feet. 402 Market. Hughes

Management, Lic#955724, 619-239-1639 x103. www.HughesManagement.net.

MESSAGE ROOM FOR RENT at centrally located, professional massage center. Includes table, linen, blanket, towel/ warmer, music. Must be licensed/ insured. \$25/ hour. contact @ healinghands-sd.com. 619-574-0053.

MISSION BAY/ CLAIREMONT. Office suite. 429 square feet at \$1.05. Upstairs. Clean. Near I-5. Easy access. Free parking. Near shopping center. 2445 Morena Boulevard. 619-275-3455.

NORTH PARK. Space for rent, 300- square- foot room in rear of retail store. \$20/ hour or 10% of fee- based events (whichever is greater). \$10 extra for out- of- store- hour times. Perfect for classes, meetings, or performances. 619-280-8408.

PACIFIC BEACH/ NORTH. \$795. Available now. 400+ square- foot retail, office, storefront space located in the middle of the Turquoise Street shopping district. Private bathroom. Parking. Contact Erik for more information and viewing. 949 Turquoise Street. TTPM, 858-454-4200 x115. www.torreypinesp.com.

POINT LOMA. 1262 Scott Street. \$800. Office with bathroom, upstairs, approximately 613 square feet. 2- year lease. 619-200-1657 or www.bkbinc.com.

RENTALS HOUSES

BANKER'S HILL. 2 bedroom with office room, hardwood floors, totally renovated with washer/ dryer. Must see to appreciate! \$1550 with \$1000 deposit. OAC. 2120 Second Avenue. 619-549-9726.

BAY PARK. \$2800. View of the bay, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths. Pool. New carpet, garage, gardener included. Available now. No pets. Call Coldwell Banker Property Management. 858-488-2228.

CARDIFF. \$2695, 4 bedroom, 3- bath house with 2- car garage, fireplace, large yard. Year lease. 2000 square feet. 726 Mackinnon Court. 760-753-6575.

CHULA VISTA. \$2150. 4 bedroom, 2 bath house, large yard, garage, laundry room, new carpet, remodeled. Pet on approval. Section 8 OK. 209 H Street. www.sdforrent.com. 619-640-7530.

CITY HEIGHTS. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Fully furnished cottage. 3653 37th Street. Fenced yard. Covered patio. Hardwood floors. New cabinets, appliances. On- site laundry. Updated bath. \$900/ month. Security deposit: \$900. Will, 619-994-5884.



CITY HEIGHTS. \$950. Move in special! \$500 off first month. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Charming house. Appliances, new carpet, water/ trash paid, stackable washer/ dryer in unit. 3402 40th Street. 619-698-6911. www.goldenmanagement.com.

CLAIREMONT MESA/ GENESEE. \$1895 rent. \$1800 deposit OAC. Newer 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath. 1325- square- foot duplex townhouse. Garage, ample parking. Laundry hookups. No pets at 4439 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard #1A. Agent, 619-299-4034.

CLAIREMONT/ NORTH. 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Open floor plan, new tile. Covered patio, fenced, 2- car garage. Close to all. \$2000. 5341 Cole Street. 858-273-7241.

COLLEGE AREA. \$1095. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. Hardwood floors, all appliances. Off- street parking. Fenced yard. Near all. Near SDSU. 5820 El Cajon Boulevard, 92115. 619-285-3822.

COLLEGE AREA. \$1900. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. Garage, washer/ dryer. Available January 2010. 6216 Pembroke Drive. www.stevenleproperties.com. 619-295-1161.

COLLEGE GROVE. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Hardwood floors. Fenced yard. Barbecue. Covered patio. Remodeled bathrooms. Large living room, den, Washer/ dryer. Garage. \$1750. 619-435-0387, 619-206-3089.

CROWN POINT. \$2550. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Hardwood floors, large bedrooms. Fireplace, alarm system. Patios, landscaped yard. 1 parking space. No pets, no smoking. 858-395-7072.

CROWN POINT. \$2295. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. 1- car garage, 2 short blocks to bay, balcony. No pets. 3922 Shasta Street. 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

EAST VILLAGE. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath house, \$1300. Completely remodeled, hardwood floors, most appliances, washer/ dryer hookups. Pets negotiable. John/ Christine, 619-546-4136.

EL CAJON. 3- bedroom, 2- bath house in cul-de-sac. Beautiful home. Nice neighborhood. 2- car garage. Large backyard. \$1695/ month. Section 8 OK. Call 619-807-7662.

EL CAJON. \$1025. Quiet 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. Fenced yard. Patio. Laundry hookup. Off- street parking. Air conditioning. Pets OK. 1271 Lyons Lane. 619-561-3618.



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EL CAJON. \$1650, 4 bedroom, 2 bath. \$1450, 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. \$1250, 2 bedroom, 1 bath houses. \$850. 1 bedroom duplex. 619-971-1145; 619-442-5353.

GOLDEN HILL. \$650 plus utilities. Studio apartment in small complex. Hardwood floors, shared patio area, close to Downtown. Nonsmoking only. Quiet neighborhood close to freeway access, City College, public transportation. 1140-1/2 20th Street. Leasing Unlimited, 760-436-7273.

HILLCREST. \$2095. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. 2 parking spaces. Washer/ dryer. Very nice remodeled cottage with hardwood floors, granite counters, new appliances. Small pet OK. 3788 10th Avenue. 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

HILLCREST/ MISSION HILLS. \$3500. 5-bedroom, 4- bath, 2- car garage. Office, 3433 square feet, 2005 construction. Laundry hookups, stainless steel appliances. No pets at 1189 West Upas Street. Agent, 619-299-4034.

IMPERIAL BEACH. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Quiet, new tile flooring, appliances, counters. Small yard. Attached garage. Private laundry. \$1200 deposit. Second garage available. 619-454-1233.

KENSINGTON look- alike. Home for the Holiday! Historical 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Palm- lined street, private park- like yard, double patio. Formal dining room, fireplace, freshly painted, new carpets, laundry, garage. \$1750. Peg/ Virginia: 619-448-5592, 619-282-7083, 619-855-0377.

LA JOLLA. \$3850. 3 bedroom, 3 bath. Ocean view with yard. New home. 2 covered parking spots. Laundry. Small pet OK. 760-747-1474.

LA JOLLA/ WINDANSEA. Lovely completely furnished cottage, ocean view. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Quiet, clean, safe neighborhood. No smoking/ pets. References. \$1450. All amenities. 858-336-1545.

La Mesa
Move-In Special! \$50 off rent for the first 5 months! 3-bedroom, 2-bath house. Beautiful garden yard Gardener 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-month special. 619-697-5811.

MISSION BAY. \$1000- \$1200. Lease. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Pool, Jacuzzi, bicycle paths, new deck. 1000 square feet. Rarely available. References, credit check. 619-548-8992.

NORTH PARK. \$1550 rent. 3 bedroom, 2 bath modern townhouse recently remodeled. Upstairs unit with skylights. Master bedroom has bath, walk- in 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.

OCEANSIDE. Spacious 5 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 1600 square feet. Provides: Stove/ oven, washer/ dryer hookups, newer tile/ carpet, backyard patio, 2- car garage. 3107 Thunder Drive. \$1650/ month. 619-471-2201.

PACIFIC BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath house, office, hardwood floors, washer/ dryer, refrigerator, patio, front deck/ yard, off-street parking. \$2100. 1855 Missouri. Available 1/1. 619-997-8862.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1795. 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath house. Garage, 4 blocks to Bay. Very clean. Laundry. New carpet, vinyl. 2119 Reed Avenue. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

PACIFIC BEACH. 3 bedroom, 2 bath house. \$1875. Beautiful hardwood floors with ceramic tile in kitchen/ bath. Includes all appliances/ 2 ceiling fans. Driveway parking. On-site laundry. Only 2 miles from the beach. Excellent freeway access. Available 1/16. 2736 Hornblend Street. 619-997-9383.

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. 619-708-7270.

PACIFIC BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom. 2 story, fireplace. 2 off- street parking. Gardener included. 2016 Felspar. \$1650/ month. Water included. 619-708-7270.

PACIFIC BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. 7 blocks to beach. Large fenced yard, garage, laundry hookups, hardwood floors. \$1875. 1351 Missouri Street. Pets considered. 858-273-4812.

PACIFIC BEACH/ EAST. \$1695. 3 bedroom, 1 bath house. Stove, refrigerator, coin laundry, water and gardener paid. Easy freeway access. Available 1/25/10. 4475 Bond. Del Sol

Property Management, Broker, www. delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

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, 858-488-2228.

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.

POINT LOMA. \$2195. Small 3 bedroom, 2 bath, large fenced yard. Pets OK. Hardwood floors, fireplace. Garage not currently available. Includes 2- off street parking spaces. Available now. 619-222-6947.

San Diego
Move-In Special! \$50 off rent for the first 5 months! 3-bedroom, 2-bath house. Beautiful garden yard Gardener 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-month special. 619-697-5811.

SANTEE. \$1700. 3- bedroom, 2- bath. 2- car garage. Large, fenced yard with covered patio. Recent upgrades. Dishwasher. Quiet street. RV parking. Pets? 619-867-2126.

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. \$1175, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, reduced move in. Detached back house, street parking, laundry on site. 1712 Monroe Ave., www.sdforrent.com, 619-640-7530.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$1800, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, reduced move in. Detached front house, off- street parking, laundry hookups. 1716 Monroe Ave., www.sdforrent.com, 619-640-7530.

RENTALS APARTMENTS / CONDOS

ALPINE. 2 bedrooms and 2 baths, \$1095. \$250 deposit OAC. \$100 off for same day lease sign! Newly remodeled. Alpine Woods, 1829 Arnold Way. 619-445-1341.

ALPINE. 55+. Spacious luxury living. 1 bedrooms, \$945. \$250 deposit OAC. \$100 off for same day lease sign. Creekside Meadows, 1750 Arnold Way. 619-445-2480.

ALPINE. Alpine Creek Apartments. Huge 1 bedroom apartment, \$775. 800 square feet, stone flooring in entry and kitchen, spacious living room and dining room, washer/ dryer in unit. No pets. 1950 Arnold Way. Move- in bonus! Call 619-445-8392.

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. \$1250. Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Forest- 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.

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.

BANKER'S HILL. \$700-\$800 studios, \$825-\$900 1 bedrooms. Cozy, affordable units in vintage building. Close to park and Downtown. Some utilities paid. Laundry facility. No pets. Call for information. 619-234-7572.

BANKER'S HILL. \$660 up. Lovely, immaculate studios. Quiet, well- kept classic building designed by Gil. Appliances, gas included. Laundry. Bus. No pets. 619-280-5177; 619-236-0452.

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.

PICTURE STORY



Christmas card by J.M.F. Haase, 1929. “Joseph Malta Frederick Haase joined the Navy in 1911 and was chief photographer at North Island Naval Air Station for much of his career in the 1920s and 1930s,” according to aerospacemuseum.org. “Haase also worked as a racetrack photographer at Agua Caliente

(Mexico) in 1934 and then became an official photographer for the Del Mar Turf Club when it opened in 1937.... He and his wife Mary had a daughter named June. They lived in Coronado from around 1915 until his death in 1959.”

— by Robert Mizrachi

YOU CAN PURCHASE THIS PHOTO AND MANY MORE AT THE SAN DIEGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY RESEARCH LIBRARY OR ONLINE AT SANDIEGOHISTORY.ORG. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 619-232-6203, EXT. 127.

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. \$795. 1/2 off first! Large, charming studio, gated, hardwood floors, appliances, large closet with built- ins, on-site laundry, 2 blocks from Balboa and more! 401 Juniper Street. 619-300-9487.

BANKER'S HILL. 1/2 off 1st! 1 bedroom, 1 bath, gated complex, \$1025. Wood floors, walk-in closet, ceiling fans, private patio, on-site laundry. 1928 3rd Avenue. 619-300-9487.

BANKER'S HILL/ DOWNTOWN. Charming Spanish Revival building.

Studios \$695. Efficiency studio \$580. Roof access, bay view. On-site laundry. 3 blocks to Balboa Park. I-5 close. 236 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: \$625. 2011 Front Street. Call Mike, 858-490-1600.

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. New appliances. New carpet/ paint. Laundry. 3431 Del Rey Street. 619-275-3455.

BAY PARK/ MISSION BAY. Pristine 1 bedroom for \$875 and 2 bedroom, 1 bath for \$1125 in Bay Park's best maintained 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.

CARLSBAD. Rising Glen apartments offers 1, 2 and 3 bedroom homes. Gourmet all- electronic kitchens, breakfast bars. Vaulted ceilings, 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. RisingGlenCarlsbad.com](http://www.RisingGlenCarlsbad.com).

CARLSBAD. Tiny studio cottage in village, \$795. Completely separate, private. Fenced patio. Parking. Couple of blocks to beach. No dogs. 1- year lease. \$600 security. 760-505-7736. [www. lomascenic.com](http://www.lomascenic.com).

Typo Patrol Results

Issue of December 17 2009

Stringers

p.7 Wednesday, December 9. *should be* Tuesday, December 8.

Clyde Christie (Coronado) \$10

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).

CARLSBAD. \$755. Small studio cottage in village. Complete separate kitchen/bath. Approximately 400 square feet. Funky with uneven floors. Parking. No pets. Lease. 760-505-7736.

CARLSBAD. \$1275. 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhouse- style apartment with large patio, 3 blocks to beach, near Tamarack Avenue. Secluded garden complex. 2 parking spaces. No pets. 350-370 Chinquapin Avenue. TPPM, 760-729-8132. www.torreypinespm.com.

CARLSBAD. Large 2 bedrooms from \$1400. Call for specials! Fantastic lagoon views! 1/2 block to beach. Walking distance to Downtown Village. 2303 Ocean Street. Agent, 760-434-7721.

CARLSBAD/ LA COSTA. 1 month free! \$1175, 2- bedroom, 2- bath apartment! 3 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1300. Must leave deposit by 12/31/09 to qualify for this reduced rent and special. 1 month free with lease! Quiet. Hot tub. Assigned covered parking. Indoor cat OK. On-site laundry. \$700 deposit. Quiet neighborhood. 7552 Gibraltar Street. 760-943-7590. 760-402-8325.

CARLSBAD/ LA COSTA. \$1595. Large, luxury 3 bedroom, 2 bath in beautiful garden complex with views over La Costa Golf Course. Fireplace, washer/ dryer, air conditioning, pool/ spa/ sauna. Small pet considered. 2391 Caringa Way. Alicante Views. TPPM, 760-431-7575. www.alicantevIEWS.com.

CARMEL VALLEY. 1 bedroom, with loft/ office. Quiet greenbelt location. Freshly painted. Security system. Indoor laundry.

Water/ appliances included. Pool/ tennis. \$1450. Available 1/1. 858-354-3005.

CARMEL VALLEY. 1 and 2 bedroom remodeled apartments, new appliances. Full- size washer/ dryer. State- of- the- art fitness center, complimentary personal trainer. Heated competition lap pool. Lighted tennis courts. Free tennis/ swimming lessons. Pro tennis instructor. Sorry, no pets. The Club Torrey Pines, 12646 Torrey Bluff Drive. 1-866-354-2096. www.torrey.cc.

CARMEL VALLEY. 3 and 4 bedroom townhomes from \$1653. Affordable properties. Section 8 welcome. Sorry, no pets. Call 858-793-0951.

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 bedroom, 1 bath. Hardwood floors, on-site laundry, shared courtyard. Near historic Old Town. Cat OK. 270 #B, Church Street. 619-300-1365.

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. 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. \$400 Move in Special! 540 Naples Street. TPPM, 619-422-5709. www.torreypinespm.com.

CHULA VISTA. Half off 1st month's rent (OAC). Ready to move in, 2 bedroom/ 1 bath; \$925 and 2 bedroom/ 1.5 bath townhome: \$1125. Pay half of deposit now and half by Feb 10. Located at corner of Quintard St. and 2nd Ave. On-site laundry room, assigned parking space, gated, quiet and clean complex.

Call now 858-483-5111 ext 30 or visit our website: www.melroyproperties.com.

CHULA VISTA. \$775/ 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.

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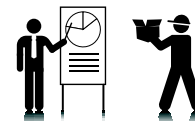
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Events Calendar

Better Balance: Free From Falls. Thursdays, 1/14/10-2/18/10, 11:30am-12:30pm. Balance training is proven to help prevent falls; this 6-session balance class is designed for beginner to intermediate exercisers with no prior balance training experience. Each class will begin with some light cardiovascular exercises. Exercises will be simple, safe and require no expensive equipment so that you can do them at home too! \$36. Russell Rowe, M.S. Exercise Physiology, certified personal trainer. Class fee includes handouts. Oasis at Robinsons-May Mission Valley, 1702 Camino del Rio North, 3rd floor, www.oasisnet.org, 619-574-0674.

Rooftop Yoga. Sundays at 5:30 pm, Mondays at 9 am, Tuesdays at 5:30pm, Wednesdays at 9am, Thursdays at 5:30 pm, Fridays at 9am. Yoga One leads vinyasa flow mixed-level classes for hotel guests (free) and public (\$15 per class). Porto Vista Hotel & Suites, 1835 Columbia Street, San Diego 92101, 619-544-0164.

Ancient Legends and Exquisite Dances. Saturday, Dec. 26, 7pm. Shen Yun Performing Arts takes stage to present classical Chinese dance and music. Accompanied by a live orchestra, troupe showcasing legends, vocal and instrumental performances, dances, and modern day narratives. Ages 5 and up. Admission \$39-\$200. San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 3rd Avenue, San Diego 92101. 619-570-1100.

Tam Tam Mandingue Djembe. Thursdays at 8pm. Drumming classes taught by Ali Thomas for beginning- and intermediate-level drummers. Fee: \$40 for four classes; \$12 single class. Rental drums available for drop-ins. Admission \$12-\$40. Well Within Traditional Healing Arts, 522 2nd Street, Encinitas 92024. 619-825-9921.

Yoga in a Chair. Mondays 1/11/10-3/1/10. In this class, Yoga poses will be modified to use in your office chair, on a plane and at home. Full breathing will be emphasized. Wear comfortable clothing. See your health professional for questions or concerns about attending this class. \$28. Instructor Joan Holland. Oasis at Robinsons-May Mission Valley, 1702 Camino del Rio North, 3rd floor, www.oasisnet.org, 619-574-0674.

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DOWNTOWN. Studios with kitchen and bath, \$625-\$700. Single room with private bathroom, \$550-\$595. Nonsmoking. No pets. 10th and E Street. Hughes Management, 619-231-2385. 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 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. www.sdreader.com/news/rent2098.



DOWNTOWN. Cozy rooms, \$486-\$625. Very comfortable, convenient location. Historic building near C Street Trolley. Choice of shared or private bathrooms. Free cable TV, on-site laundry, vending 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. www.HughesManagement.net.



DOWNTOWN. Outstanding furnished rooms, \$450-\$500. Heart of Gaslamp. Shared bathrooms. Community kitchen. Free cable. No pets. Windsor Hotel, 843 4th Avenue. Hughes Management, Lic#955724, 619-239-3808. www.HughesManagement.net.



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.HughesManagement.net.



DOWNTOWN. Located near Petco Park, Horton Plaza and Gaslamp, The Arthur at 723 Market Street brings the best of Downtown to your doorstep! Studios available, \$750-\$795. Hughes Management, 619-239-1639 x103.



DOWNTOWN. 10th Avenue Apartments. Urban 1 bedrooms, \$750/ month. Located near Downtown Library, Horton Plaza and Gaslamp. On-site laundry. Month-to-month rent. Hughes Management, 619-239-1639 x103.

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 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.

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.torreypinespm.com.

DOWNTOWN/ CORTEZ HILL. Studio, \$795. Limited access building, charming, quiet. Residential neighborhood. Utilities paid. On-site laundry. No pets. EOH. Call 619-299-8746.

DOWNTOWN/ EAST VILLAGE. Half off 1st/ 2nd month's rent! \$585 including utilities with 12- month lease, single occupancy (income qualify— ask for details). Furnished. Air conditioning. Full bath. Kitchenette. Internet. Balcony with bay/ ballpark views. Clubhouse. Business center. Gated community. Near bus/ trolley. Island Village. 1245 Market Street. 1-888-325-4573. sdreader.com/places/island-village/.

DOWNTOWN/ GASLAMP. Las Flores Hotel. Small, quiet. \$125/ week and up. Four- week minimum. Color TV with basic cable. Refrigerator in most rooms. Secure. 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.trilogymanagement.com. Also visit www.sdreader.com/news/rent2064.

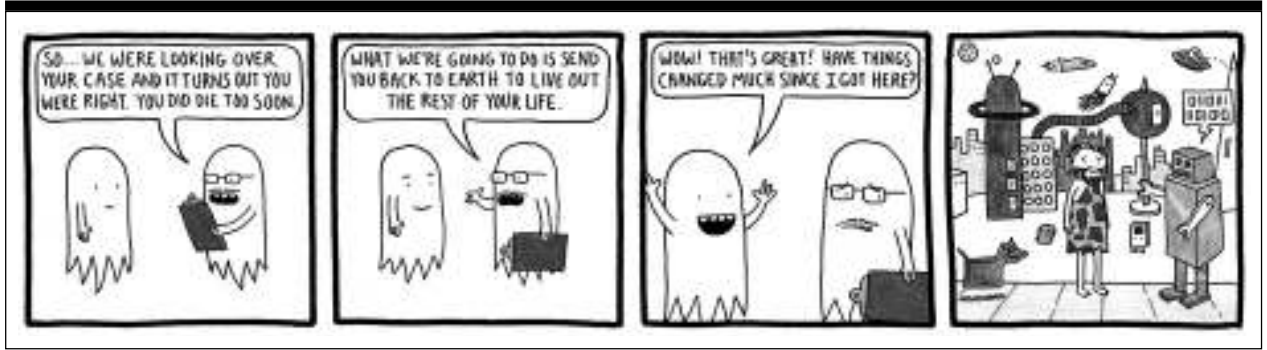
Urban Mini Lofts

Downtown/ Gaslamp. Historic Beaumanor, unique urban mini lofts, \$650-\$900. Several sizes, 12' ceilings, brick, hardwood floors, near Horton Plaza. Hardwood furniture available. Paid cable/ electric/ water. Most include sleeping decks. Refrigerator/ microwave included. High- speed Internet available. On-site laundry, barbecue deck, outdoor kitchen. Impeccable renovation. No pets. 927 6th Avenue. Michael, 619-232-1517. beaumanor927@yahoo.com. <http://www.sdreader.com/news/rent2127>.

DOWNTOWN/ LITTLE ITALY. From \$800/ month. Private bath, cable TV, microwave, refrigerator. Utilities included. Secure, quiet, charming. Efficiency apartments with laundry. Near trolley/ bus 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.

THINGPART



DOWNTOWN/ NORTH. \$995. 1 bedroom, large, downstairs, front. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher. Large, private, fenced patio/ yard area. Cat OK with extra deposit. Easy freeway access, entry intercom, parking, coin laundry. Available 1/10/10. 215 West Grape. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, 858-270-2817.

DOWNTOWN/ SHERMAN HEIGHTS. Charming, large 1 bedroom duplex. 2nd story, hardwood floors, patio. \$725/ month, \$725 deposit. Military discount. Section 8. 619-368-9410.

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. \$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 619-464-1818.

EL CAJON. Spacious apartments. 2 bedroom, upstairs, \$895 for 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. Make us your new home for the holidays. \$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.stratfordarmsapts.com.

EL CAJON. \$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.fourwindsapts.info.

EL CAJON. \$705. 1 bedroom in most attractive, well- maintained property with beautiful courtyard. Gated access and quiet location. 340 Orlando. TPPM, 619-818-9939. www.northwindapts.com.

EL CAJON. \$725. 1 bedroom in fabulous 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.tradewindsapts.info.

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. \$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.torreypinespm.com.

EL CAJON. 1/2 off 2nd month OAC! 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. \$1295. 520 Grape Street #B. 3 bedroom, 2 bath triplex. Tiled throughout, new paint, all appliances, air conditioning, small back yard, laundry on site. Water/ trash paid. 619-698-6911. www.goldenmanagement.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.

ENCANTO. Beautifully terraced garden community. Large 2 and 3 bedroom floor plans from \$1039! Section 8 welcome. Sorry, no pets. Call Anna at 619-527-7723 and mention this ad!

ENCINITAS. \$725 and up. Sick of roommates? Cozy beach trailers in quiet park. Near beach, Coaster, restaurants, shops. 152 North Coast Highway 101. No 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. \$1800. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, laundry hookups, garage, 2 patios, huge shared lawn area, playground, pool. Ask about pet. Available 1/25/10. 2023 Red Coach Lane. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

ENCINITAS/ LEUCADIA. \$2900. 2 bedroom, 2 bath luxury duplex. Steps to 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.

FASHION VALLEY. \$975. 1 bedrooms. \$1100. 2 bedrooms. Large apartments. Huge walk-in closets. Dishwashers. On-site parking. Balcony. Pets considered. 5720 Gaines Street. 619-299-3477.

FASHION VALLEY. \$1850. 3- bedroom, 2- bath condo. Attached 2- car garage. Balcony, wood floors, washer/ dryer, pool. No pets. 6379 Caminito Salado. 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

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. 1 bedroom, \$1050. 3 bedroom, \$2200. Both are must see apartments, many upgrades. Washer/ dryer, A/C, fireplace, vaulted ceilings, bay views. Cats OK. 619-296-6699. www.centrecity.net.

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.

FASHION VALLEY/ WEST. \$1450. Open house Saturday and Sunday, 11am- 4pm! 2 bedroom, 2 bath with extra room! Washer/ dryer hookups! Parking! Near USD! Minutes to the beach and much more! 5845 Lauretta Street #1. 5865 Lauretta Street #8. No pets. 619-222-4836. www.liveatthebeachnow.com.

GOLDEN HILL. Charming 1 bedroom, 1 baths. \$775 & \$800/ 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, on-site laundry, cat OK. 2849 B Street. Call 619-300-1365, or 619-588-4106.

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. \$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. \$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 bath. \$850/ month. Hardwood floors. Great neighborhood, on-site laundry. No dogs. Available now. 2412 E Street. 619-857-3706.

GOLDEN HILL/ DOWNTOWN. 1 bedrooms, \$825, water/ trash included. Off- street parking available, on-site

by Joe Sayers ©2009

laundry. On bus line. Pets OK with deposit. 619-231-8723.

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 Boulevard, 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. \$1450. 2 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhouse. New paint, large, private patio, neighborhood views, high ceilings, dishwasher, fireplace, laundry, 2- car parking, garden setting. Available 1/5. 3672 Georgia Street. 619-542-0708.

HILLCREST. \$865. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Bright and spacious. No pets. 1263 Pennsylvania Avenue #1. www.cal-prop.com. 858-483-3534.

HILLCREST. \$945. 1 bedroom, remodeled. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, coin laundry. In the heart of Hillcrest. Cat OK with extra deposit. Available now. 3730 First Avenue. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

HILLCREST. \$1195. 1 bedroom, large, downstairs. Formal dining room with built-in buffet. Stove, refrigerator, coin laundry, small garage, and wood floors. Cat OK with extra deposit. On the park. Available 1/1/10. 1632 Upas. Del Sol Property Management, www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

HILLCREST. 1 bedroom, \$980. 2 bedroom 1 bath, \$1295. Gated, parking, on-site laundry. Small pet OK. 1033 Robinson. Call 619-295-1210, 858-490-1600.

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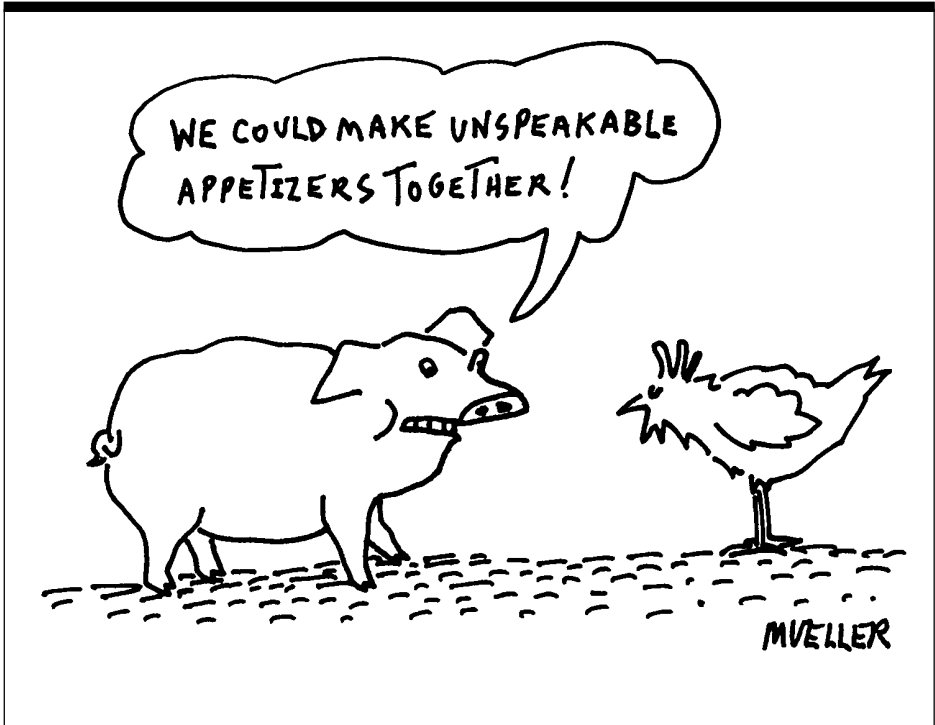
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HILLCREST. Studios, 1 and 2 bedrooms available at Sleepy Hollow Apartments. Rent from \$800-\$1375. Pool, recreation room, off-street parking, scenic views, cats OK. 4201 Sixth Avenue. 619-296-6699. www.centrecity.net.

HILLCREST. \$1100. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Situated in gated complex, on-site laundry room, walk to famous San Diego Zoo and Balboa Park. Available now! 619-298-8934. 3634 Park Blvd. #3638-1/2. Bill, 619-298-8934. www.cethron.com.

HILLCREST. \$875. First month free with lease! 1 bedroom. Senior, 62 plus. Best deal in Hillcrest! Come make new friends at the ParkView Robinson Senior Complex. Units are painted in designer colors. Range, refrigerator, ceiling fan and air conditioning included. Bedroom has a walk-in closet. There is an activities room, elevator, and on-site laundry. Building is gated with intercom. \$300 deposit. We welcome Section 8 participants. 1220 Robinson Avenue, San Diego, CA 92103. Cats and small dogs OK. Contact the resident manager at 619-291-7284, scott@hendershawandassociates.com.

HILLCREST. Studio. \$775. 2 bedroom \$975. Ask about our Holiday special! Great floor plans, easy freeway access. 4124 Campus Avenue. 619-294-2871.

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.

HILLCREST. \$1950/ month. \$1000 security deposit. Large 4 bedroom, 2 full bath. New carpet, paint, clean, quiet 4-plex. Parking, laundry, near all. 3776 3rd Avenue #1. 858-270-7699.

HILLCREST. \$850 rent, \$800 deposit OAC. Large, lower 1 bedroom, parking

space, laundry, no pets, at 3745 7th Avenue #1. Agent, 619-299-8515.

HILLCREST. 1/2 off 1st month! Studios starting at \$695. Wood floors, full kitchen, on-site laundry. Cats OK. 2241 4th Avenue #204 and #305. 619-300-9487.

HILLCREST. 1 month free! Extra large studio, \$825. Wood floors, full kitchen, laundry. Near Balboa Park. Pet negotiable. 2311 4th Avenue. 619-804-2654.

HILLCREST. 1/2 off 1st! Extra large 1 bedroom, 1 bath in gorgeous Spanish-style gated complex, \$1050. All appliances including washer/ dryer, patio, underground parking. Near all. 4155 Georgia. 619-804-3325.

HILLCREST. 1/2 off 1st! \$695 and up. Beautiful studio near Balboa Park. Wood floors, custom paint, walk-in closet, laundry. 2241 4th Avenue #303. 619-300-9487.

HILLCREST. \$950/ month. \$300 move-in special. Charming 1 bedroom, 1 bath. New carpet/ paint. All utilities paid. Near Downtown, 129 Brookes. 619-698-6915. www.goldenmanagement.com.

Seniors 62+

Hillcrest. \$1100. Attractive senior complex. Extremely large 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Dishwasher, self-cleaning oven, air conditioning, brand new condition. Park-like grounds, peaceful living. Sheltered patio, laundry on premises, controlled entry. Near bus and shops. 4574 Campus Avenue. No pets. 858-703-4932 or 619-461-9415.

HILLCREST/ BALBOA PARK. \$1450. Large 2 bedrooms. On-site laundry. 1 off-street parking space. Sorry, no pets. 3511 6th Avenue at Upas. 619-400-6881.

HILLCREST/ BANKER'S HILL. \$895. Studio with full kitchen, downstairs. Stove, refrigerator. Shared courtyard, gated entry, coin laundry. Cat OK with extra deposit. Available now. 3502 First. 858-270-2071. Manager Michael, 619-296-1918; mtcerda@pacbell.net.

HILLCREST/ MISSION HILLS. \$1275. 2 bedroom, 2 bath corner unit with balcony in attractive, controlled-access building near UCSD Medical Center. No pets. 4066 Albatross Street. TPPM, 619-944-0883. www.torreypinespm.com.

HILLCREST/ MISSION HILLS. \$695-\$775. Low \$150 deposit. Fully furnished studios, alcoves, in excellent hillside location. Free basic cable. 1616 Guy Street. 619-298-6242.

HILLCREST/ NORTH PARK. \$1195 rent, \$800 deposit, OAC. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath, hardwood floors, parking, no pets at 1930 Georgia Court #9. Agent, 619-501-5542.

HILLCREST/ UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$825. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Stove, refrigerator, carpet. Bright, cozy, quiet. Near footbridge. Trader Joe's, Ralph's. No pets. 1021 Hayes Avenue. 619-249-7117.

HILLCREST/ UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. \$875. 1 bedroom cottage/ duplex. Quiet courtyard. Hardwood floors. Antique charm! 1728-1/2 Meade Avenue. 619-293-7426.

IMPERIAL BEACH. \$895. 2 bedroom, 1 bath in well-maintained garden setting. Pool. Parking. Laundry. No pets. 1445 Grove Avenue. TPPM, 619-575-0778, www.torreypinespm.com.

IMPERIAL BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath and 2 bedroom, 2 bath condos, unfurnished. Across street from beach. Complex newly remodeled. Pool. \$1195-\$1495. Agent, Bill, 619-823-1674.

IMPERIAL BEACH. 1 bedroom apartment, stove, refrigerator. \$895-\$995. 2 bedroom \$1450. Feet from the beach. Pets negotiable. Laundry facilities. Off-street parking. Conveniently located. 619-424-9233.

KENSINGTON. \$825. 1 bedroom, downstairs. Gated complex. Stove, refrigerator, carpets. Off-street parking. Laundry facilities. Water/ trash paid. No pets. Available now. 619-971-1145; 619-579-8027.

KENSINGTON. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Cute neighborhood. 1 parking

space. Upper corner unit. Walking distance to shops/ dining. 4656 Edgeware Road #7. 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

KENSINGTON. 1 bedroom, 1 bath: \$1000. Gated, shared garage parking, on-site laundry. Air conditioning. No pets. 4101 Park Place. Call Mike, 858-490-1600.

KENSINGTON. \$1200. Reduced move-in, apartment downstairs, laundry on site, off-street parking. Pets on approval. Section 8 OK. 4504 Kensington Drive. www.sdforrent.com. 619-640-7530.

LA JOLLA. \$1295. Studio. Includes utilities. Block to bus, beach, Starbucks, restaurants. UCSD and Scripps by bus or bicycle. Living room, kitchen. Appliances. Walk-in Closet. Laundry. Pets ok. 858-336-0252.

LA JOLLA. \$3000. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. High-end kitchen. 1 garage, 1 tandem. 2 ocean-view balconies. Panoramic ocean view, large deck. 858-212-2500.

LA JOLLA. Nobel Court offers unmatched luxury amenities. Choose from four spacious and elegantly designed floor plans. Each apartment home is lavish with designer features such as breakfast bar, private balcony or patio, washer/ dryer, more! Hot spa, pool. One bedrooms from \$1224; 2 bedrooms from \$1705. 866-960-6695, www.NobelCourt.com.

LA JOLLA. 6333 La Jolla Boulevard. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath in Villa La Jolla. New paint, very clean, all amenities. Near Beach. \$1350. 619-221-5032.

LA JOLLA. \$1495. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Near Windansea. New paint. Dishwasher, stove, refrigerator. 436 Rosemont Street. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

LA JOLLA. \$1195. Modern 1 bedroom in Bird Rock. Large balcony, parking, laundry, controlled access. 5538 La Jolla Boulevard. TPPM, 858-699-3851. www.torreypinespm.com.

LA JOLLA. \$1075. Upstairs 1 bedroom in small building with garage! Close to shopping, restaurants and beaches. Coin laundry. No pets. 7427 Herschel Ave #5. TPPM, 858-699-3851. www.torreypinespm.com.

LA JOLLA. \$3200. Upstairs ocean-front unit. Fireplace, patio, free shared laundry and plenty of storage. 214 Rosemont St. TPPM, 858-699-3851. www.torreypinespm.com.

LA JOLLA. \$1150. Remodeled 1 bedroom apartment. No pets. Fireplace. New carpet/ paint. Appliances. Share patio. Near beach. 8040 La Jolla Shores Drive #D. 619-275-3455.

LA JOLLA. 1/2 off 1st! Spacious studio, \$895. Near La Jolla Village and UCSD. Stove, refrigerator, laundry, parking. 1129 Torrey Pines #9. 619-804-3325.

LA JOLLA SHORES. \$1945. Roomy 2 bedroom, 1 bath in beautiful garden complex near Beach and Tennis Club. Fireplace, parking, hardwood floors and beautiful patios. 7850 El Paseo Grande #7. TPPM, 858-699-3851. www.torreypinespm.com.

LA JOLLA/ UTC. \$1795. 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath 2 story condo. Canyon setting, large yard, pool, 1 carport parking, washer/ dryer. No pets. 4308 Caminito Del Zafiro #69. 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

LA JOLLA/ WINDANDSEA. \$1525. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, large, upstairs front unit in 5-plex. Large, private balcony. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, coin laundry, parking. Near Windansea Beach. Cat OK with extra deposit. Available now. 6231 La Jolla Boulevard. Del Sol Property Management, www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

LA JOLLA/ WINDANSEA. \$1595. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Large, upstairs front unit. Remodeled. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave. Large, private balcony; garage with opener. Quiet cul-de-sac near Windandsea Beach. Cat OK with extra deposit. Available 1/21/10. 6236 Dowling. Del Sol Property Management. Broker, www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

LA JOLLA VILLAGE. \$1750- 1 bedroom, ocean view, available now! \$1400- partial ocean view, available January. Steps to

the beach! Coast South Blvd. 858-456-0407.

LA MESA. Huge apartment homes in great La Mesa neighborhood. Storage space. Near shopping and public transportation. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$925. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1095-\$1195. 2-bedroom townhouse, \$1195. Community pool, laundry, covered parking. 619-697-3285. For photo, floor plans, map and directions, see website: www.sdreader.com/news/rent1035.

LA MESA. 1 bedroom, 1 bath starting at \$750 plus \$25 credit check fee and deposit. Nice and clean. New carpet, new appliances, gated with community pool. Near SDSU area. Within walking distance from local stores, bar, etc. No pets. Keeney Plaza Apartments. 5010 Keeney Street, 91941. Contact Robaia, 619-698-0777.

LA MESA. Parkway Plaza Apartments. Spacious 1, 2 and 3 bedroom floor plans. Deluxe kitchen. Private patio or balcony. Views. Ceiling fans. Pools, barbecue picnic areas. 2 bedrooms from \$1125, 3 bedrooms from \$1600. 888-353-8736, www.ParkwayPlazaLaMesa.com.

LA MESA. 5495 Marengo Avenue, off Fletcher Parkway. Nice and big 2 bedroom, 2 bath. 2-car garage. Fireplace. Washer/ dryer. Available now. \$1350. 619-890-3181.

LA MESA. \$1600. \$300 off first month's rent. Large 3- bedroom, 2- bath upstairs apartment. 1- car garage. Washer/ dryer, new appliances. No-smoking. No pets. 619-855-5545.

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-in! 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1150/ month with \$500 deposit. Storage. No pets. \$25 credit. 5435 Morengo Avenue. Call 619-698-7926. www.villaknollsapts.com.

LA MESA. 2 bedrooms, \$995 with 1/2 off first month's rent. Huge patio, air conditioning. Section 8 welcome. Sorry, no pets. Call Faith for appointment to view, 619-713-5971.

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.

LA MESA. \$1195. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Spacious upstairs and downstairs units. Air conditioning, pool, coin laundry. 1 parking. No pets. 8600 Lemon Avenue #2, #12. 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

LA MESA. \$995. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1/2 off first month or \$895/ month on 6-month lease! OAC. Free credit check! Pool. Saunas. Off-street parking. On-site laundry. Close to downtown La Mesa, trolley, shops and freeways. Cats welcome. Crestview Apartments, 4515 3rd Street. 619-469-5010.

LA MESA. Move-in special. Studio, \$795. On-site laundry. Parking. Easy freeway access. 5027 Guava. Call Tami: 619-244-3115 or 858-490-1600.

LA MESA. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. On-site laundry. Pool, gated, parking. New rent: \$835. 1/2 off first month's rent. 4905 73rd Street. Call: 619-697-8458.

LA MESA. 1 bedroom. Rent: \$800. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Rent: \$925. Parking, on-site laundry, pool. 5436 Vincetta Court. Call Sarka, 619-417-4964.

LA MESA. \$725 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. Mellmanor Apartments. \$890/ up, 1 bedroom. \$1210/ up, 2 bedroom. Across Grossmont Center, trolley, Costco. Quiet, spacious units. Pools. 8750 Mellmanor Drive. 619-461-1940.

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LEMON GROVE. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$775. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, \$975. Great location. Cat welcome. Pool, laundry, parking. Free Wi-Fi. 8413-8427 Broadway. 619-462-6798. www.sdapbtobrokers.com.

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LEMON GROVE. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath. Garage, on-site laundry, 7138 Central Avenue. Call Myra, 619-697-8458.

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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MISSION BEACH/ SOUTH. \$850. Large studio. No pets. Nonsmoking. Parking. Beach side. Appliances. New paint/ carpet. Prefer 6-month lease. 717 San Fernando Place. 619-275-3455.

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NORMAL HEIGHTS. Studio apartment. Newly remodeled. 400 square feet. Available mid-October. Rent: \$720. 3235 Collier Avenue. Call Mike: 619-640-8834 or 858-490-1600.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. \$1100. Laundry. Parking. No pets. 4840 West Mountain View Drive. More Property Management. 858-514-8201.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Washer/ dryer hookups. \$1404. Near all, on bus line. Section 8 welcome. Sorry, no pets. Call 858-793-0951.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1118 per month. Quiet area. Walking distance to all. Close to I-805 freeway and Adams Avenue. Laundry room. 1 assigned parking space. Section 8 welcome. No pets. Call 858-638-7886.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$900. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs unit in gated complex. Laundry. Available now. 4580 39th Street, 4592-1/2. www.celtron.com. 619-295-1100.

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Per Axle

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Rental Communities Directory

	Property Name	Phone	Starting rate	Bedrooms	Short-term/Corporate	W/D in unit	Laundry Facility	Balcony/Patio	Pets	Pool	Covered Parking	Fitness Center
1	Island Village	888-325-4573	\$585	S			■	■				
2	Trilogi	619-231-1505 ext. 12	CALL	S, 1, 2	■		■	■	■		■	
3	The Club Torrey Pines	866-354-2096	CALL	1, 2, 3	■	■	■	■		■	■	■
4	Parkside Apartments	877-280-5568	\$778	S, 1, 2, 3			■	■			■	
5	Albert's College	800-760-5518	\$969	S, 1, 2, 3			■	■		■		
6	California Suites Hotel	888-475-7147	\$1195	S	■		■			■		
7	Studio 15	888-813-9461	\$631	S			■	■				

4

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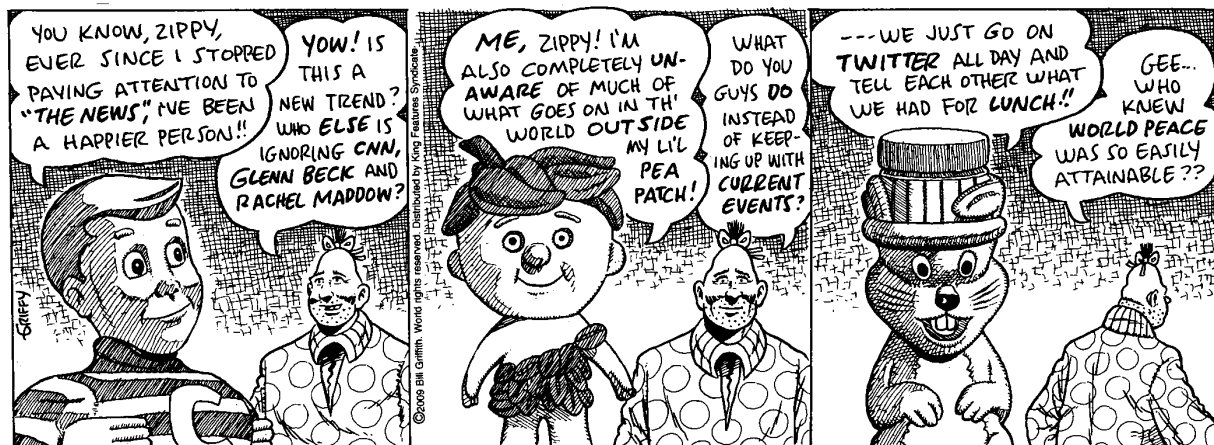
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NORTH PARK. \$1025 rent, \$800 deposit OAC. 2 bedroom, 2 bath duplex townhouse, attached garage, no pets, at

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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. 2- bedroom, 2-1/2- bath, 2- car attached garage townhouse. \$1900/ month. January 1 occupancy. 6-month lease. Check for first month and \$2600 deposit to process application. No pets. 1 mile to beach. Close to Point Loma Nazarene. Includes appliances, washer/ dryer, water. Bob, 619-884-7765.

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OCEAN BEACH. \$1015. 1 bedroom. Stove, refrigerator, coin laundry, parking. Cat OK with extra deposit. Close to ocean. Available 1/1/10. 4853 Orchard. Del Sol Property Management, www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

OCEAN BEACH. 5035 Brighton Avenue #2. \$950. 1 bedroom. Close to beach. Downstairs, parking. No pets. 619-200-1657 or www.bkbinc.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$750. Large studio near beach, shops, and restaurants. Laundry. No pets. 4960 Santa Monica Avenue. TPPM, 619-224-2110. www.torreyepinespm.com.

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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.

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■ Adjust clutch
■ Inspect brakes
■ Adjust brakes
■ Adjust emergency brake
■ Inspect & replenish all fluids
■ Inspect all exposed belts
■ Check electrical fuses
■ Lube front end
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PACIFIC BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Dishwasher, fireplace, balcony, 1 parking space. Rent: \$1425. 2114 Thomas Avenue. Call Mike, 858-490-1600.

PACIFIC BEACH. 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Dishwasher, washer/ dryer hookups, microwave, 1 parking space.

Rent: \$2150. 2027 Emerald Street. Call Mike, 858-490-1600.

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PACIFIC BEACH. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, downstairs corner unit. \$829. 1 month free on approved credit with lease (must move in by 12/31/09 to qualify). Sorry, no pets allowed. Call Elaine, 760-402-8325.

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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.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1295 rent, \$800 deposit OAC. 2 bedroom, 1 bath townhouse, 2 parking spaces, laundry hookups, patio, no pets, at 1742 Chalcedony Street. Agent, 619-299-8515.

PACIFIC BEACH. Beautiful, fully furnished, upstairs 2 bedroom, 2 bath. All utilities paid! Fireplace, washer, dryer. Garage. Pet negotiable. 2148 Reed Avenue. \$2750. Alta Vista Properties, 858-274-3600. www.altavistaproperties.net.

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POINT LOMA. \$750. Large upstairs studio! Great location! Laundry on site! No pets. 3612 Kemper Court #12, #13. Call 619-222-4836, www.liveatthebeachnow.com.

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LEAD STORY

— For some consumers, good environmental citizenship is important even when choosing among sex accessories. In an October issue, *Time* magazine described a market of organic lubricants, biodegradable whips and handcuffs, vegan condoms, and glass and mahogany vibrators (even hand-crankable models, eliminating the need for batteries).

The Entrepreneurial Spirit

— The British retailer Debenhams announced in September that it would begin selling men's briefs whose opening is more accessible from the left side, for left-handers who have been forced for decades to manipulate a right-side opening. Previously, said a Debenhams executive, "[L]eft-handed men have to reach much further into their pants, performing a Z-shaped maneuver through two 180-degree angles before achieving the result that right-handed men perform with ease."

— Mattel is accepting pre-orders for the April 2010 release of the newest doll in the Barbie/Ken line, the spiffily dressed Palm Beach Sugar Daddy Ken (apparently to be showcased with a much younger, trophy-type Barbie).

— Even more troubling (but so far only a prototype) is Alex Green's "Placenta Teddy Bear,"

exhibited in London in September and Newcastle, England, in October at the "[re]design" showcase of "sustainable toys" with children's themes. After the placenta is cured and dried, it is treated with an emulsifier to render it pliable and cut into strips with which to stitch Teddy together, thus "unify[ing]" mother and baby.

Animal Weird News

— CNN, reporting from the London Zoo in August, described the excitement surrounding news that the zoo would soon acquire a 12-year-old male gorilla from a preserve in France. Zoo officials were pleased, but its three older female gorillas were almost ecstatic. Shown posters of "Yeboah," the male, female "Zaire" "shrieked in delight"; "Effie" wedged the poster into a tree and stared at it; and "Mjukuu" held the photo close to her chest, "then ate it."

— The births of two chicks on the same day at the Jerusalem Biblical Zoo in April was unusual enough but especially noteworthy because of the birds' lineage. Their fathers were a gay vulture couple about ten years ago, according to a report in the Israeli daily *Haaretz*, and zoo caretakers provided them an artificial egg to "incubate" until they could replace the egg with a just-hatched vulture, as if the male-male couple had

birthed it. In "an insane coincidence," said a zoo official, the two males eventually separated and paired with females, and those females hatched eggs on the same day last April. Two weeks ago, according to *Haaretz*, the two chicks achieved independence on the same day and were moved to the zoo's aviary.

— Among the species discovered recently in Papua New Guinea were tiny bear-like creatures, frogs with fangs, fish that grunt, kangaroos that live in trees, and what is probably the world's largest rat (with no fear of humans). Scientists from Britain, the United States, and Papua New Guinea announced the findings in September, among more than 40 new species from a jungle habitat a half-mile deep inside the centuries-dormant Mount Bosavi volcano crater.

Leading Economic Indicators

— A young media-shy Chinese woman, identified only as "Mrs. Wang" and photographed in jeans, a T-shirt, and baseball cap, purchased an 18-month-old Tibetan mastiff in September for a reported 4 million yuan (about \$585,000). She ordered a motorcade of 30 luxury cars to meet her and the dog on their arrival in Xi'an, in Shaanxi province. The price is almost four times the previous reported high for the purchase of a

dog (a cloned Labrador, by a Florida family).

— Surprisingly, the recession otherwise felt in the Phoenix area this year has largely spared one "profession": psychics. An October *Arizona Republic* report found that while longtime clients tended to reduce their use of astrology and related fields, their business was replaced by a new class of customers desperate to know the future — those facing financial ruin because of bad home mortgages. (Few, wrote the reporter, seemed to sense the irony of purchasing questionable psychic services to overcome the consequences of questionable mortgage decisions.)

Hyperactive Seniors

— Elsa Seman, 71, was shot and killed in North Versailles, Pa., in September, when she was mistaken for a prowler. According to police, Seman had gone to the home of her ex-boyfriend at night and, dressed in black, commando-style, was lying in wait in his yard with a pistol, intending to kill him. A neighbor called in the report of a prowler, and a police officer arriving at the scene fatally shot Seman.

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNewsTips@Yahoo.com

kitchen. New paint. Ceramic tile. 619-957-1969; 619-334-8220.

RANCHO PENASQUITOS. \$1695. 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.

RANCHO SAN DIEGO. Move-in special! 1 bedrooms, brand new resort-style community! \$1100. Granite, tile, washer/dryer in unit, parking, pool, tennis, gym. Pets OK. 619-279-0031.

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crown molding, 9' ceilings, private balcony or patio. Full-size washer/dryer, full-equipped kitchen. Pool, spa, sauna, fitness center. 2 bedrooms from \$1495. 888-673-2153. www.TheLandingatOceanViewHills.com.

SAN DIEGO. Near Naval Base. 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Townhome community. Lots of storage. Patio off courtyard. Section 8 welcome. No pets. Call 619-527-7724. E-mail clizardi@sdhc.org.

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Move-In Special! \$50 off rent for the first 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.

welcome. Sorry, no pets. For more information, call Letty at 619-578-7441.

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.

SDSU. Under new management! Studios, 1, 2, 3 bedrooms starting at \$895. Very near campus, around the corner from Peterson gym/recreation

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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 / newyears eve.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: Kahl 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

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VFW Hall: New Year's Eve Mobster Bash. Featuring Dannicus live. Acoustic/Metal/Rock.

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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.

Puerto La Boca: Complimentary champagne, live music, open menu & party favors. (619) 234-4900 or www.puertolaboca.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 \$49 per person + tax + gratuity with seatings at 7 pm and 9 pm with champagne toast at midnight. No Cover Party with DJ Dex Diego from 10 pm-1:30 am. Room packages available-call: (619) 226-6100 or go to our website at: <http://www.thepearlsd.com/scene/nye.asp>.

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SAN DIEGO

Skateworld: New Year's Eve Skate Rollout '09. All ages. 8 pm-1 am. Admission \$12, Skate rental \$4. Bring in 2010 the right way.

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SOUTH PARK. \$1195. Beautiful 1 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. Wood floors, crown molding, appliances, laundry. Near all. Pet negotiable! 2930-1/2 Juniper Street. 619-804-3325.

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UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. Apartment available, \$1150. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Washer/ dryer, air, fireplace. Off-street parking. 8- unit complex. 4026 Alabama Street. 619-296-9557, 619-286-4320.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom, 2 bath luxury unit. Upstairs unit has fireplace, central A/C and heat, washer/ dryer, all appliances, garden windows, new paint and carpet, 1- car garage with remote, plus parking space. Walk to Antique Row on Adams Avenue. 4666 Utah Street. \$1495. 619-683-9274.

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UTC. 55+. Spacious luxury living, 1 bedroom, \$995. 2 bedrooms/ 1 bath, \$1035. Brand new! 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, \$1650. \$250 deposit, OAC. \$100 off for same day lease sign. Town Park Villas, 4633 Governor Drive. 858-453-0441.

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People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. peoplehelpingothers.com.

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SHEEP AND GOATS
PLACES OF WORSHIP REVIEWED

Denomination: Fellowship of Evangelical Lutheran Churches
Address: 5150 Wilson Street, La Mesa, 619-463-6633
Founded locally: 1950
Senior pastor: Mark Menacher
Congregation size: 150
Staff size: 4
Sunday school enrollment: 16-20
Weekly giving: n/a
Annual budget: around \$500,000
Singles program: no
Dress: semiformal to formal
Diversity: almost entirely Caucasian
Sunday worship: 9 a.m.
Length of reviewed service: 1 hour, 10 minutes
Website: st-lukes-la-mesa.org

Got an unusual press release last week. It began: "On Sunday, December 13, 2009, St. Luke's Lutheran Church in La Mesa, Calif., held a legally called and conducted meeting to take its second and final vote to sever ties with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).... St. Luke's is now affiliated with the Fellowship of Evangelical Lutheran Churches." "Emphatically, it's not the gay issue," said church council president Richard Floegel when I referred to the ELCA's recent decision to

allow openly homosexual pastors. "The belief of this congregation is that the ELCA has been moving away from the core tenets of being Lutheran" and undergoing "a fundamental shift toward following social programs as opposed to ministries and Biblical spirituality.... It's a general loss of focus on what a church is supposed to be. A church is there to prepare people to meet Christ at the time of their death, to live a spiritual life, and to serve the community — in that order." Pastor Menacher agreed that the break was not about sexuality. "Members of the congregation who were concerned about the sex issue all left some time ago." (Menacher arrived after the exodus). "The folks here...knew that things were not right. I was able to provide them with information about what exactly is going wrong. They could read my research for themselves, and it confirmed their suspicions." Menacher argued that the ELCA was willing to "deliberately twist the Lutheran statements of

faith to make an ecumenical agreement come through." He cited as examples an attempt to adopt Episcopalian structures of Episcopal succession and a Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification that "by and large has Lutherans signing up for a Roman Catholic understanding of justification." Menacher, who holds a doctorate in historical and systematic theology, hopes to replace this ecumenical overreaching with "a positive understanding of Luther's desire to share the Gospel" as he understood it. "Part of their calling me to be pastor was a desire to redevelop what we're calling 'genuine Lutheranism.'" But all this is theology. Though it might drive a church to sever a connection for the sake of cleaving to the truth, none of it means that Menacher and his flock have no truck with their fellow travelers. Sunday's "Song of the Ages" liturgy featured the combined talents of St. Luke's and Pacific Beach Presbyterian (plus a small orchestra of

unknown affiliation), singing carols from the days when the Roman Catholic Church was the only game in town. "Twice a year," explained Menacher at the outset, "we combine our choirs to provide a sound of praise and worship that we cannot make on our own." The music covered a huge swath of territory, from a modern arrangement of the first-century ode "A Great Day Has Shined Upon Us" to Gregorian Chant to Bach to Saint-Saëns to the highly contemporary "Heart of Worship." Plus traditional carols — "Joy to the World," etc. "Our hope is the same, regardless of time and circumstances," declared the reader. "The message of Christ bringing salvation is the same." To manifest the point, the songs were intercut with both Scripture's amazing claims — "And the Word was made flesh" — and a sermon from the fourth-century bishop Augustine of Hippo. "For him, Christmas was the central mystery of the faith," she explained. "The glorious par-

Mark Menacher
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
La Mesa
★★½
Sermon content ★★★
delivery ★★½
Liturgy ★★
Music congregational ★★
band ★★½
Snacks ★★
Architecture ★★
Friendliness ★★
Poor to satisfactory (none)
Good ★
Very good ★★
Excellent ★★★
Extraordinary ★★★★★

adox of the Incarnation." And Augustine hammered that paradox home: "You would have suffered eternal death had he not been born in time," cried a second lector. "Filling the universe, He lies in a manger. Ruler of the stars, He nurses at His mother's bosom. He is both

great in the nature of God and small in the form of a servant, but His greatness is not diminished by His smallness, nor His smallness overwhelmed by His greatness.... Man's maker was made man, that the truth might be accused by false witnesses...justice be sentenced by the unjust, the strength be made weak, the healer be wounded, and that life might die. Wake up, o human being! For it was for you that God was made man! Rise up and realize, it was all for you!" What happens when we die? "A life as we know it comes to an end," said Menacher. "What happens beyond that is where our faith comes into play. Scripture gives us a promise, particularly in Romans 8, that nothing will separate us from the love of Christ Jesus, including death itself." — Matthew Lickona

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