

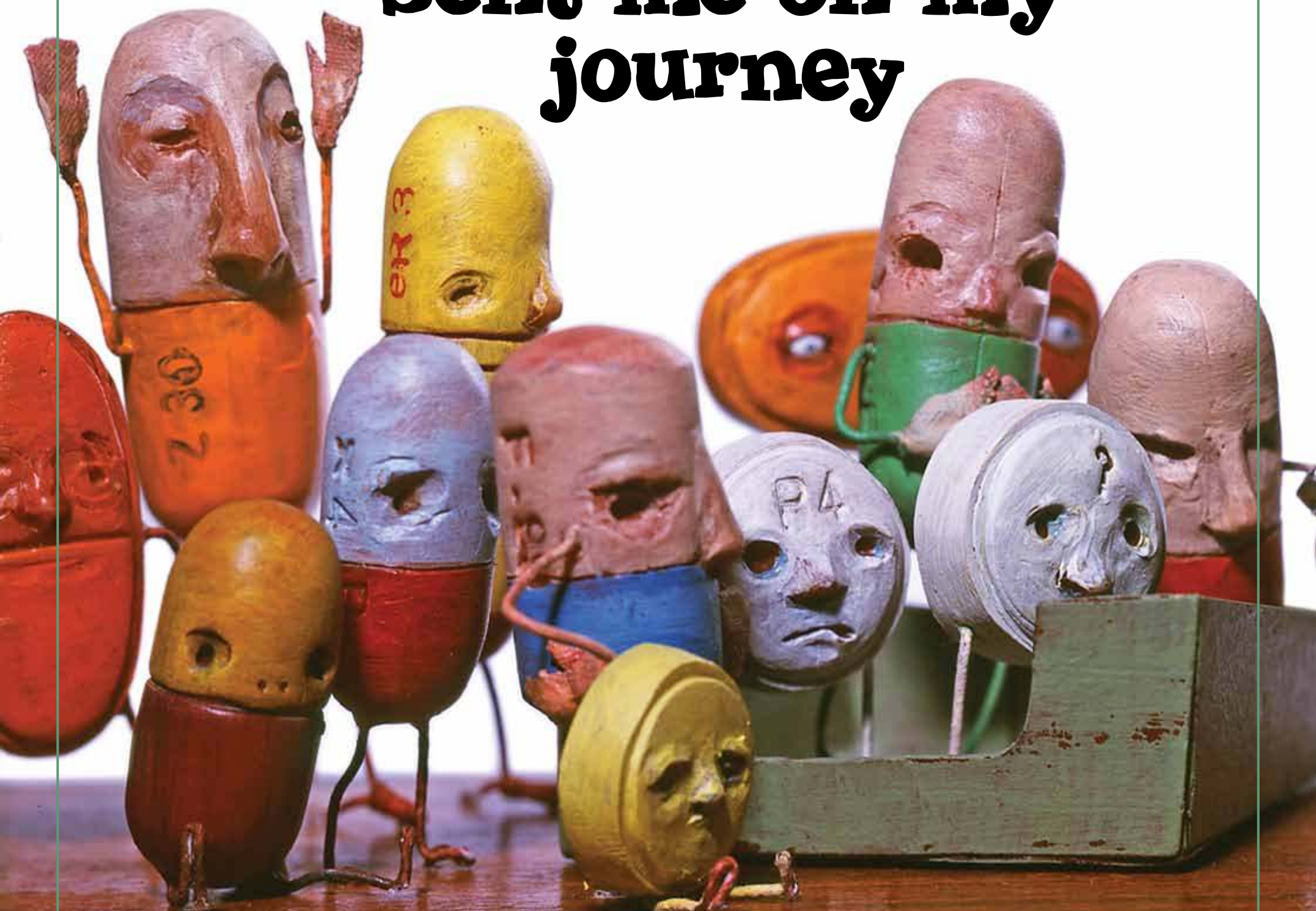
SAN DIEGO WEEKLY

VOLUME 38 / NUMBER 52
DECEMBER 31, 2009

Reader

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COUPONS
INSIDE

The little pills that sent me on my journey



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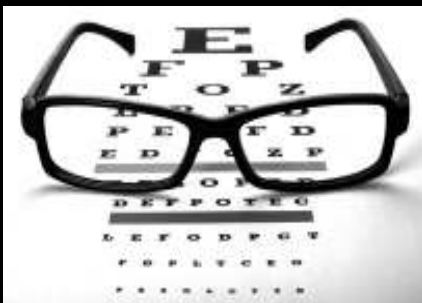
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Neal Obermeyer cartoons 2009

January 15



February 19



March 19



April 30



May 28



June 4



July 2



August 20



September 17



October 22



November 25



December 3



The Plaintiff Knew Nothing

By Don Bauder

If I am guilty of anything, it's of being a good lawyer and advocating for the rights of the disabled," proclaims Lynn Hubbard III of Chico, who has

filed, by his own reckoning, 2000 lawsuits in the past ten years in California, many in San Diego County. Hubbard and his small staff make their money by suing businesses in federal court for violations of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act.

"I have been investigated by the state bar on 14 occasions," he says, "and it has said there have been no violations of the code of ethics. I have had lawyers who thought they could prove me to be a vexatious litigant [a lawyer suing maliciously for the purpose of annoying or embarrassing an opponent]," says Hubbard. The charges haven't stuck, as his record with the State Bar of California shows. A district attorney in Shasta County tried to nail him, "but he couldn't make a case," boasts the glib Hubbard, who rakes in the dough on legal fees and settlements.

About 95 percent of the companies he sues settle out of court, "and in 99.9 percent of the cases they agree to make changes" to conform to the legislation, he asserts.

But few attorneys and even fewer business owners share Hubbard's lofty opinion of his own achievements. "It's a business for him," says Mia Severson, a San Diego attorney who recently got

Hubbard to drop a case against her client, a restaurant in Chula Vista. "He brags that his overhead is \$31,000 a month."

There are several other California lawyers who file multiple suits charging violations of disabilities laws. One is San Diego attorney



Agave Grill

Theodore Pinnock, himself disabled, who has been sending letters to and filing suits against local enterprises since 1992. In 2007, federal court judge Jeffrey Miller imposed sanctions against Pinnock, ordering him to complete four hours of ethics and professional-responsibility training classes approved by the state bar. Pinnock had sued a business that hadn't been open for two years. He had to pay the owner's \$15,000 legal fees.

Hubbard often targets San Diego because his Imperial Beach parents often were his plaintiffs, purportedly going to businesses and finding violations. (His mother recently died.) Hubbard says both had disabilities that qualified them to be plaintiffs under the 1990 law.

On October 29, one A.J. Oliver filed suit against Marisol Villaseñor and the restaurant she owns, Agave Grill in Chula Vista. Hubbard was the attorney. Among numerous things, the complaint stated that signage was not correct, entrance mats were not secure, there was no seating designated for the disabled, the pipes under the

lavatory were improperly wrapped, and the toilet tissue and disposable seat cover dispensers obstructed use of the side grab bar.

Lori Pettigrew, who is Villaseñor's key assistant, says, "None of the things alleged in the complaint were true." Oliver, who uses a wheelchair, claimed he was there twice with a friend who also uses one. She checked restaurant employees; they were certain the two had not been in the restaurant together. "It was clear it was a shakedown. We don't want to pay blackmail money."

Matt Potter
is on vacation.

Severson did her homework, discovering that Oliver had filed 20 similar San Diego lawsuits with Hubbard as his attorney. She contacted defense attorneys, who generally said they had settled the cases. "The magistrate put pressure on my client to settle, but I insisted on depositing the guy because my client said he had never been in the place," she says.

On November 4, she deposed Oliver with Hubbard there as his attorney. It was pathos. Oliver, who can neither read nor write and suffered a stroke 13 years ago, could not remember the name of the restaurant, where it was located, what it looked

like outside or inside, or whether there were signs for the benefit of the disabled. Severson pressed him on the 20 suits that had been filed with his name as plaintiff, asking if he could remember filing suits against, or being inside, such places as KFC, Moneytree check cashing, Wienerschnitzel, Rally's, Red Lobster, and Mervyns. He said he had not filed such suits. In fact, he couldn't remember filing any suit against Villaseñor and the Agave Grill. And he claimed he had never received any money for all the suits that he had filed.

Hubbard quickly dropped the suit. "Somebody changed

continued on page 8

STRINGERS

Tree by the Sea

Pink Flip-Flops, Surf Wax Among Ornaments Cardiff — On December 24, someone erected a Christmas tree on the sand at Cardiff State Beach. On the sunny Christmas Day, hundreds of people stopped by to have their picture taken next to the tree. A couple of bicyclists said they stopped to take a photo to send to their relatives back East.

A small sign posted next to the tree told the story of the "Tree by the Sea." Apparently, a Christmas tree has been anonymously placed for almost two decades. The sign told of the one year, eight years ago, when there was no tree, and no one knew why. Not willing to let a tradition die, "a lifelong Cardiff-by-the-Sea family took on the privilege of placing the tree each Christmas Eve for all to enjoy," the sign read.

The sign acknowledges Cardiff's Maldonado farm for the tree donation and thanks the state-park crew that disposes of it usually after New Year's Day. One passerby said that several years ago the tree was taken out with an unusu-

ing beachgoers took it out of the trash can and replaced it on the shore.

Everyone was invited to add their own decorations to the tree, which already had traditional ornaments. By midday on Christmas, the tree held a pair of pink flip-flops, surf wax, shells, and strings of dried seaweed.

By Ken Harrison, 12/26



Jamie Trivisonno

Hey, Cowboy

Sign-twirler Watches for the Yellow Light Pacific Beach — Move over, Matthew McConaughey, and make room for 60-year-old Jamie Trivisonno, whom I discovered on my way to the gym on Monday afternoon, December 21.

Shirtless and with a cigar in his mouth, Trivisonno danced in the middle of traffic in front of the UPS store on the 1800 block of Garnet Avenue.

"They call me the cowboy sign-twirler, and I love what I do," said Trivisonno, strumming his

UPS Store sign as though it was a guitar, then tossing it down to pick up some drumsticks with which he played an invisible drum set. I thought he was going to get hit by a car. "Don't get run over," I said,

noticing several cars swerve around him.

"I've never been hit

continued on page 10



Cardiff's tree by the sea

ally high tide. Another person said one year vandals tried to light it on fire during the night. Early-morn-

Local Home Values Down 37.9% from Peak The improvement in home values is slowing down in San Diego...

Taxpayer-Financed Stadiums Bring "Municipal Woes," says NY Times More cities are getting into deep trouble...

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CITY LIGHTS

CITY LIGHTS

CITY LIGHTS

Knew Nothing

continued from page 7

Oliver's medication," claims Hubbard. "It was the worst deposition I have ever been to. He didn't remember anything. I knew then there was no way we could prevail in that suit."

But, warns the lawyer, "That restaurant was grossly out of compliance. It has made substantial changes, but there are still problems. I am waiting for another client to go in there and get pissed, and I might sue again."

Severson points out that

Hubbard would have to go fishing for another plaintiff. "The depth of his lack of ethics knows no bounds," she says.

"He wanted to settle for \$5000," says Pettigrew. Hubbard doesn't deny that but says the defense was willing to pay \$1000. Severson says there were negotiations, but they were confidential and Hubbard is not supposed to talk about them.

"My client fixed any problems," says Severson. "We are not necessarily agreeing that there were problems." The Agave Grill hired an expert, who found only small infrac-

tions. For example, the toilets had to be raised by a quarter of an inch, she says.

For a number of reasons, Villaseñor will inform the bar of Hubbard's conduct, says Severson.

From time to time, bills are introduced in the legislature to help businesses hit with disability act lawsuits. In fact, one was introduced last year by an assemblyman from Chico, Hubbard's home base. But the bills haven't gone anywhere, says Severson.

There are people who defend lawyers that file multiple disability act suits. "The

continued on page 10

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CITY LIGHTS

Knew Nothing

continued from page 8

truth is, that in a lot of cases, where you get relief is by suing," says San Diegan William Stothers, deputy director of the Center for an Accessible Society. "Nobody enforces the act, so if places are not accessible, you knock on the door, say, 'This isn't right, and you have to fix it.'" Often, a lawsuit is necessary. "You can complain to the Justice Department, but it only does a minuscule number of cases," and those are generally against large companies. However, he concedes, "There are sharks out there who file a ton of these things."

Agrees Margaret Johnson of Sacramento, advocacy director of Disability Rights California, "The only real enforcement of disability cases is people doing something individually; some write letters, others file lawsuits. We feel fortunate there are lawyers out there, although some may be abusing the system." ■

STRINGERS

continued from page 7

yet. Don't plan on it. I have it timed. See that traffic light down there? When it turns yellow, I go out into the street. And out into the street he went again.

By Carolyn Grace Matteo,
12/23

Claim Jumper

The Value of Parking at the Beach

Pacific Beach — On Friday, December 18, my girlfriend and I went out for dinner to Nick's at the Beach on the corner of Mission Boulevard and Thomas Avenue. When we arrived, there weren't any parking spaces available in Nick's small lot, but we noticed people preparing to vacate a spot in front of the restaurant. My girlfriend got out and went over to the space to "claim" it while I waited

CITY LIGHTS

to pull in.

It was a distance of only 20 feet or so, but before I got there, a pickup truck came from out of nowhere and zipped into the empty spot. The couple in the truck hopped out and headed for the door. I thought that was a rude thing to do but went on to search for another space without saying anything. After a couple of passes up and down the street, I found a spot on the ocean side on Mission Boulevard and headed back to the restaurant.

We entered and were seated. We ordered our meals, and ten minutes or so later, the person who grabbed the parking spot came to our table and said, "I want to apologize for jumping into your parking spot." He was nice about it and sincere. I said, "Thank you. It is nice of you to say something about it, but don't worry about it." He asked if he could buy us a couple of drinks, but we said, "No, thanks, but it was polite of you to apologize." My girlfriend told me, "Not many people would bother saying anything at all."

We finished our dinner, and when the waitress asked if that would be all, I said "yes" and waited for the check. When the waitress came back, she said, "The gentleman in the corner booth insisted on picking up your dinner tab."

By William Owens, 12/21

Comments

1. Clearly, pickup truck was from out of town.

By PeytonFarquhar
12:06 p.m., Dec 21

2. After the first few paragraphs, I thought this story would be going in a different direction, but the holiday-friendly finish was a nice little heart-warming surprise.

On the parking etiquette tip, I vote that sending someone out of the car to claim a

CITY LIGHTS

spot is not an acceptable maneuver. In fact, claiming in general should be frowned upon. The only legit way to claim a spot is to park in it.

By shizzlyfinn
10:49 a.m., Dec 22

Dangerous Skate Rats

Victim Pushed onto Train Tracks

Downtown San Diego — Three San Diego police units responded to a report of an assault at the Santa Fe train depot on Monday, December 21, at about 5:15 p.m.

The incident happened at the north end of the Coaster platform on track one. An Amtrak employee who was loading baggage on an adjacent track called police after witnessing two young white males push a man onto the tracks, hit him over the head with a skateboard, and punch him several times. The suspects ran off after the employee yelled, "Get out of here!"

The perpetrators ran up the B Street alley next to the station and then made a right on Kettner Boulevard toward the One America Plaza trolley station. A security guard arrived at the victim's side before police.

By Steve Horvath, 12/23

Red Christmas

For the Birds, Past and Present

Pacific Beach — On Christmas day from the boardwalk, I saw set up on the beach a one-man camp punctuated by an American flag that snapped in the wind. Sitting beneath a tattered umbrella was a man clad in a Santa cap. Dozens of pigeons and seagulls surrounded him as he fed them bread.

"Merry Christmas," I said. "May I photograph you?"

"Sure, come on over," said the 59-year-old who



"Red" Gardner's one-man camp

introduced himself as Paul Gardner. "Everybody knows me as Red," he added, then lifted his cap to display a thick mane of red hair.

When I asked Gardner what he was doing out there on the beach, he said, "I've been comin' out here every day for the past five years.... See, I wear my Chargers colors." He pointed at his blue-and-gold Seau T-shirt. "And my military colors," he said, pointing toward the American flag. "I'm a Vietnam veteran... Navy, 1972...second-class machinist's mate on the USS *Dubuque*.... We all have to stand up for who we are."

Music blared from a large boom box on the sand beside him. When I asked what his favorite music was, he said, "The '50s, '60s, '80s, '90s." "You skipped the '70s. Why?" I watched the smile leave his face. "Oh, I was on a ship in the '70s...

lonely...the music reminds me." Then, after a silent moment, Gardner tossed more bread to the birds and said, "Wanna play horseshoes?"

By Carolyn Grace Matteo,
12/26

Crazy Louie's Idea Tallest Living Christmas Tree in SD?

Encinitas — Although homeowner Donna Miano has never claimed to have a record-setting Christmas tree, no one else in San Diego claims a taller living Christmas tree. Perched on the ocean-view bluff overlooking Moonlight Beach, the 100-foot-tall star pine has been lit up for the past 17 Christmases. According to Miano, the tree was planted when the house was built in 1942.

When Miano first rented the house at 404 Fourth Street 17 years ago, one of the town's characters, affectionately known by locals as Crazy

Louie, approached her with the idea of lighting the tree for Christmas. He said he had been just sitting at the beach, where he hung out most days, staring up at the huge tree. She thought it was a good idea and gave him the okay. One day Louie showed up with all the lights, a cherry-picker lift, and extension cords.

"When he first plugged it in, it blew out the rest of my house," she said. Each year since, Louie would show up to string the lights, and Miano would foot the \$300 electric bill. The tree has grown ten feet since she began lighting it.

Since Miano purchased the house 12 years ago, the display became more of a big deal. So much so that the City of Encinitas took over the operation for a few years. About six years ago, the City passed it off to the Downtown Encinitas Mainstreet Association, which paid to install separate power lines, a new power pole, an SDG&E meter, switched to energy-saving LED lights, and now foots the \$250 seasonal electric bill.

"This year it took a day and a half and eight guys to string them up," says Miano, who has made legal provisions to ensure that the tree is lit up at Christmastime even if she no longer owns the house in the future.

By Ken Harrison, 12/23

Comments

1. I just wanted to mention that I have never heard anyone refer to the gentleman as anything other than Louie, which is what we locals call him when we have the pleasure.

By mkfynn 9:45 p.m., Dec 24

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Christmas Coauthor

The name of Thomas Reifer, coauthor of our December 24 cover story, "This Is Christmas, Damn It! What Happened?," didn't appear in the byline. We apologize to Mr. Reifer for the omission. Thomas Reifer teaches sociology and ethnic studies at the University of San Diego, and he's an associate fellow at the Transnational Institute.

Dogs And Ponies

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

That article was full of misinformation. Ernie needs to do some research and fact-checking. The facts are these:

1. To improve school scores, many nonunion teachers at Gompers took their problem children and poor performers and dumped them into special ed classes, even though they did not meet the "legal" definition of special ed. The reason was to artificially inflate the charter school's scores.

2. After receiving credit for enrollment for money purposes, poor students and all behavior problems, including the violent students — many of whom served in-house suspensions so the school could collect money — were transferred out to San Diego Unified schools. Parents tired of being called at work and having their child put on suspension were called in and convinced to transfer

their child to San Diego Unified schools because it was in their "best interest." The policy at Gompers was to transfer and dump problem students on San Diego Unified, not to help them.

3. All previous teachers from San Diego Unified were not wanted. San Diego Unified was ridiculed, called names, demeaned, and slandered at all training sessions and meetings. If you were union, you were crap. They didn't want San Diego Unified special ed teachers who would tell them when they were violating the law; they wanted teachers they could control. That is why they are hiring their "own" special ed teachers. The new Gompers management is not interested in the students or learning; they are interested in public image and perception. Dog and pony shows for people like Ernie.

Yes, there are some good teachers at Gompers. Yes, the uniform and added discipline are without a doubt a

good thing at Gompers. There is more pride in the school. Charter schools *do* have some advantages over public schools, particularly in poverty areas where the crime is high and parental participation is minimal. But the union is not the major part of the problem, and San Diego Unified is not the whole reason for failing schools. If San Diego Unified could break the law concerning special ed children and could transfer out all of its gang problems, they would improve their schools and scores also. By the way, has anyone done a check to see what percentage of students who attended Gompers went to juvenile detention centers during the new regime's tenure? I know of several, personally. How can one know if the school is serving or failing the community without that statistic? How many of them were allowed to return to Gompers or even be counted against Gompers?

I applaud the improvement of Gompers and sincerely wish it all the best in the future, but tell the whole story and provide all the facts and the truth and not just the dog and pony show Gompers continues to present and portray in an attempt to self-promote themselves while bad-mouthing and labeling San Diego Unified as a failure.

Reprinting the public-relations news release provided by charter schools, government, or corporations is not investigative reporting and has little real value as a story since it is not a complete or unbiased story. The real story here is what supposed school of journalism did Ernie attend?

Jack
via email

Comments from Reader Website

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

Cover Story Published Dec. 23


By *refriedgringo* 2:15 p.m., Dec. 23, 2009

Then Christmas is doing the right thing for the wrong reason? The loaves and fishes were not simply the feeding of the hungry who were without food; it was a provision of faith for the spiritually poor. So, there were strings attached. There are always strings attached.

Like "Faith," "Hope," "Peace," "Joy," or "Love." Replaced by the words, "Bologna," or "Salami," or "Ham," or "Liverwurst," or "Turkey," some of the strings are cut. Ladles of soup handed out in June or March or September snips even more strings. One line that Maurin could have added in his "Case for Utopia":

Everyone would be enlightened if nobody tried to enlighten others, and nobody would be

continued on page 52

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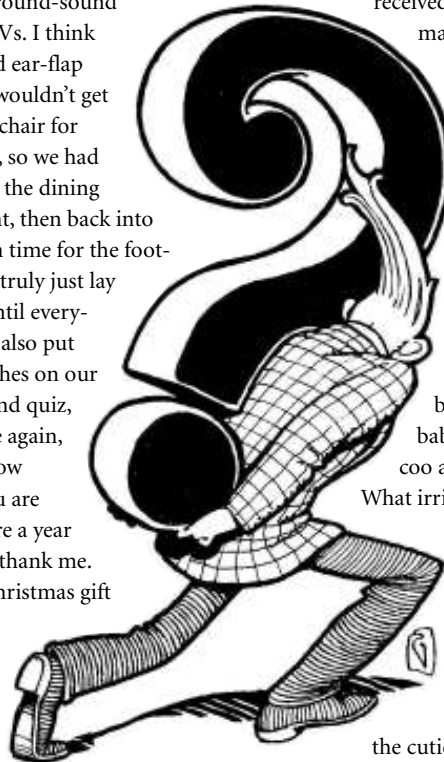
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STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP BY MATTHEW ALICE

ILLUSTRATION BY RICK GEARY

Grandma Alice is pretty happy to have Christmas done with. She says we've taken all the fun out of it. Shopping for the elves is always a chore. This year they asked Santa for their own surround-sound 60-inch plasma TVs. I think they got socks and ear-flap beanies. Pa Alice wouldn't get out of his lounge chair for Christmas dinner, so we had to shove him into the dining room for the event, then back into the living room in time for the football games. Yours truly just lay low and ate pie until everything blew over. I also put the finishing touches on our traditional year-end quiz, your chance, once again, to demonstrate how much smarter you are now than you were a year ago. Please, don't thank me. Consider it my Christmas gift to all of you.



1. Monkeys are like us. We are like monkeys. We're both annoyed by the same things. Crying babies, for instance. Say you're in a restaurant next to a table full of monkeys celebrating some important monkey event. One of the monkey babies starts squeaking and wailing and just won't shut up. Based on careful scientific observations, what would you see the other monkeys do?

A. Stuff the monkle's little mouth with hors d'oeuvres and napkins.
 B. Roll up the kid and cram him into somebody's big designer purse.
 C. Plug their ears with dinner rolls.
 D. Pelt the offender's mother with cutlery and meatloaf and peas until she makes the kid shut up.

2. Rice is completely interesting. Really. No kidding. As far as we're concerned, the most fascinating thing about rice is:

A. You know those little plastic bags that rice comes in at the food mart? Well, each contains 29,000 tiny rice units!
 B. Despite global warming and gentrification, in 2007 we managed to squeeze out of our planet more than 650 million tons of rice!
 C. When half the world's population sits down to dinner (and lunch and breakfast),

they can count on the meal being a big bowl of rice! Every day. Day after day. Year after year. For a lifetime.

D. In 1996 some dazed entrepreneur actually received a U.S. patent for man-made rice, a blend of some gloppy ooze with a little starch and fiber! You get extra credit if you can tell us why he bothered to invent it in the first place.

3. Big baby eyes are pretty slammin'. Hard to resist. Almost as cute as a basket of puppies. But big blue baby eyes take the doggone baby cake. Make all the aunties coo and mush all over the place. What irritating things can happen to big blue baby eyes?

A. Sunlight can activate the melanin pigment in those baby blues and — oh no! — they turn hazel!
 B. Puberty can disrupt the cutie's body chemistry and — oh no! — they turn hazel!
 C. Some particular medication can affect the cool, come-hither blues and — oh no! — they turn hazel!
 D. Former blue-eyes can head for the optometrist's office for colored contacts.

4. John (KUUUUUU-SI) Coleman, TV weatherperson, had Mark in Santee flummoxed. "You can see Hawaii from Del Mar," sez John. "Huh? No way!" sez Mark. "Way," sez John. "What way, Matthew?" sez Mark. "Holy telescopes!" sez Matthew. Pick out the true stuff from the junk:

A. Hawaii is really a lot closer to Del Mar than most people think, so it's no problem to see it.
 B. Cold air trapped under warm air makes things on land look as if they're floating in air because light beams are bent, so theoretically Hawaii could reflect high enough in the sky to be seen from Del Mar. It's called a superior mirage.
 C. Most people in Del Mar spend too much time in steam rooms and spas and through brain softening are hallucinating that they are actually in Hawaii.
 D. No, really. Hawaii is way closer to Del Mar than you think. Way closer. When you fly there, the planes just circle around for hours to make you think Hawaii is far away.

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CONCERT REVIEWS

Gaga for the Lady

By Katharyne Harmacker | Published Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2009



"The freaks are outside, and we've locked the doors!" whoops Lady Gaga during Monster Ball, the show created as a safe place for her "little monsters," as she refers to her fans who displayed a splendid array of tribute outfits reflecting her own many costume changes.

Though there are only two albums, Lady Gaga has plenty of crowd-pleasing hits. "Paparazzi," "Love Game," and "Just Dance" set the scene but are outshone by sparkling tracks from new album *The Fame Monster*. "Alejandro" is a catchy dose of Latin pop, while "Teeth" celebrates bad girls with burlesque bump and grind.

Mid-set, Gaga took to the piano, showcasing her spectacular vocal range with an unplugged rendition of "Speechless" and radio hit "Poker Face," which was reprised later in the show in its disco splendor.

Gaga's pop opera, dazzling set, and haute-couture wardrobe are ambitious, and the show didn't suffer following Kid Cudi's departure from the tour. During Gaga's costume changes, striking and sometimes discomfiting video footage that mimicked high-fashion photography with scenes of Gaga being slapped, donning gimp masks and angel wings, and even being vomited on — all in slow motion.

With a jet-setting schedule and stratospheric career rise in two years, mistaking San Diego for San Jose is perhaps understandable. (She graciously apologized.) As Gaga took to the stage in a giant gyroscope to perform current hit "Bad Romance," all was forgiven, and all the "little monsters" rose for a rousing ovation.

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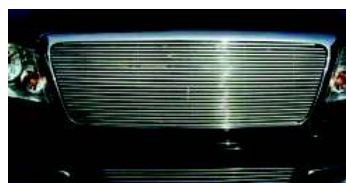
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Claim Jumper

By William Owens | Published Monday, Dec. 21, 2009



On Friday, December 18, my girlfriend and I went out for dinner to Nick's at the Beach on the corner of Mission Boulevard and Thomas Avenue. When we arrived, there weren't any parking spaces available in Nick's small lot, but we noticed people preparing to vacate a spot in front of the restaurant. My g.f. got out and went over to the space to "claim" it while I waited to pull in.

It was a distance of only 20 feet or so, but before I got there, a pickup truck came from out of nowhere and zipped into the empty spot. The couple in the truck hopped out and headed for the door. I thought that was a rude thing to do but went on to search for another space without saying anything. After a couple of passes up and down the street, I found a spot on the ocean side on Mission Boulevard and headed back to the restaurant.

We entered and were seated. We ordered our meals, and ten minutes or so later, the person who grabbed the parking spot came to our table and said, "I want to apologize for jumping into your parking spot."

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SportingBox

BY PATRICK DAUGHERTY

Two Stories



Serena Williams

I've been scrapbooking 2009 sports stories.

Let's see...Yankees win the World Series, A-Rod admits taking steroids, Michael Vick signs with Philly, Kobe wins one without Shaq, and so on.

Here's one that might entertain: Serena Williams was voted AP Female Athlete of the Year. Many will remember 2009 as the year Williams was fined \$82,500 and hammered with a two-year probation. If she commits another major violation while on probation, she will be barred from the U.S. Open and fined another \$92,500.

Her 2009 major violation was the result of a one-way conversation with a lineswoman at the U.S. Open. The lineswoman made what turned out to be an incorrect foot-fault call on Williams. Serena walked toward the terrified official and said, "I swear to God, I'm fucking taking this ball and shoving it down your fucking throat... I swear to God. Do you hear me? I swear to God. You better be glad, you better be fucking glad that I'm not, I swear."

Serena's on-court serenade, and an earlier warning for racket abuse, added up to a one-point penalty, enough to award the match to her opponent.

Three months later, Williams is voted AP Female Athlete of the Year, which is fine by me. She's got the stats. Williams collected \$6.5 million in tournament winnings during 2009, a single-season tour record. She won the singles championship at the Australian Open and at Wimbledon. She won the doubles, with her sister Venus, at the Australian Open, Wimbledon, and the U.S. Open.

But — here's the weird part — the runner-up, the number-two AP Female Athlete of Year vote-getter was...a female horse. Regard, the fair Zenyatta, a five-year-old mare and the first female horse to win the Breeders' Cup Classic. And again, that's fine with me. If the AP Female Athlete of the Year competition includes animals, I can think of a couple Alaskan malamutes who deserve

consideration. Then there's Ralphie the buffalo, a University of Colorado mascot and legendary open-field runner. And Blackie the cat, Dumbo the elephant...let a thousand flowers bloom.

Speaking of elephants, there's one in the room. We might as well get this over with. Tiger Woods. It wasn't a sports story in the beginning, but may be the biggest sports story of the decade before it's over.

This morning's count is 15 mistresses. No one knows the number of one-night stands. Don't get me wrong — I do not mean to slander one-night stands — I honor them, but at some number you cross the threshold from robust sporting sex to personality disorder. And, yes, it's his business, but not entirely, not when he makes millions of dollars appearing on national TV posing as a devoted husband, father, and all-around family guy. Do that for 10 or 15 years and you don't get a privacy pass when you're busted as a whoremaster.

Still, it's sex, and people are crazy. Hush money and lawyers will cost Tiger millions of dollars. And it will cost him his marriage and tens, maybe hundreds of millions of dollars in marriage buyout fees, plus many, many millions of dollars more in lost endorsements. But, the lad has way more money than the lousy two or three hundred million bucks this will eventually cost. So, one thinks, adding up the score, no harm, no foul, save for his wife and two small children who will grow up knowing their daddy is a pathological liar.

But, all that can be overcome if Tiger returns to the PGA Tour and plays great golf. It's steroids that could ruin him.

Introducing Dr. Anthony Galea, a Canadian sports doctor who has treated elite athletes in the NFL, NBA, and the rest. The *New York Times* reports that the FBI is investigating Galea for providing athletes with performance-enhancing drugs. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police have already charged him with conspiring to smuggle Nutropin (a human growth hormone) and other drugs into the United States.

His one-time assistant is "cooperating with U.S. federal authorities." Dr. Galea says he has been injecting himself with human growth hormone five days a week for the past ten years. He's a doc — a Canadian one at that — and he can prescribe his medicine. Galea has denied any wrongdoing.

Who cares? Well, Galea traveled to Woods's home four times last February and March to treat Tiger's slow-healing Achilles tendon. Galea was there to provide Woods with his *legal*, platelet-rich plasma therapy that is supposed to speed up healing.

That's nothing. There's no proof of anything regarding Woods and steroids. Then again, these investigations take time...ask Barry Bonds.

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In Sum

We shall have to see what sort of films the Coens are making in their seventies.

One thing seems clear. The surprise announcement in June of the expansion of the Oscars' Best Picture category to ten nominees, a virtual Ten Best list exclusive of foreign films (not just second-class citizens but green-card aliens), could not have been based on the perception or the

premonition of an overflowing cornucopia of goodies. As everyone who thought about it suspected, it had to be based on the hope of stringing out the front-runners to such a point of thinness that a couple of mainstream unworthies would sneak onto the ballot and reverse the declining TV ratings. All those who still believed the Academy Awards were about excellence had yet another opportunity to disabuse themselves. This was a big story for a day — the next day Michael Jackson died — but it's soon to be revived.

By my subjective measure — a moistened index finger held up to the breeze — the year just past was to all

intents and purposes no different from innumerable years previous, much farther back than the dreaded Naughts, a period, an era, a veritable Dark Age, when it was impossible for me with-

out relaxing my standards to fill up all the slots of a traditional Ten Best. No mere trend, no temporary slump, a settled way of life. So much so, in fact, that at the close of 2009 I could scarcely feel cheated, especially when the tallest peaks, regardless how small the mountain range, reached so high in the sky.

A Serious Man, to start at the top and work my way down, is the most personal, the most autobiographical work of the foremost American filmmakers of their generation, Joel and Ethan Coen, and an indispensable supplement, with the tangy additive of Judaism, to their previous portrait of their — and my — native state of Minnesota, *Fargo*. (Its subtitled Old Country prologue is in the same vein of magically misdirection as the title

MOVIE REVIEW DUNCAN SHEPHERD



A Serious Man

of that other. And please note, apropos of nothing, that the infamous gay bar in this one is mischievously named the North Dakota.) No further recommendation — most personal, most autobiographical, foremost — should be required. The mandatory second viewing of it turned up no major new insights, only a deeper appreciation of

the Coens' ability to keep things moving ahead in lively fashion, no dead spots. Their pacing, their weighting, their knowing just how much to put in and how long to spend on it, mark them as masters of the medium. My personal prize for the year's best performance by a supporting actor would have to be divided between Aaron

Wolff, Fred Melamed, Simon Helberg, George Wyner, Alan Mandell, Ari Hoptman, Adam Arkin, Peter Breitmeyer, David Kang, and Stephen Park. The recitation of those names, no more household than the top-billed name of Michael Stuhlbarg, reminds me that my fear the Coens were committing commercial suicide was proven baseless.

Anna planned to propose to her boyfriend on February 29th.

This is not her boyfriend.

AMY ADAMS MATTHEW GOODE

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Calendar

MOVIES

The brothers, as I said at the time, are the stars of the show, and as it turned out, plenty big.

Fados had a couple of showings in the San Diego Latino Film Festival last spring, a free screening at a shopping-mall food court over the summer, and is currently available on cable via Video-On-Demand as well as on DVD. If I could go along with the perfunctory classification of it as a documentary, I would be bound to put it at the top of the year's very large heap, but I must instead place it as the unclassifiable best of Carlos Saura's movie musicals, odd as that placement would have sounded at any time in his first twenty years of musical-free filmmaking, up to *Blood Wedding*. After which he found a new métier, a new forte. Although his salute to the Portuguese urban folk songs of the title recycled the stylistic devices of his *Flamenco*, *Tango*, et al., it is not simply more of the same but the ultimate perfection of it; and the balance of song and dance (and instrumental) is unprecedented. The ten-minute finale in the Platonic ideal of a fado bar, a return to a state of purity after the definition of the art form had been stretched and twisted for an hour and a quarter, affords as grand and thrilling a climax as any musical in history.

Silent Light, descending faster now, likewise had only a couple of showings in the Latino festival. Carlos Reygadas infused the insular setting of a German-speaking Mexican Mennonite community with extreme degrees of frigidity and austerity and difficulty, and in so doing he made the people and places indelible. Jane Campion's *Bright Star* and Martin Provost's *SérAPHINE*, to take two in one stride, were almost equal to the foregoing in aliveness to the external world (without quite the rigor) and superior to it in aliveness to the inner worlds of their factual characters, the poet John Keats and his inamorata Fanny Brawne, in the one, and the Modern Primitive painter



Bright Star

SérAPHINE de Senlis in the other. And Avi Nesher's *The Secrets*, an exclusive of the Reading Gaslamp, was a well-charted Heroine's Journey centered on a scholarly young ultra-orthodox Jewish woman — a serious woman — who enters an all-female seminary prior to her arranged marriage to a budding rabbi and who comes out of it, with a different calling, an even more serious woman.

Honorable mentions begin with two Clint Eastwood films from opposite ends of the calendar, *Gran Torino* in January, a local late arrival from the preceding year, and the under-the-wire *Invictus* in December. Both of them boast his customary assurance but with less to be assured about, a slacking-off not only in the pace he set for himself in the middle of the decade, *Mystic River* through *Letters from Two Jima*, but also in his head-to-heads competition with the Coens (in my mind there's no one else in the chase) as the top-ranking active American filmmaker. We shall have to see what sort of films the Coens are making in their seventies.

Alphabetically close to *Invictus* come Quentin Tarantino's campy, fastidious *Inglourious Basterds*, bearing up well for two and a half hours if

not so well in recollection, and Steven Soderbergh's mainstream but offbeat *The Informant!*, better by far than his three little indies — *Che: Part One*, *Che: Part Two*, *The Girlfriend Experience* — within these same twelve months.

Ari Folman's *Waltz with Bashir*, a Middle East hot potato, headed the crowded fields of both animation and, strange to say, documentary, though it was challenged in the first by Hayao Miyazaki's delicate and dreamlike *Ponyo* and in the second by James D. Stern's and Adam Del Deo's backstage Broadway drama, *Every Little Step*, Nati Baratz's reincarnation mystery, *Unmistaken Child*, and Agnes Varda's fanciful memoir, *The Beaches of Agnes*.

Erin Riklis's *Lemon Tree*, a Middle East olive branch, and Lone Scherfig's *An Education*, a coming-of-age period piece, were worthwhile if for nothing else than their leading ladies, Hiam Abbass and Carey Mulligan respectively. The Japanese *Departures* by Yojiro Takita and the German *Cherry Blossoms* by the Japanophile Doris Dörrie dealt tastefully and touchingly with the subject of death. And lastly: Majid Majidi's slightly sentimental and acutely sensitive *The Song of Sparrows*, Laurent Cantet's raw and realistic *The Class*, Olivier Assayas's ruminative *Summer Hours*. I could say, after all those, that I really can't complain. I could fib.

Tom Tykwer's *The International* would have come in for a place of honor were the bulk of it anywhere near the level of the year's standout action scene, the gunfight at the Guggenheim. Once I started to make that kind of concession, however, I should be obliged to find room as well, on different counts, for the likes of *Avatar*, 2012, *Star Trek*, *Moon*, *Battle for Terra*, *Paranormal Activity*, *Fantastic*

Mr. Fox, *500 Days of Summer*, *Julie and Julia*, *The Girl from Monaco*, *Lorna's Silence*, *Revanche*, *The Hurt Locker*, *Whatever Works*, *Hotel for Dogs*, some others. The imminent sound of wooden spoon scraping bottom of barrel would be silenced in futility by one single statistic. Number of first-run films I watched this year: 268. Do the math. ■

MOVIE LISTINGS

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

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel — Further adventures of the computer-generated rodents, directed by Betty Thomas.

(CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; CHULA VISTA 10; 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; 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. ★ (PALM PROMENADE 24)

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 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)

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; FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA COSTA 6; 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 — Almodóvar, as is his wont, gives you splatters and splashes, swatches and swaths, of vibrant color, and he gives you the occasional rock-you-on-your-heels image (a teardrop on a ripe tomato, lovers writhing within a white-sheet cocoon), and he gives you deliberately over-the-top domestic melodrama played steadfastly straight: a blind filmmaker (shades of Woody Allen's *Hollywood Ending*, albeit darker shades), a kept woman turned movie starlet, a manipulative millionaire, his conniving gay son, etc. He doesn't, however, give you much to believe in, except in this instance the undoubted radiance of Penelope Cruz, who in her mid-thirties would appear to have yet done nothing surgically to disfigure herself. It's a sad comment on our times that that's worthy of comment about an actress of her age. With Lluís Homar, José Luis Góez, Blanca Portillo. 2009. ★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

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 Geare. 2009.

★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY 20; 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

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Did You Hear about the Morgans

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?

— 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 no worse than that of many a screwball comedy of the Golden Age. Hugh Grant and Sarah Jessica Parker as the fishes out of water are simply staying limber without really stretching themselves; and their contrasting styles, ingratiating vs. grating, yield a semblance of discord. Grant's reeking insincerity is rather unbecoming in the role of a marital penitent and supplicant, but the increasing creases in his face add poignance even to insincerity, not only to ingratiation. Filmmaker Marc Lawrence, who with *Two Weeks Notice* and *Music and Lyrics* has never directed in absence of Grant, always cares enough about the work to employ a topflight cinematographer. This one, Florian Ballhaus, applies a high shine. Sam Elliott, Mary Steenburgen. 2009.

★ (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 wisened-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; LA PALOMA)

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 explosion ought to be put to bed for a rest period of not less than a generation.) She takes a lot of time on the action scenes, or more broadly the tension scenes, and not much time in between, so that the three principals — Jeremy Renner, Anthony Mackie, Brian Geraghty, each of them looking the part — are thin on character, static in development, no more than generic as opposed to individual soldiers. With 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 imperturbable pace, stretching out customarily to a wieldy and evenly balanced two and a quarter hours. Morgan Freeman as Mandela (put a batik shirt on his back and a smile on his face and it's amazing how well he can pass) and Matt Damon as the rugby team captain, François Pienaar, struggle to outdo one another in stoical underplaying, and neither struggles noticeably with the accent. Eastwood, meantime, has his own struggle in making an unfamiliar sport comprehensible ("So, it is very important that we beat Australia"), and although he fails at that on the field of play, he succeeds stirringly in the stands and on the streets and in front of the nation's televisions. 2009.

★★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; CHULA VISTA 10; DEL MAR HIGHLANDS 8; FASHION 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 — Romantic-comic triangle composed of a fifty-something divorcee, her remarried but re-interested ex-husband, and her too-good-to-be-true divorced architect: "Your age is one of my favorite things about you." The grown children have no problems of their own, and the level of affluence — not to forget level of gourmet cuisine — removes all other problems, so that a hypothetical air prevails. In truth, it's complicated enough already. (The chorus of confidantes drops out of sight when we need them most.) Meryl Streep brings to her role her usual fine de-

tail and wide dynamics, and Alec Baldwin brings an amusing girth. With Steve Martin, John Krasinski, and Lake Bell; written and directed by Nancy Meyers. 2009.

★ (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)

Me and Orson Welles — Filmmaker Richard Linklater fictionalizes, mythologizes, the Mercury Theatre's mounting of a modern-dress *Julius Caesar* in 1937, the titular "me" being a stagestruck high-schooler who in one week lands a small speaking and singing part in the Broadway production, falls head over heels for the company secretary, sees her stolen out from under him by the titular Orson, gets fired and rehired and refired, falls back on a nicer girl for a happy ending, and at least has something to tell his grandchildren. As a coming-of-age tale, it

isn't much, but as an exhibition of old-fashioned studio filmmaking, luxurious sets and costumes lusciously photographed, it is more than adequate. In eye and in mouth, in glance and in cadence, the unknown British actor Christian McKay magically conjures the Welles we know, although given his age it would be the Welles of, say, *The Third Man* or *Othello*. (Other Mercury players we know, Joseph Cotten, George Coulouris, Norman Lloyd, are not rendered with such fidelity, or indeed any fidelity, outside of perhaps the choppy waves on Cotten's head.) It ought to give us serious pause when we calculate to ourselves that the actor who fills the role of the teenager, Zac Efron, is in real life the same age as Welles would have been in 1937, and in that pause we can reflect that we are getting the Welles of myth and legend instead of the Welles of a particular time and place. The performance remains more impression than characterization. Claire Danes, Eddie Marsan, Ben Chaplin, Zoe Kazan. 2009.

★★ (HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

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Calendar MOVIES

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; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14)

Nine — Former choreographer Rob Marshall's third directorial effort, a restaging of the Broadway musical based on Fellini's *8½*. 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 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. Dion Beebe's rich ripe cinematography is commendable on its own merits when not dipping into directly competitive black-and-white. 2009.

★ (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)

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 — Throwback Disney cartoon, a blessed retreat from plumped-up computer animation and smart-aleck anachronisms. The updated and retailored fairy tale serves primarily as a valentine to Old New Orleans: jazz, voodoo, gumbo, beignets, riverboat, streetcar (okay, one sneaky anachronism: "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)



It's Complicated

The Road — From the novel by Cormac McCarthy, a post-apocalyptic road movie of a man, a boy, a gray wasteland, and roving bands of ragtag cannibals whom Mad Max would have blown away with a sneeze. Naturalistic science fiction, it amounts to an anti-2012 (careful what you wish for) from the maker of the Australian anti-Western, *The Proposition*, John Hillcoat, a small-scale spectacle of unrelieved grimness and gloom, short on characters, thin in incident, thick with sallow grimy hairy closeups (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 filmmakers bring to their subject the unkind eye of the caricaturist. They demonstrate an acute and excruciating body awareness, the girth, the ear hair, the sebaceous cyst on the neck, the protagonist's half squat at the classroom blackboard, his outthrust butt, his pant cuffs riding up to his calves. And their subtly bulging face shots and torso shots, fronted and centered, approach the freak-show aura of the photographs of Diane Arbus. The parade of surnames has a Dickensian grotesquerie all its own: Gopnik, Finkle, Marshak, Nachtner, Schlutz, seldom a simple Shapiro. And the three rabbis of three different generations are hilariously ineffectual in three different ways. But to complain that the character portraits are not rounded, are slanted, would be to complain that a caricaturist is not a classicist, that Daumier is not Ingres. This is, it bears stressing at this point, a personal film. It is also — unexpectedly enough, as unexpected as the superstitious Old Country folk tale of the prologue and its old-fashioned 4:3 aspect ratio — a religious film, a film concerned not just with the specific religion of Judaism and its whole exotic lexicon, but with broader religious questions,

universal inquiries into life's mysteries: what have I done to deserve this? what have I done with my life? what ought I to do? what am I here for? 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 — Horrors! A Sherlock Holmes for the 21st Century, a man of action, a martial artist, more of a 19th-century James Bond or alternatively an urban *Wild Wild West*-erner, with a pretty-boy Dr. Watson (Jude Law) and a megalomaniacal archenemy (Mark Strong) who foretells "a journey that will twist the very fabric of nature," not to mention the re-colonization of America. The worst of it, worse than the hero's unseemly number of brushes with death or his embarrassing gullibility to feminine wiles, worse even than the blanketing darkness and the teeth-rattling sound and music imposed by director Guy Ritchie, is the insouciance of Robert Downey, Jr. (never mind his bad accent) in the title role. In a rare bow to discretion, he at least lays off the cocaine. Rachel McAdams, Eddie Marsan. 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)

A Single Man — Adaptation of the Christopher Isherwood novel detailing the planned last day of a homosexual English professor (an exquisitely tortured Colin Firth) 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." 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 convincingly a photographic eye to go along with a curatorial taste in the early-Sixties 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

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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. With Julianne Moore, Nicholas Hoult, and Matthew Goode. 2009.

★ (HILLCREST CINEMAS)

35 Shots of Rum — Claire Denis's gray portrait of black Parisians, a grizzled train engineer and his full-grown daughter at the center of it. There's a good deal of riding around to cool melodica-ruled music, and an abundance of lifelike little details, but it never quite comes into focus. With Alex Descas, Mati Diop, and Gregoire Colin. 2009.

★ (KEN, THROUGH 12/31)

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)

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)

Visual Acoustics — Documentary on the celebrated architectural photographer Julius Schulman, narrated by Dustin Hoffman, directed by Eric Bricker.

(KEN, 1/1 THROUGH 7)

The Young Victoria — And the young Albert. (Psst, wanna see the Queen in her teddies?) The story of the first occupant of the spanking new Buckingham Palace is a story of profeminist liberation — “Even a palace can be a prison” — and a testament to the capacity of British thespians, specifically Emily Blunt, Rupert Friend, Paul Bet-



The Young Victoria

tany, Miranda Richardson, Mark Strong, Harriet Walter, Jim Broadbent, among others, to play any dry and droning history lesson as if it were Shakespeare. The rather bland love story ultimately nudges out the pungent family relations, and the only

goose bumps come courtesy of Handel and high volume. Directed by Jean-Marc Vallée. 2009.

★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; FLOWER HILL 4; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

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Carmel Mountain 14

11620 Carmel Mountain Road (800-326-3264 #2704)

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

CLAIREMONT

Town Square 14

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

DOWNTOWN

Gaslamp 15

701 Fifth Avenue (800-326-3264 #2709)

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) Fri.-Sat. (11:15, 12:15, 1:20, 2:20, 3:25) 4:25, 5:30, 6:30, 7:35, 8:35, 9:40, 10:40 Sun. (11:15, 12:15, 1:20, 2:20, 3:25) 4:25, 5:30, 6:30, 7:35, 8:35, 9:40; **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. (11:35, 2:15) 4:50, 7:30, 10:10; **Invictus** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:25, 1:45, 3:15) 4:45, 6:10, 7:40, 9:05; **It's Complicated** (R) Fri. (11:00, 12:00, 1:40, 2:40) 4:20, 5:20, 7:00, 8:00, 9:45, 10:45 Sat. (11:00, 1:40) 4:20, 7:00, 9:45 Sun. (11:00, 12:00, 1:40, 2:40) 4:20, 5:20, 7:00, 8:00, 9:45; **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.-Sat. (11:20, 12:30, 1:50, 3:00) 4:10, 5:25, 6:50, 7:55, 9:20, 10:30 Sun. (11:20, 12:30, 1:50, 3:00) 4:10, 5:25, 6:50, 7:55, 9:20, 10:15; **2012** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:25, 2:45) 6:05, 9:25; **Up in the Air** (R) Fri. (11:30, 1:00, 2:00, 3:10) 4:30, 5:40, 7:05, 8:10, 9:35, 10:35 Sat. (11:30, 12:40, 2:00, 3:10) 4:30, 5:40, 7:05, 8:10, 9:35, 10:35 Sun. (11:30, 12:40, 2:00, 3:10) 4:30, 5:40, 7:05, 8:10, 9:35

Horton Plaza 14

Horton Plaza (619-444-FILM) **Avatar** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 12:30, 3:00) 4:00, 6:30, 7:30, 9:50, 10:50; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 3:30) 7:00, 10:20; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) Fri.-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.-Sun. (10:30, 1:20) 4:20, 7:20, 10:15; **A Christmas Carol** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:40, 1:25) 4:10; **Couples Retreat** (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:50, 1:35) 4:30, 7:05, 9:40; **Did You Hear about the Morgans?** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:25, 1:30) 4:25, 7:25, 9:55; **New Moon** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 1:00) 4:05, 7:10, 10:05; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) Fri.-Sun. (10:35, 12:55, 3:10) 5:25, 7:40, 9:55; **The Road** (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:20, 1:10) 4:15, 7:15, 10:10; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) Fri.-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) **Visual Acoustics: The Modernism of Julius Shulman** (NR) Fri. (1:30) 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:45, Sat.-Sun. (1:30) 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, Mon.-Thu. (5:30) 7:30, 9:30

LA JOLLA

La Jolla 12

8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (888-262-4386) **Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel; Avatar; Did You Hear about the Morgans?; Invictus; It's Complicated; Nine; The Princess and the Frog; Sherlock Holmes; Up in the Air**

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; **Me and Orson Welles** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:15) 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:35, Mon.-Thu. (1:50) 4:25, 7:00, 9:35; **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; **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

MIRA MESA

Mira Mesa 18

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

(PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:25, 1:15) 4:05, 7:00, 9:55; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) Fri.-Sat. (9:00, 10:15, 11:25, 12:45, 1:55, 3:15) 4:25, 6:10, 8:40, 11:10 Sun. (9:00, 10:15, 11:25, 12:45, 1:55) 3:15, 4:25, 6:10, 8:40; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30) 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30 Sun. (10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30) 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30; **Up in the Air** (R) Fri.-Sat. (9:10, 11:50) 2:40, 5:20, 7:05, 8:10, 9:45, 10:45 Sun. (12:10) 2:40, 5:20, 7:05, 8:10, 9:45, 10:45

MISSION VALLEY

Fashion Valley 18

7037 Friars Road (888-262-4386) **Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (PG); **Avatar** (PG-13); **The Blind Side** (PG-13); **Brothers** (R); **A Christmas Carol** (PG); **Did You Hear about the Morgans?** (PG-13); **Invictus** (PG-13); **It's Complicated** (R); **New Moon** (PG-13); **Nine** (PG-13); **The Princess and the Frog** (G); **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13); **2012** (PG-13); **Up in the Air** (R); **The Young Victoria** (PG)

Mission Valley 7

7510 Hazard Center Drive (619-685-2841)



It's Complicated (R) Fri & Sat: (11:00 am, 2:00), 5:00, 7:45, 10:45; Sun - Thu: (11:00 am, 2:00), 5:00, 7:45; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: (10:00 am, 1:00, 4:00), 7:00, 10:00; Sun - Thu: (10:00 am, 1:00, 4:00), 7:00; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: (2:30, 8:00, 10:45); Sun - Wed: (2:30), 8:00; Thu: (10:00 am, 2:30), 8:00; **Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (PG) Fri & Sat: (10:00 am, 12:15, 2:30), 4:45, 7:15, 9:30; Sun - Thu: (10:00 am, 12:15, 2:30), 4:45, 7:15; **Up in the Air** (R) Fri & Sat: (10:15 am, 12:45, 3:15), 5:45, 8:15, 10:45; Sun - Thu: (10:15 am, 12:45, 3:15), 5:45, 8:15; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) Fri - Thu: (9:30 am, 1:00), 4:30, 8:00; **Did You Hear About the Morgans?** (PG-13) Fri - Thu: (9:30 am, 12:00), 5:30; **The Princess and**

the Frog (G) Fri & Sat: (10:15 am, 12:30, 2:45), 5:15, 7:30, 9:45; Sun - Wed: (10:15 am, 12:30, 2:45), 5:15, 7:30; Thu: (12:30, 2:45), 5:15, 7:30

Mission Valley 20

1640 Camino Del Rio North (888-262-4386) **Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (PG); **Avatar** (PG-13); **The Blind Side** (PG-13); **Brothers** (R); **A Christmas Carol** (PG); **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); **The Princess and the Frog** (G); **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13); **2012** (PG-13); **Up in the Air** (R)

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; **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; **Precious: Based On The Novel 'Push' By Sapphire** (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:55) 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:35, Mon.-Thu. (07) (1:40) (4:25), 7:10, 9:35; **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; **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

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center

1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233) **Azated: An IMAX Film Experience** (Not Rated) Fri. 12:00, 3:00 Sat.-Sun. 12:00, 3:00, 6:00; **Everest** (Not Rated) Fri. 11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 Sat.-Sun. 11:00, 2:00, 5:00; **Under the Sea** (G) Fri.-Sun. 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00

EAST COUNTY

EL CAJON

Parkway Plaza 18

405 Parkway Plaza (619-401-3456) **Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:00, 11:00, 11:30, 12:20, 1:20, 1:50, 2:55, 3:55) 4:50, 5:25, 7:20, 7:50, 10:15; **Avatar** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:20, 3:00) 6:30, 9:30, 10:00; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:30, 12:00, 2:00, 3:30) 5:30, 7:00, 9:00, 10:25; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:10, 1:00)

4:05, 7:00, 10:15; **Did You Hear about the Morgans?** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:50, 1:30) 4:20, 7:25, 10:05; **Invictus** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:30a.m.); **It's Complicated** (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:20, 1:00, 1:35, 3:50) 4:15, 6:55, 7:15, 9:35, 9:55; **New Moon** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (1:10) 4:10, 7:15, 10:20; **Nine** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:40, 1:40) 4:40, 7:20, 10:10; **Old Dogs** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:05, 2:25); **Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire** (R) Fri.-Sun. 7:10, 9:50; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) Fri.-Sun. (11:55, 2:20) 4:55, 7:30, 10:00; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:10, 10:40, 11:00, 1:05, 1:35, 1:55) 4:00, 4:30, 4:55, 6:55, 7:25, 7:45, 9:50, 10:20, 10:40; **2012** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. 5:00, 8:20 Sun. (5:00) 8:20; **Up in the Air** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 1:55) 4:35, 7:05, 9:55

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. (11:00, 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; **Did You Hear**

about the Morgans? (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:40, 3:00) 6:45, 9:35; **Invictus** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:05) 11:00; **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) 7:45, 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) 4:45, 7:05, 7:35, 7:55, 10:10, 10:40; **Up in the Air** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:25, 2:15) 5:10, 8:00, 10:50

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)



It's Complicated (R) Fri & Sat: (10:45 am, 1:45), 4:45, 7:45, 10:45; Sun - Thu: (10:45 am, 1:45), 4:45, 7:45; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: (10:15 am, 1:00, 4:00), 7:00, 10:00; Sun - Thu: (10:15 am, 1:00, 4:00), 7:00; **Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (PG) Fri & Sat: (10:00 am, 11:00 am, 12:15, 1:15, 2:30, 3:45), 4:45, 6:00, 7:15, 8:15, 9:30, 10:30 Sun - Thu: (10:00 am, 11:00 am, 12:15, 1:15, 2:30, 3:45), 4:45, 6:00, 7:15, 8:15; **Avatar** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: (12:00, 3:30), 7:00, 10:30; Sun - Thu: (12:00, 3:30), 7:00; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) Fri - Thu: (9:30 am, 1:00), 4:30, 8:00; **Did You**

Hear About the Morgans? (PG-13) Fri & Sat: (10:00 am, 12:30, 3:00), 5:30, 8:00, 10:30; Sun - Thu: (10:00 am, 12:30, 3:00), 5:30, 8:00; **Invictus** (PG-13) Fri - Thu: (10:30 am), 4:15; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) Fri & Sat: (10:15 am, 12:30, 2:45), 5:15, 7:30, 9:45; Sun - Thu: (10:15 am, 12:30, 2:45), 5:15, 7:30; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: (11:15 am, 2:00), 5:00, 7:45, 10:45; Sun - Thu: (11:15 am, 2:00), 5:00, 7:45; **New Moon** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: (1:30), 7:15, 10:15; Sun - Wed: (1:30), 7:15; Thu: (1:30 pm)

Otay Ranch 12

Eastlake Parkway (at Olympic) (888-262-4386)

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 11:00) 12:20, 1:25, 2:40, 3:45, 5:05, 6:10, 7:30, 8:30, 9:50 Sun. (10:00, 11:00) 12:30, 1:25, 2:45, 3:45, 5:05, 6:10, 7:30, 8:30, 9:50; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:10, 11:15) 1:45, 3:00, 5:30, 6:45, 9:15, 10:15 Sun. (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; **Did You Hear about the Morgans?** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:45) 1:30, 4:15, 7:05, 9:45; **Invictus** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:00) 10:45 Sun. 10:45p.m.; **It's Complicated** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:10) 2:05, 4:55, 7:55, 10:40; **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) 1:35, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:30) 1:00, 1:40, 4:00, 4:40, 7:00, 7:45, 10:00, 10:45; **Up in the Air** (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:30) 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:25 Sun. 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:25

Palm Promenade 24

770 Dennery 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); **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); **The Princess and the Frog** (G); **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13); **Up in the Air** (R)

NORTH INLAND

ESCONDIDO

Escondido 16

350 West Valley Parkway (760-291-0119)

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

FALLBROOK

River Village 6

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



It's Complicated (R) Fri & Sat: (11:30 am, 2:15), 5:00, 8:00, 10:45; Sun: (11:30 am, 2:15), 5:00, 8:00; Mon - Thu: 5:00, 8:00; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: (11:00 am, 2:00), 4:45, 7:45, 10:45; Sun: (11:00 am, 2:00), 4:45, 7:45; Mon - Thu: 4:45, 7:45; **Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (PG) Fri & Sat: (11:00 am, 1:15, 3:45), 6:00, 8:15; Mon - Thu: (11:00 am, 1:15, 3:45), 6:00, 8:15; Sun: (3:45), 6:00, 8:15; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: (12:00, 3:30), 7:00, 10:30; Sun: (12:00, 3:30), 7:00; Mon - Thu: (3:30), 7:00; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) Fri & Sat: (12:15, 2:45), 5:15, 7:30, 9:45; Sun: (12:15, 2:45), 5:15, 7:30; Mon - Thu: 5:15, 7:30; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: (11:00 am, 1:45), 4:30, 7:15, 10:15; Sun: (11:00 am, 1:45), 4:30, 7:15 Mon - Thu: 4:30, 7:15

POWAY

Poway 10

13475 Poway Road (858-646-9423)



It's Complicated (R) Fri & Sat: (11:00 am, 2:00), 5:00, 7:45, 10:30; Sun - Thu: (11:00 am, 2:00), 5:00, 7:45; **Nine** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: (10:30 am, 1:15), 4:15, 7:30, 10:15; Sun - Wed: (10:30 am, 1:15), 4:15, 7:30; Thu: (10:30 am,

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www.UltraStarMovies.com
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1:15), 4:15; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: (10:00 am, 1:00, 4:00), 7:15, 10:15; Sun - Thu: (10:00 am, 1:00, 4:00), 7:15; **Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (PG) Fri & Sat: (10:00 am, 12:15, 2:30), 4:45, 7:15, 9:30; Sun - Thu: (10:00 am, 12:15, 2:30), 4:45, 7:15; **Up in the Air** (R) Fri & Sat: (10:15 am, 12:45, 3:15), 5:45, 8:15, 10:45; Sun - Thu: (10:15 am, 12:45, 3:15), 5:45, 8:15; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: (9:30 am, 12:00, 1:00, 3:30), 4:30, 7:00, 8:00, 10:30; Sun - Thu: (9:30 am, 12:00, 1:00, 3:30), 4:30, 7:00, 8:00; **Did You Hear About the Morgans?** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: (10:00 am, 12:30, 3:00), 5:30, 8:15, 10:45; Sun - Thu: (10:00 am, 12:30, 3:00), 5:30, 8:15; **Invictus** (PG-13) Fri - Thu: (10:30 am), 4:30; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) Fri & Sat: (10:15 am, 12:30, 2:45), 5:15, 7:30, 9:45; Sun - Thu: (10:15 am, 12:30, 2:45), 5:15, 7:30; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: (1:30), 7:45, 10:45; Sun - Thu: (1:30), 7:45

SAN MARCOS

San Marcos 18

1180 W. San Marcos Boulevard (at Old California Walk) (800-326-3264)
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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.-Sun. (11:15, 12:40, 2:50, 4:15) 6:30, 7:50, 10:05 Fri.-Sat. (12:00, 3:35) 7:10, 10:40 Fri.-Sat. (12:00, 3:35) 7:10, 10:40 Sun. (12:00, 3:35) 7:10 Sun. (12:00, 3:35) 7:10; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:40, 1:35, 4:30) 7:25, 10:15; **Did You Hear about the Morgans?** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:30, 2:10) 7:20; **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. (4:40) 9:50; **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, 4:30, 5:10) 6:50, 7:30, 8:10, 9:50, 10:30, 11:00 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)
Call theater for program information.

DEL MAR

Del Mar Highlands 8

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



Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) Fri & Sat: (10:00 am, 1:15), 4:15, 7:15, 10:15; Sun - Thu: (10:00 am, 1:15), 4:15, 7:15; **Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (PG) Fri & Sat: (10:00 am, 12:15, 2:30), 4:45, 7:15, 9:30; Sun - Thu: (10:00 am, 12:15, 2:30), 4:45, 7:15; **Up in the Air** (R) Fri & Sat: (10:15 am, 12:45, 3:15), 5:45, 8:15, 10:45; Sun - Thu: (10:15 am, 12:45, 3:15), 5:45, 8:15; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: (9:30 am, 12:00, 1:00, 3:30), 4:30, 7:00, 8:00; **Did You Hear About the Morgans?** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: (10:00 am, 12:30, 3:00), 5:30, 8:15, 10:45; Sun - Thu: (10:00 am, 12:30, 3:00), 5:30, 8:15; **Invictus** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: (11:00 am, 2:00), 5:00, 7:45, 10:45; Sun - Thu: (11:00 am, 2:00), 5:00, 7:45; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) Fri & Sat: (10:15 am, 12:30, 2:45), 5:15, 7:30, 9:45; Sun - Thu: (10:15 am, 12:30, 2:45), 5:15, 7:30

Flower Hill 4

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



It's Complicated (R) Fri & Sat: (10:30 am, 1:30), 4:30, 7:30, 10:30; Sun - Thu: (10:30 am, 1:30), 4:30, 7:30; **Nine** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: (10:45 am, 1:45), 4:45, 7:45, 10:45; Sun - Thu: (10:45 am, 1:45), 4:45, 7:45; **The Young Victoria** (PG) Fri & Sat: (10:00 am, 12:30,

3:00), 5:30, 8:00, 10:30; Sun - Thu: (10:00 am, 12:30, 3:00), 5:30, 8:00; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: (10:00 am, 1:00, 4:00), 7:00, 10:00; Sun - Thu: (10:00 am, 1:00, 4:00), 7:00

ENCINITAS

La Paloma

471 South Coast Highway 101 (760-436-7469)
The Blind Side (PG-13) Fri. 8:05p.m. Sat.-Sun. (1:20) 8:05; **Fantastic Mr. Fox** (PG) Fri. 6:00p.m. Sat.-Sun. (4:00) 6:00

LA COSTA

La Costa 6

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



It's Complicated (R) Fri & Sat: (10:30 am, 1:30), 4:15, 7:15, 10:15; Sun - Thu: (10:30 am, 1:30), 4:15, 7:15; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) Sun - Thu: (10:00 am, 1:00, 4:00), 7:00; **Alvin**

and the Chipmunks: **The Squeakquel** (PG) Fri & Sat: (10:00 am, 12:15, 2:30), 5:15, 7:30, 9:45; Sun - Thu: (10:00 am, 12:15, 2:30), 5:15, 7:30; **Up in the Air** (R) Fri & Sat: (10:15 am, 12:45, 3:15), 5:45, 8:15, 10:45; Sun - Thu: (10:15 am, 12:45, 3:15), 5:45, 8:15; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) Fri - Thu: (9:30 am, 1:00), 4:30, 8:00; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) Fri - Thu: (10:15 am, 12:30, 2:45); **The Blind Side** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: 5:00, 7:45, 10:45; Sun - Thu: 5:00, 7:45

OCEANSIDE

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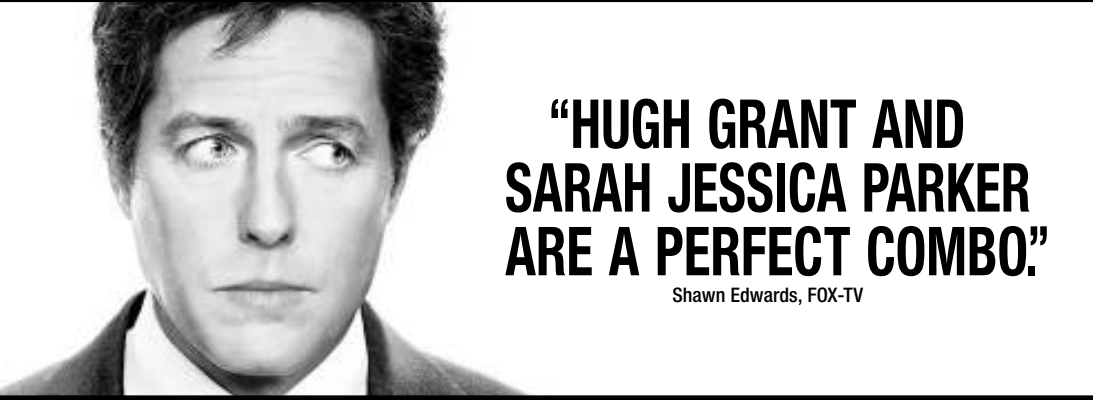


It's Complicated (R) Fri & Sat: (10:30 am, 1:30), 4:45, 7:45, 10:30; Sun - Thu: (10:30 am, 1:30), 4:45, 7:45; **Nine** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: (11:15 am, 2:15), 5:00, 7:45, 10:45; Sun - Thu: (11:15 am, 2:15), 5:00, 7:45; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: (10:00 am, 11:30 am), (1:00), 2:30, 4:00, 5:15, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00, 10:45; Sun - Thu: (10:00 am, 11:30 am, 1:00, 2:30, 4:00), 5:15, 7:00, 8:00; **Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (PG) Fri & Sat: (10:15 am, 11:00 am, 12:30, 1:30, 2:45, 3:45), 5:00, 6:00, 7:15, 8:15, 9:30, 10:30; Sun - Thu: (10:15 am, 11:00 am, 12:30, 1:30, 2:45, 3:45), 5:00, 6:00, 7:15, 8:15; **Up in the Air** (R) Fri & Sat: (10:45 am, 1:45), 4:30, 7:30, 10:00; Sun - Thu: (10:45 am, 1:45), 4:30, 7:30; **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: (9:30 am, 12:00, 1:00, 3:30), 4:30, 7:00, 8:00, 10:30; Sun - Thu: (9:30 am, 12:00, 1:00, 3:30), 4:30, 7:00, 8:00; **Did You Hear about the Morgans?** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: (10:15 am, 12:45, 3:15), 5:45, 8:15, 10:45; Sun - Thu: (10:15 am, 12:45, 3:15), 5:45, 8:15; **Invictus** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: (10:15 am), 4:15, 10:15; Sun - Thu: (10:15 am), 4:15; **The Princess and the Frog** (G) Fri & Sat: (11:30 am, 1:45, 4:00), 6:15, 8:30; **The Blind Side** (PG-13) Fri - Thu: (11:15 am, 2:00), 7:30; **Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' By Sapphire** (R) Fri & Sat: 4:45, 10:15; Sun - Thu: 4:45 pm; **New Moon** (PG-13) Fri - Thu: (1:15), 7:15


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) 9:20; **It's Complicated** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:55, 2:35) 5:15, 8:00, 10:40; **New Moon** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (1:00, 3:55) 6:50, 10:00; **Ninja Assassin** (R) Fri.-Sun. (1:10) 7:00; **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

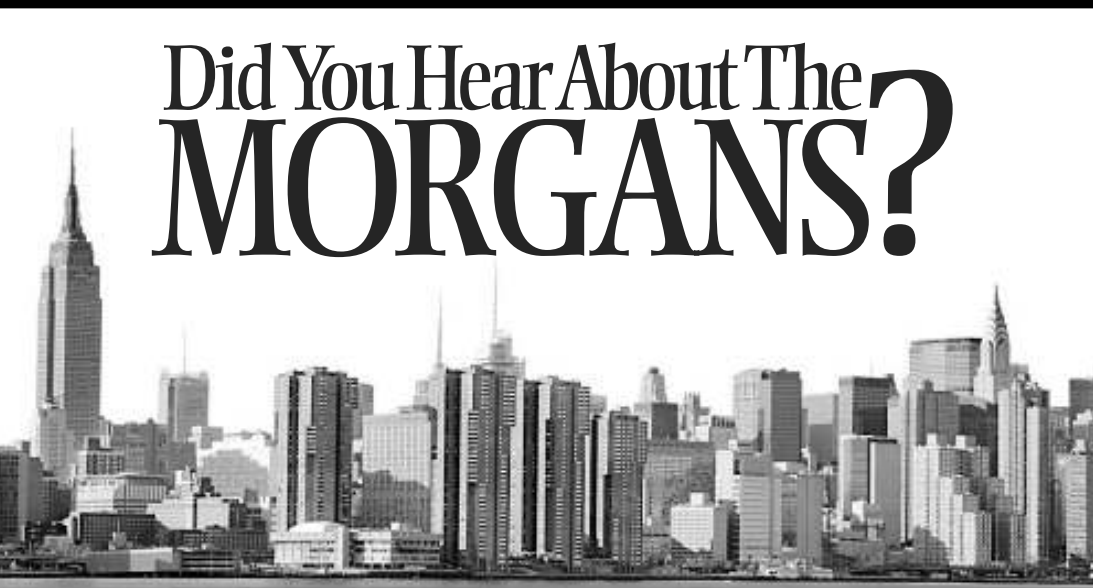


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Magic Kingdom



by Barbarella

There's a bit of magic in everything, and some loss to even things out.

— Lou Reed

Heading north on the 163, I yawned and blinked my eyes. It was nice to have the road to myself. Few people are crazy enough to be out driving at 5 a.m. on a Saturday. “Remind me why I’m going to Disneyland *now*?” I said to myself as I scanned the radio for something I could sing along to. “Ah, that’s right,” I said, recalling an image of my father on a cool pre-sunrise morning like this. It was a month ago, when Dad had come to take David and me to the airport. I’d stepped outside to find Dad standing in the middle of the dark street holding a dazzling, spinning Tinkerbell light toy.

“Think about it,” I said. “Nemo’s mom dies, Bambi’s mom dies. Ariel, Jasmine, Belle — no moms. This new one, Tiana, I don’t think she has a mom.”

“You know, you stand outside at 5 a.m. in *this* neighborhood with *that* in your hand, and you’re going to be invited to a party,” I said.

“How do you know that’s not my goal?” Dad retorted.

Dad had spent the previous day in the Magic Kingdom. He knew I’d wanted to go but that I couldn’t pull away from my obligations. When he saw how mesmerized I was by

the twirling lights, Dad’s smile faded and he said, “You didn’t think this was for you, did you?” Apparently, the sparkly device was intended for one of his Make-A-Wish kids. I tried to hide my disappointment.

I have a tendency to become obsessed. Once I saw that toy in Dad’s hand, Tinkerbell began to haunt me, and the only way to banish the ghost was for me to go to Disneyland. I wanted David to accompany me, but he’d have none of it. “Don’t even try your bulldog routine,” he said, which didn’t stop me from pestering him daily. He eventually formulated an analogy that pulverized my hope — he said that, for him, going to Disneyland would be like attending a seminar on camera equipment would be for me.

David may have engineered an honorable discharge for himself, but I was not about to abandon my plan to revisit the enchantment of my youth. But it wouldn’t be right to visit Mickey’s estate alone. I refocused my energy on assembling the perfect

Disney entourage and immediately thought of Charley and Rebecca. I had met them at their wedding at the Wild Animal Park, where I’d learned that they’d gotten engaged at Disneyland and planned to spend their honeymoon at Disney World. I also remembered seeing a recent tweet from one of them saying that they’d just celebrated Rebecca’s birthday at Disneyland. Who better to guide me through the theme-park jungle?

My dad thought I was deranged for scheduling my excursion on a Saturday at the height of the holiday/school vacation season. And though I suspected he was right, I would not be deterred. I collected my posse near Poway and, from inside my Mini Cooper while heading north, we watched the sun rise over Interstate 5.

While we waited along with hundreds of others for the park to open, I mentioned the lack of positive mother figures in Disney movies. I wasn’t trying to undermine Charley’s and Rebecca’s faith so much as pass the time. “Think about it,” I said. “Nemo’s mom dies, Bambi’s mom dies. Ariel, Jasmine, Belle — no moms. This new one, Tiana in *Princess and the Frog*, I don’t think she has a mom, either. Cinderella and Snow White — evil stepmoms. The only awesome mom in any Disney movie I can remember is Dumbo’s. I’m just saying, it’s weird.”

Despite my cynicism regarding the company’s family viewpoint, I was giddy with excitement when the gates opened. As the captain of the ship *Princess Diva*, I suggested we knock out a few of the rides

before the crowd got too insane. With his knowledge of the park’s design, our first mate Charley navigated us onto four major rides before 10 a.m.

The first was It’s a Small World, in which the animatronic children sang a mashup of the iconic anthem and “Jingle Bells.” (They call it “Holidays at Disneyland,” though it was obvious the only holiday being represented was Christmas.) We followed up our Small World adventure with Space Mountain, Indiana Jones, and, finally, Pirates of the Caribbean.

I enjoyed the over-the-topness of each attraction. I reveled in people-watching, even when it got so crowded that we were forced to walk at a snail’s pace. I was tickled when Charley and Rebecca gifted me a hat with mouse ears and my name embroidered on the back just before whipping out their own, which they wore for the rest of the day (until it got chilly, at which point they traded the traditional ears for fuzzy plaid Santa hats with the same mouse ears sticking out). I found the one “real” ride I went on, Tower of Terror, to be thrilling and the miniature vineyard in which we lunched, charming. I was having fun, but I couldn’t shake the feeling that something was missing.

As I pondered the problem of my subpar enthusiasm, it occurred to me that I was too *aware*. I didn’t simply enjoy the rides, I thought about them — I considered the organization of the lines, contemplated the machinery beneath the moving parts, and appraised the exhilara-

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tion level of each twist and turn. The magic was gone.

Nevertheless, I was having a great time with my crew, refreshing childhood memories of familiar attractions and experiencing new ones. Charley and Rebecca regaled me with Disney trivia and taught me to look for "hidden Mickeys" throughout the park, pointing out all of the ones they'd already found.

As the daylight faded, the park began to twinkle. We were heading down Main Street on our way to the Haunted Mansion when the sound of blowing wind caught our attention. I heard two disembodied voices — a woman and child — that seemed to come from the inky sky above. The child wished for snow; the woman said anything is possible for those who believe, after which the sound of chimes filled the

air and white and blue lights blinked on from the top of the Magic Castle down, making it appear as though glistening snow were falling onto the towers.

I was as captivated by this display as I had been watching the lights twirl on the Tinkerbell toy my dad had held. Then, something unexpected happened — in the light of a street lamp, I noticed white flakes cascading down. I turned around to confirm that "snow" was falling everywhere, not just in front of me. The lights continued to wink on and off, and a flurry of white stuff swirled all around, and for the first time I could remember, I was enchanted by something magical. For the moment, the hows and the whats were forgotten, and the little girl inside me beamed. ■

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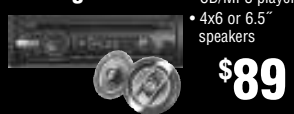
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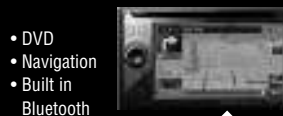
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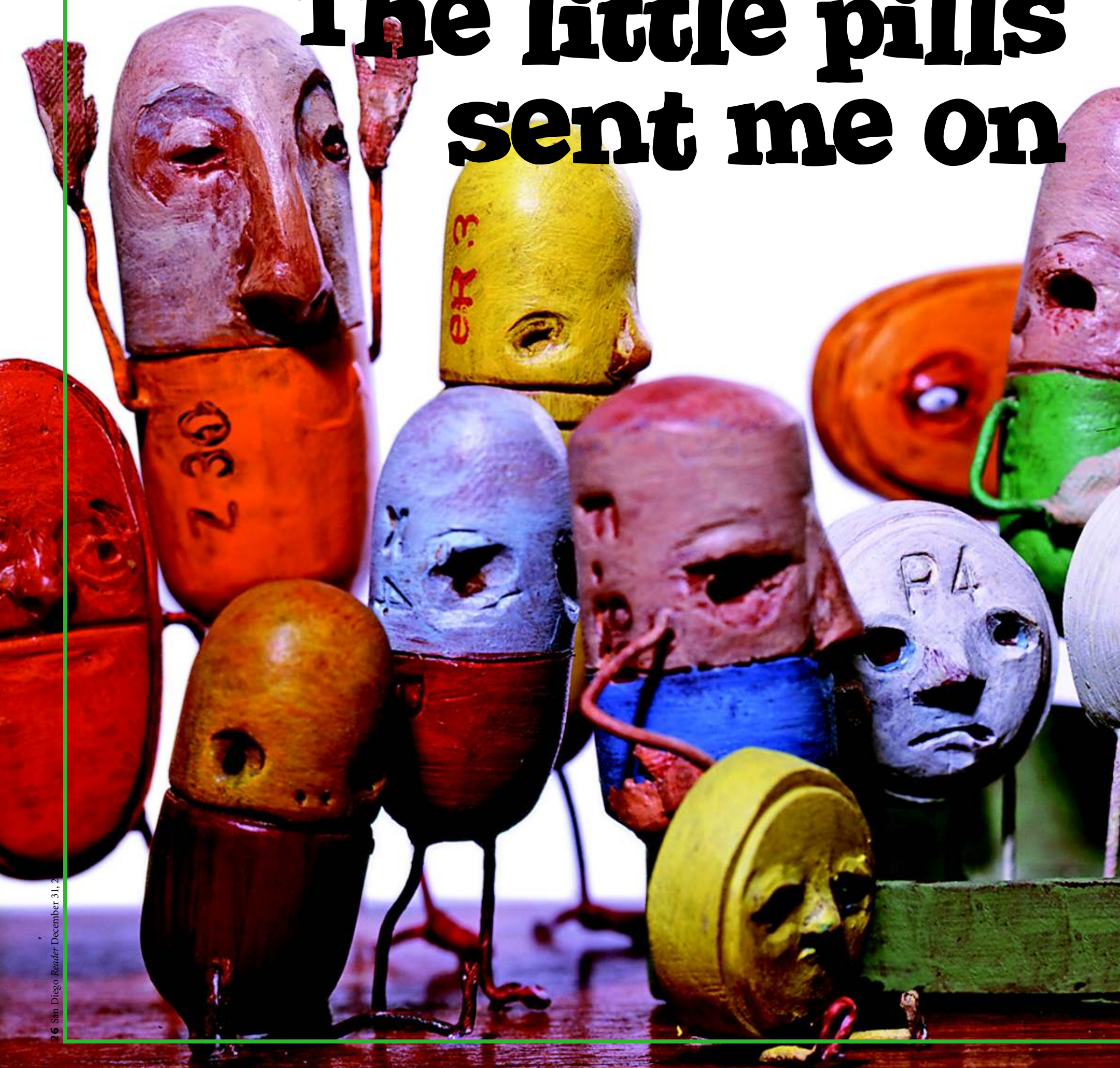


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The little pills sent me on



that my journey



I take my chances with a bottle of small blue pills. They're intended for my grandfather, but since he isn't here anymore, he won't mind sharing a couple, maybe three or four. Ten minutes into surfing the Web, I can't feel my legs. I am slipping from my chair, and I can't stop myself from falling. I am on the ground. I have enough strength to reach up and knock my cell phone off the desk. Next thing I know, I am in a hospital bed surrounded by worried faces as I am forced a new stomach lining, a black tar toothpaste of sorts. It is gross. I have ash in my teeth for a week.

"If she had gone to sleep, she

would have never woken up." At least that's what they tell my mom, two hours

after I am admitted.

continued on page 28

How is Zoloft working for you?

I am lucky. But now, I have to pretend I am somewhat normal. As the days, weeks, and months went on, the fetal position becomes my only escape from the real world.

It all started with David Westerfield, the pervert who snatched a seven-year-old girl.

Ever since I was little, I would check my closet. Not for monsters or ghouls but for murderers and

rapists. I was afraid of being kidnapped. As I grew, that paranoia became an everyday obsession. TV news didn't help. With creepers and media working together, it was impossible for me to ignore my fears.

It was February 2002. I was 13, at a friend's house for the night. A relatively quiet, safe Sabre Springs neighborhood was about to break its silence.

"Taylor, wake up!" My friend shook me. "What?" The sunlight was scorching my sensitive eyes.

"Don't you hear those police cars? Someone has been kidnapped! Right down the street!"

"Who was it?" I was now on full alert.

"Some girl I knew. It's all over the news."

After a late-night pizza party, Danielle van Dam's parents noticed that their little girl was not in her room. She was taken in the middle of the night by Westerfield, their neighbor. The innocent seven-year-old girl with the choker was never to be seen again.

Stories like Danielle van Dam's had a major effect, especially because they were going on right around me. I don't know whom I should thank more for

my phobia: David Westerfield or cable TV shows. If they didn't report on child

foot-tall Asian doctor a couple of questions to figure out what is wrong with me. I've

taking, there is another one you can add to your handful. Like when they put me on

Instead of taking me off the medicine, she adds another one.

abductions, maybe I wouldn't even know these types of crimes existed. But weirdoes like Westerfield are real.

While I am in the hospital, I am told that I need to see a psychiatrist. Days later, my mom and I spend most of our time on the Web and phone, trying to find someone. We schedule an appointment as soon as possible.

It takes the five-

only been sitting on the love seat in her office for five minutes.

I am depressed. Obsessive-compulsive. Anxious. She writes a prescription and I am out the door.

The thing about the pharmaceutical companies is that they brainwash doctors and patients alike into believing that there is a pill to cure any ailment. If there is a little something wrong with the medicine you are

Zoloft. I hated it.


"So how is the..." The doctor stops talking to look at my file. "How is Zoloft working for you?"

"Well, honestly, I just don't think it is working."

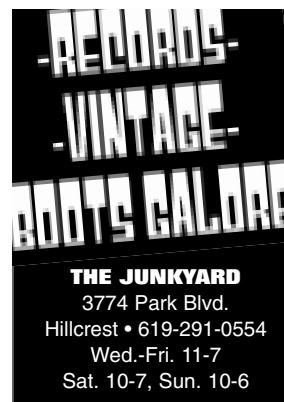
She gives me a fake empathetic look. "Why do you say that?" Like she really cares.

"When I miss a dosage, I feel like crap. I am gaining weight and sleeping all day."

"Those are the side



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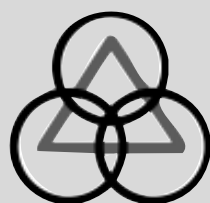
Inclusion criteria:

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

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

To see if you qualify or to learn more about the study, please call Kathleen Parkes: 858-552-8585 ext. 6495

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

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

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- 18-80 years old
- Single infusion of study drug or placebo

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Qualified participants must:

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

Qualified participants receive:

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- Compensation for time and travel

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effects, you know, the ones I told you about." She seems smug in her big office chair, which swallows her tiny body.

"Okay, the thing is, I don't want to feel like this anymore."

Instead of taking me off the medicine, she adds another one, Lamictal, to the mixture. I am in high school, on antidepressant, antianxiety, and mood-stabilizing pills. I am losing focus and my GPA. As my attention slips, self-control slides away.

"I don't want to take this stuff anymore!" I complain to my mom as we are walking out of the doctor's office. "I hate the way it makes me feel."

"It isn't as bad as you think, Tay."

"Really? Then why have I gained, like, five pounds?" I grab the roll of fat.

to take a new medication for something. My dad never misses a chance to call us the family pharmacy with "all our fixes for what-

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"I'm sorry, but you should really just do what the doctors tell you. They say it for a reason."

My mom agrees with the doctors, and why wouldn't she? She is the drug industry's prime target. She never had the best health and always has

ever ails ya."

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RESEARCH STUDIES



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- **Atrial Fibrillation**
- **Fibromyalgia**
- **Parkinson's Disease**
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blue pills that sent me on my journey.

* * *

When my cousins were old enough to have their spongy minds infected with anything and everything, you can bet I was there. We put on dance shows to classics like Sir Mix-A-Lot's "Baby Got Back." I taught them to say phrases like "Somebody needs a Prozac!" which even my 12-year-old mind couldn't

even fully comprehend. Seven years later, that would come back to bite me in the ass.

Even though the medicine was supposed to help my obsessions, I still lived in fear. I would use my cell phone or laptop as a nightlight in order to fall asleep. Sometimes, if I heard footsteps outside my door, I would sleep with my field hockey stick, staying up for hours planning an escape

route just in case something happened.

My fears didn't just stay in my room at night; throughout the day, they followed me. Even though I was an active, outwardly happy person, I was a terrified child on the inside. My therapist refers to it as catastrophism.

"Your problem is that you take a small thing, and your mind creates an elaborate scenario around it,"

she says.

Her curly hair and sweet disposition keep me comfortable on the sofa in her air-conditioned office, but it is her tough-cookie personality that makes me stay. Facing my problems is vital to fixing my issues, especially my ability to distort a situation.

"So I am Chicken Little, so to speak?"

"Exactly. If something hits your head, you start thinking the sky is falling." She has a pad of paper in her lap, but her eyes are on me.

She's right. If I am at the grocery store and someone looks at me funny, that pro-

duces a horrible scenario of murder in my brain. And even though I can shake off the idea and laugh about how stupid I am being, in the back of my head, I am won-

about my attention-span problems. Instead of listening, she sits in her enormous chair, writing yet another prescription for some sort of ADD medication. I am fed up. I say

I am a coward, but at least I can own up to it.

dering if I should look up the number of registered sex offenders in the area on *Family-Watchdog.us*, just to make sure.

Every day seems to be a new roller coaster, and I am getting sick of the ride. I tell my miniature psychiatrist

no to the new meds and walk out. I never make another appointment with her. For the two years that follow, I deal with it, myself.

Leaving high school, ready to enter college, I want to leave all prescriptions of the past behind me.

Thinking I am cured of my disorders, I start weaning myself off the pills. It is a rocky road, but I feel it's worth all the bad emotions.

I'm off the meds for less than a year, but I find myself checking into the San Diego State Medical Center. Mascara running, body trembling, I am a knee-buckling mess. My out-of-control spiral leaves me feeling

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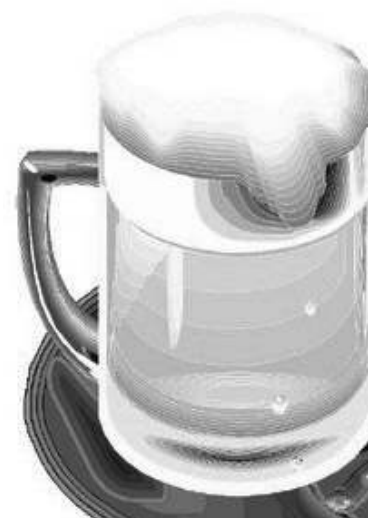
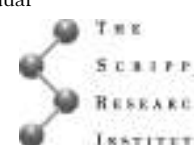
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out my skin, which is all too grotesquely familiar. The doctor, who knows nothing about prescription-anxiety medications, gives me the same stuff I've been taking. It's a punch in the gut. After almost a year on nothing and just dealing with my problems internally, I get back on the path I tried so hard to avoid.

For six months, I continue on the medication. I get over the fact that I don't really have a choice. Instead of enjoying the days, I take them as they are.

After the pill-plagued fall and winter, I again really dislike the medicine. I decide to be done with Zoloft and Lamictal for good.

After going off the medicine the second time, the fears become worse. I am more jittery and anxious. My friends aren't as sympathetic, so they don't understand. I can't blame them for calling me a p@#\$y. I am a coward, but at least I can own up to it. It has come to the point where I have prohibited myself from watching certain movies, knowing they would keep me up for nights on end, crying over which body part the ax murderer is going to chop off first.

I find myself getting flushed about the dumbest things, like outfits that don't feel "right" or when people wear the colors brown and black together. I



Forgetting simple tasks? Memory fading? Can't seem to complete projects?

If you or someone you know is:

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- In overall good health

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

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See our website: www.ari-inc.com



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- You will have extra money to spend on things other than cigarettes

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obviously need help for these issues, but I really don't want to jump back on the pill wagon. I want to take a different route.

Enter: cognitive behavioral therapy. This focuses on the problem and fixes it with tasks and mental focusing. My tough-cookie therapist won't take my crap any longer. I am all aboard to fix this problem for good.

"You can't control what goes on around you, but you can control your thoughts, rather than them controlling you," she says. "Being able to take the

bad news — crime, media, apocalypse — and separate it from your own life, you will be able to start living free of these debilitat-

"Other people my age don't have to deal with this. I don't think it's fair.

Why can't I be normal?"

ing thoughts." She hands me a paper with different faces on it, representing a range of emotions.

"Can you identify what you feel like when you think of being killed?"

I struggle with the question, looking from the paper to her face. In this no-pressure atmosphere, I feel put on the spot.

"Um, well... I feel vulnerable." The faces are wrinkling in my tightening grip. "I feel helpless, scared, and out of control." I feel better, saying it out loud.

"Good, now we are

getting somewhere."

I begin to relax. Someone is going to help me.

We are two sessions into working out

my problems when the words I fear come out of her mouth. She tells me that my problem is biological. I still need medication.

"Prozac," she says.

Tears roll down my cheeks.

"Tell me, why are you crying?"

"I am 20 years old, and for the rest of my life I need to be on medication to keep me sane. Other people my age don't have to deal with this. I don't think it's fair. Why can't I be normal?"

"It takes work, but I really can see you overcoming this," she reassures me. "Medicine will help for the time being."

Well, that's it. I admit defeat. Pharmaceutical companies 3, Taylor 0.

I have an ongoing battle with an industry that has a drug for everything but a cure for nothing. It is like a profitable inside joke of the pharmaceutical big-wigs, because as the rest of us try to fix ourselves with their meds, some of us end up dead because of too many prescriptions. (Rest in peace, MJ.) The joke might be on the pill-popping world, but since I am on Prozac now, I can have a good laugh at it. ■

— Taylor Restaino

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Nonprofits Nonplussed

ECONOMY STAGGERS LOCAL DO-GOODERS

At the Bayside Community Center in Linda Vista, things are humming along as they have since the center was founded in 1932 as a settlement house for families of Italian and Portuguese fishermen. Having moved up the hill from Little Italy, Bayside still programs activities for kids, teens, seniors, people with disabilities, and new immigrants. Bayside's service community is San Diego's most diverse: Hmong, Hispanics, Somalis, African-Americans, Mixtec Indians, and whites populate the hill, many living in World War II-era housing projects. The center's main role is helping recent arrivals who are socially and geographically marginalized. If you visit the refurbished two-story building during the week, you'll hear the ukulele



club strumming Hawaiian tunes or see an old Anglo woman having lunch with an Afghani refugee. Downstairs, you'll find the sewing class, overseen by a volunteer teacher, who instructs people from a dozen language backgrounds. (Which language does she communicate in? "The language of

sewing.") Saturdays, you'll find the building overrun with 160 American kids whose Vietnamese parents teach them their language and culture. Sundays, you can't miss the multicultural Christian group, praising God or painting the building.

Bayside's vibrancy is only half

the story. The large paid and volunteer staff, led by sociologist-turned-director Jorge Riquelme, is facing tough times. While other San Diego social-service nonprofits have closed or stopped programs, Bayside's staff has taken the brunt of the downturn.

Bayside still receives 70 percent

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of its \$1 million annual budget from traditional sources — federal, county, and city funds, the First Five Commission, and some 2008 stimulus money. These sources are not automatic. Riquelme, at the helm for three years, says that the downturn began in 2004, when money from a San Diego block grant program dried up. His predecessor scrambled, made cuts, quit. Riquelme was hired and put the center on Jenny Craig. To control deficit spending, Riquelme had to deplete the center's reserves.

The genial Riquelme describes the effect of wielding the hatchet. "I'm 60 pounds overweight, worried, and I don't sleep much." The downsizing is "an incredible pressure, the executive director position, very lonely." For fiscal 2009, he cut payroll by 30 percent and took a pay cut of 20 percent himself, dropping \$14K from his 2007–2008

salary of \$70,916. For part of 2009, staff members took furloughs. Ten full-time positions are secure, but ten others have been sliced up. Staff have lost jobs, been reassigned, or gone part-time. One works at the same job for no salary, in hopes that a new grant will come through. Another works just to keep her health care. Volunteers take over paid positions. Riquelme's turned off the air-conditioner, asked his vendors to spread out payments, and begun bartering — exchanging services for payment due. Throughout, he's cut no programs or services to the community.

Like the staff, Linda Vistans are pitching in. Riquelme asks seniors to kick in a buck for the free-lunch program. A printer donates a drug-awareness brochure. A dance band plays a fundraiser to pay for a senior field trip. A computer instructor, his

community-college class canceled, teaches the course for free at Bayside. And as for Linda Vista's gang problem? Riquelme says, "We get gang members dropping off their kids or picking up Grandma, so they look after us."

Riquelme's employees are month-to-month. No job is safe, despite seniority. Rose Ceballos, at Bayside for 33 years, is now associate deputy director. Most of her work has been full-time and paid, but "nothing's guaranteed," she says. "There's always a little 30-day notice that says they can cut it off. That's just the way it is. I oversee three different programs. I make sure reports are done on time. I supervise." On furlough for three months in 2009, she hemmed and hawed about coming in on her unpaid days and finally said no, and of course, things backed up.

She changes the subject

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to others who “couldn’t afford to stay with a 50 percent pay cut.” It’s difficult because “your heart is in what you do.” Is the two-thirds-paid health-care benefit an incentive to stay, even with fewer hours? “I wouldn’t call it an incentive,” she says. “It’s decent. I’m paying quite a bit because I’m older.” Still, she works in nonprofit, fat years and lean, because of her “passion and not because I’m making big bucks.”

Hardest Hit Are the People We Serve

The current story of San Diego nonprofits is the story of a select few of the 11,000 groups in our community, all of which are doing less with less. None of the social-service agencies is immune from the recessionary flu. One of the largest is SAY San Diego, Social Advocates for Youth. The 38-year-old organization is run by executive director Michael Carr, who with Ellen Yaffa, director of development, sat down with me. In a lavender shirt and black-and-yellow tie, Carr says that his clergy background brought him into social work in the ’60s; he’s been with SAY for 32 years, 30 years as director. The organization was started by law students in the 1960s who advocated for youth (and families) who’d been swallowed up by the juvenile justice system. No kid should be thrown away; that was the philosophy. It still applies. Carr and Yaffa and a staff of 500, half dispersed throughout the city in after-school programs, plus 140 ongoing volunteers, help parents who want to help their children succeed in school.

SAY is and is not a government program, a private nonprofit that gets the majority of its annual \$18 million budget from the county, with whom it contracts to provide services. One reason the county contracts for “delinquency prevention” is that locking up kids — those skipping school, taking drugs, join-

ing gangs — is expensive and behaviorally ineffective. Carr says that traditional intervention “had the opposite effect [of what] we wanted: It made them more criminal, not less.” Schools aren’t equipped to

deal with delinquency. Agencies can. But only in concert with a society-wide plan that addresses root causes.

If you meet someone who claims there’s a single cause for delinquency, says

Carr, “You’ve just met a fool.” Poverty, level of education, child abuse, domestic violence — to address root causes, you need input from parents, schools, after-school programs, from county-government funds

and leaders, juvenile court, probation officers, police, and from groups like his, an independent social-service nonprofit.

SAY competes with other groups for social-service contracts, but it is

not in competition with the county itself. Funders require stiff evaluations; the paperwork to receive a grant is as massive as the paperwork to show how the grant’s been used. SAY’s administrative expense runs

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Still, Carr's programs and services — in good years they're renewed because of their success — has been hit hard of late. SAY's 500 employees are paid professionals who are, in most cases, licensed or certified and hired by SAY. Money from federal, state, and county coffers, as well as from private foundations, memberships, and donations, is running 30 percent less than normal.

What nags both Carr and Yaffa is the overlapping nature of contracts: SAY may receive a one-year contract for a child-abuse program, spend \$100K the first month, show results, and submit a claim, then wait another month to get paid, which means running a \$200K deficit. "That's what reserves are for," says Carr. But in a downtime, reserves are gone.

"And while the reces-

sion is unfolding for us," he says, "there are families who were living in a two-bedroom apartment that now live in a car." They run out of food, lose jobs, double up in apartments, lose privacy. Clients call in crying, bark at receptionists at SAY's Kearny Mesa headquarters, and are helpless to stop their kids' changing behaviors at school. Yaffa knows of one child who was "suddenly flunking PE because his parents had no money for detergent to clean his gym clothes. He doesn't tell the school; he just skips PE." She's heard of an increase in bed-wetting in five-year-olds with emotional issues.

SAY can barely keep up, says Carr. "If Dad loses his job, the home destabilizes, and you don't know where that's going to surface."

As for SAY's relative health: "I assume it will fall to pieces the minute I wake

in the morning." Several administrative jobs, because the program's funding dried up, couldn't be reassigned. Staffers "didn't have transferable skills." Consequently, he says, "Everyone's nervous."

In a heartfelt letter from Carr and board chief Jeffrey McCulloch, they wonder what happened to the programs offered. Many are threatened: First Five, juvenile justice, child abuse (two county contracts are slated to be cut by 40 and 33 percent), Healthy Start, the State SB303 Latchkey — these survived fiscal year 2008-'09. But "cuts this fiscal year seem almost certain." The hardest hit will be "the people we serve."

What's more, "Many small nonprofits that are currently hanging on a shoestring may not survive." Carr and McCulloch have prioritized reductions: first training, then merit increases, bonuses, some consulting contracts, vacant

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positions, annual cost-of-living increases, and, last, staff positions.

Please Don't Take My Cane Away

While nonprofits are wilting, families, typically divorced women and their children, are adjusting to public-assistance cuts. Hit hard is child care for low-income families. The state's latchkey program, extended day care for children before and after school, began in the mid-1980s and has been funded for more than two decades. This year Governor Schwarzenegger cut the program, meaning 13,000 children will lose care. Since July 2009, nonprofits like SAY have been scrambling to fund programs for these kids.

Mrs. Gonzalez, a current SAY client, is raising three grandchildren, aged 3, 6, and 8, on a housekeeper's salary. Her son and daughter-in-law have been arrested for drug possession, their kids placed with Mrs. Gonzalez. Divorced, and with limited English, she is a proud woman. We meet at Chollas elementary school in late afternoon. Her girls play in an adjoining room. Mrs. Gonzalez doesn't want welfare. "I don't apply for help, because I think I can work. I like my job." She refuses to take food stamps. The irony is not lost: if she did not work, she would qualify for more benefits. She works 40 hours a week at a retirement home and makes \$7 an hour. Two of the children are in school, while the youngest is watched by a family friend.

When we speak in September, the grandkids have only after-school care. She is "losing time" because she drops them off at 9:00 and can't get to work until 10:00, a 25 percent loss in wages. Her employer wants to be flexible, but it's company policy. She's had six tardies. One more and she's fired. "I'm very worried for that," she says. Paying for private child care is out of the question. The cost, at \$160 a week per child, is more than

half her income.

One day-care staffer at Chollas tells me that a few parents will deposit their kids on the grounds before school opens. The kids sit on benches, sometimes for two and a half hours. "It's killing those parents. They have no alternative." But Mrs. Gonzalez will not leave her kids by themselves.

Sandy Johnson, who is the director of SAY's extended-day services, some 47 programs, tells me that 70 families applied last September for extended day care: 25 were approved, 25 denied, 20 are pending. The extended-care program at Chollas has only 6 families enrolled, the most SAY could pay for, but Johnson says she can't keep a program open with six children. It won't pay the wages of staff. It has to be fully or mostly funded.

Another woman helped by SAY, through the Family Self-Sufficiency program, is Bexaida. The divorced 42-year-old has four children, all in public school. Things got bad for Bexaida the summer of 2008. She was working, taking care of her kids and her elderly, diabetic mother, who is disabled and a breast-cancer survivor. Bexaida, whose long jet-black hair drapes her shoulders like a cloak, was behind on phone, cable, and utility bills. Cable is essential, she says. "Most children have to have internet to complete assignments." Electricity shut off, Bexaida went to SAY. There, with the additional aid of Campesinos Unidos, another social-service agency, she filled out a stack of paperwork for emergency relief. Verification took months before her in-home essentials were reinstated.

She characterizes her mental and emotional state on public assistance as unstable. "I don't wish this on anybody. I'm an educated person. But it seems that when a person is under so much stress, you lose focus with what you have to do and how you have to



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get there." The stress overwhelmed her, and she could barely function. Bexaida worked for nine years for the San Diego Housing Commission, making \$22 an hour, then, in 2004, was laid off. She had nothing saved. The bills mounted. Her marriage dissolved. Over time, she has found work, at \$8 an hour. "Trying to adjust to three times less money is a drastic change. I'm very resourceful. But I couldn't, for the life of me, think of how to do it."

It was a drastic change for the kids too. What have they lost? "Vacations, holidays, birthdays, school needs, extracurricular activities." This fall, Bexaida received backpacks of school supplies from SAY. "School used to be for free." In addition, her eldest daughter, studying for college, "somehow got it in her mind that if she didn't eat, she wouldn't be a burden." She became anorexic and was hospital-

ized. She's come out of it, though the problem persists. It makes Bexaida sad to think of her kids not asking for things they want "because they know they can't have them. We're closer now. But, in another way, we're not, because everybody [in the family] isolates themselves to deal with their emotions so it doesn't affect others."

Bexaida currently works three part-time jobs: at a deli, an evening job, and as her mother's nurse. "I do her insulin, her test strip, and her monitor." Some days she's gone 7:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Her youngest daughter is in after-school care, while the other children are in the "six to six" program. They also watch each other until Mom gets home. Without the internet, her kids wait in line at the library for computer time. Bexaida is still behind on credit card and car payments. She wants to go back

to school but can't until she can qualify for loans. Recently, the deli cut her back from four hours to two every day. Business has slowed.

Bexaida, who is covered by Medi-Cal, tells me that she has a tumor. She's waited 11 months for approval for treatment. Programs to help poor people pay for medications and transportation to appointments have been cut. Moving into subsidized housing in San Diego would help, but the waiting list is 15 years.

SAY, a clearinghouse for other nonprofits, has helped Bexaida with financial education, a credit report, and computer literacy. In 2008, for Thanksgiving and Christmas, she and her kids received food and presents from SAY. She and her children's lives have been saved by the modest amount SAY has given. Realizing there's a time limit for such help, Bexaida says,

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An Overview of San Diego Nonprofits

When I ask Doug Perkins, executive director of the San Diego Association of Nonprofits, why a person would start a nonprofit, the affable former businessman says, "It's as much a decision of the heart as it is of the mind." People have "a vision or a dream of doing good. It's a different motivation than the for-profit world."

Perkins warns those taking the plunge that their piggy banks better be full. "It will take a year or two to make any kind of money that sustains a director, an office, let alone a staff. Be prepared to continue your volunteer life. Hang on to your 'other' day job. You can't open the door one day

and expect all this money to flow in." The uninitiated should stay focused on their heart's calling — be it counseling, or staging cultural events, or helping stranded animals. "You're motivated to serve." Pleas to donors should never overshadow service.

A San Diegan since 1978, Perkins has held his job for two years. (He takes home \$45K of the roughly \$60K in membership fees and employs one assistant.) The organization began in the late 1990s when a group of social-service nonprofits began to network ideas and contacts. Membership-based and virtual, *sandan.org* offers conferences and workshops. Perkins attends meetings, authors white papers, writes "capacity-building" grants, and helps start-up nonprofits name themselves and get donations flowing.

Part of the difficulty of navigating the San Diego nonprofit world is its size

and variety. "An amorphous world," Perkins calls it. Thousands of organizations, some housed in living rooms or church basements, make up the loose aggregate, including Little League baseball, the symphony, the San Diego County Breast-Feeding Coalition, the zoo, Ronald McDonald House, Surfrider Foundation, United Way, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Rod & Reel club, Friends of Chabad Lubavitch. At the Golden State Gay Rodeo Association of San Diego, five unpaid staff collected and spent \$82,418 on rodeo expenses in 2007; during the same year, Scripps Research Institute, a medical nonprofit with assets of \$524 million, paid its CEO Richard A. Lerner \$995,240.

By common definition a nonprofit is organized not for commercial activities but seeks to raise money to serve its social, educa-

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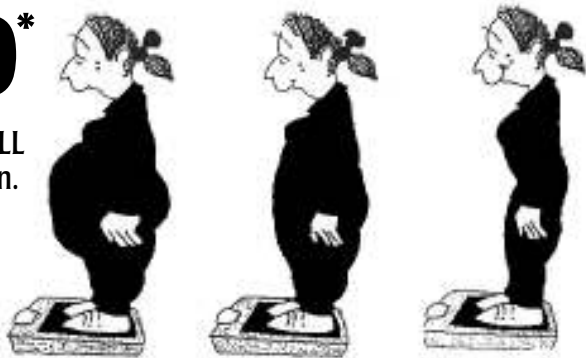


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tional, artistic, religious, or environmental goals. Typically this includes a modest budget to pay directors, to have an office and a website, and to organize activities and tap volunteers for its cause.

Nonprofits are classified under the 501(c) provision of the Internal Revenue Service code. The code lists 26 types of nonprofit entities exempt from some or all federal income tax. (Most states allow similar tax-exempt status.) Contributions to nonprofit organizations are tax deductible. Nonprofits must file a yearly 990 tax form, a document that reports donations, expenses, salaries, and more. By far, the largest nonprofit pool is the 501(c)(3) organizations.

These are described as "Religious, Educational, Charitable, Scientific, Literary, Testing for Public Safety, to Foster National or International Amateur Sports Competition, or Prevention of Cruelty to Children or Animals Organizations."

Nonprofits are often classed as one of three sectors: government, for-profit, and nonprofit. The University of San Diego's Caster Family Center for Nonprofit Research regularly evaluates local nonprofits' health and trends. Under the auspices of the college's school of leadership and education sciences, the Caster Center has produced several studies in recent years that crunch key local nonprofit statistics. San Diego nonprofits are

"vibrant and expanding," with assets, as of 2007, totaling \$15 billion. However, according to the center's director, Laura Dietrick, "This number has decreased between 20-30 percent in the last year" as a result of a struggling economy.

One recent study found that nearly 80,000 people worked for a local nonprofit, about 6.2 percent of the county's total employment. These groups spent about \$7.70 on services for every \$8.10 garnered, 95 percent efficiency. Only about 5 percent of what the nonprofits received came from county contracts.

Currently, there are 12,383 501(c)s in San Diego County and, within that, 9731 "public charities," or 501(c)(3)s. Those 9731 non-

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profits were broken into 12 categories. Four of the 12 account for 77 percent of "public charities":

Public and Societal Benefit (which includes Foundations): 1698 at 19.4 percent;

Education: 1546 at 15.9 percent;

Religion: 1833 at 19.4 percent;

Human Services: 2175 at 22.4 percent.

Nonprofits are often called charitable organizations, though they may pay staff members big salaries to find donors (think Red Cross). Think tanks, chambers of commerce, and business leagues may be nonprofits but are not charities. Public charities, such as the American Cancer Society, are nonprofits; they receive money from a range of donors and the government and are engaged in philanthropic work. A nonprofit private foundation, usually organized around

an individual or a family, gives money for the public good to groups, mostly nonprofits. They have a separate IRS designation. An example is the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. People who contribute to advocacy groups and political organizations, which may be nonprofit, will not receive a tax deduction for their gift.

Other eye-catching facts about local nonprofits from the Caster Family Center studies: Since 1999 the San Diego nonprofit sector has grown by 21.4 percent. The wealthiest nonprofits — our colleges, universities, and hospitals whose individual collection plates rake in more than \$9 billion a year — represent about three percent of the sector but hold over one-third of the sector's total assets. Most San Diego nonprofits are small: 67 percent file no 990 (ditto for nearly 90 percent of all religious groups,

which are not required to file, although some do), while another 26 percent have annual expenditures under \$250K. The majority of local nonprofits exist to provide services to people in need. A small percentage is funded with state and federal grants. The vast majority of gifts, at least in San Diego, come as direct contributions from you and me.

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Fifteen years ago, neither nonprofit existed; no one clanged the bell for protecting the channel from encroachment by developers and polluters. That's changed now that the two nonprofits have raised millions to preserve a water system along whose banks some 600,000 San Diegans live. Overseeing the Lakeside conservancy is Robin

Rierdan, a fortysomething redhead, who, when we meet in her trailer office, is squishing Argentine sugar ants at her desk. She apologizes for the blitzkrieg; ants are bad, but it's worse that these are "nonnative." What moves this Santee/Lakeside lifelong resident? Local control of what's local.

Rierdan and others began the conservancy in 2001, with no office and no money, only a vision and commitment. The project took off because of "the community's and the elected officials' interest — they wanted this."

State water bonds were key. "[There is] a large habitat component, but the bones of the operation is the need to protect communities from flooding, to improve water quality." State funds bought 100 acres for about \$10.5 million, which gave the conservancy "our legs." The entire San Diego

River project is a greenbelt, where a system of trails and waterways "connects a diversity of parks, open spaces, public places, and community facilities."

"I think our hills are beautiful," Rierdan says — El Capitan, the valley floor, and the "riparian ribbon that the river brings." She loves the people because they treasure Lakeside. "You have artists, cowboys, Harley riders, commuters, devoutly religious people. There's no 'keeping-up-with-the-Joneses' here. Lakeside is eclectic."

That dynamism fuels the conservancy. Lakesiders, Rierdan says, volunteer. "I have a church group of 50 people who are donating time this Sunday. Doing yeoman's work." Along the riverbank are hundreds of juvenile native plants that need to be hand-watered. "They'll be bucket-watering, pouring water into little basins around every

plant."

Rierdan has raised \$16 million, mostly in state grants, in the last eight years; another \$5 million is coming — perhaps not soon enough. This year's budget is \$220K less than in previous years.

In December 2008, the state stopped sending money. At the time, she had \$240K in outstanding invoices. By January, "I thought we'd be turning out the lights and moving the buildings offsite." She received no state check for another eight months. Contractors who developed the walking trail and "shared the risk" with the conservancy were put on hold. She had already paid out from her coffers, "in anticipation of state reimbursement." But the awaited day didn't come.

With neither endowment nor reserves (luxuries for most small nonprofits), Rierdan had to scramble. The staff went from five full-time to one full-timer, a groundskeeper, and two half-time employees. One quit; another worked for free until she could get paid but is now on furlough. To keep the door open, Rierdan sent out emails, telling the world, "We are in trouble and we need your support." By September, the conservancy had raised

\$40K via small donations. Even Rierdan has taken a hit: she works full-time at half-salary. For now, "The work still needs to be done."

Rierdan suffers none of the "inertia burden" that ossifies bureaucracies. While loathsome, she can lay off people and ask them back as volunteers. She can be entrepreneurial, as when she rid the river of 400 cubic yards of fill and widened the flood plain, by getting Caltrans to take the mass away for Highway 52 in Santee. That saved \$3 million. After kowtowing to regulations as a state worker and acceding to standards as a teacher, Rierdan prizes her nonprofit's freedom. She can't predict the budget or donations. "We have to be smarter than that," she laughs, and squishes three more ants.

An autodidact, Rierdan submits grants to the Department of Water Resources, where competition is fierce. For \$20 million in offerings, the state may receive \$90 million in grant applications.

Long-term is the big worry. "I can't tell you right now how I'm going to do it," she says. "But I will figure it out — or someone will figure it out, because [the conservancy] is too important to let go. If the State of California does not fall off the cliff, we

have budget money for the next three years." By then, she hopes the river park's amenities will generate fees from users to sustain the project. Volunteers can keep the habitat maintained. In the meantime, her nonprofit, like nearly all, "needs an angel."

A Bit Better Downriver

Rierdan's lower-river partner, the San Diego River Park Foundation, is run by Rob Hutsell, a fourth-generation San Diegan. In a small office along Pacific Highway, Hutsell tells me he's always been a nature volunteer and spent many weekends cleaning up the river. But the catalyst for Hutsell was the big 2000 sewage spill, which devastated restoration work done on the river. While the state levied fines against the city, Hutsell and others held their first meeting at Skip Frye's Surf Shop, with Donna Frye in attendance. A many-pronged approach, spearheaded by Christine Kehoe's legislation, soon won the river state-protected status, funds to begin preservation, volunteers to do the cleanup, and a new life for Hutsell.

Living on savings and working from home, Hutsell took two years to build the foundation. What surprised him was that those who should be the river's

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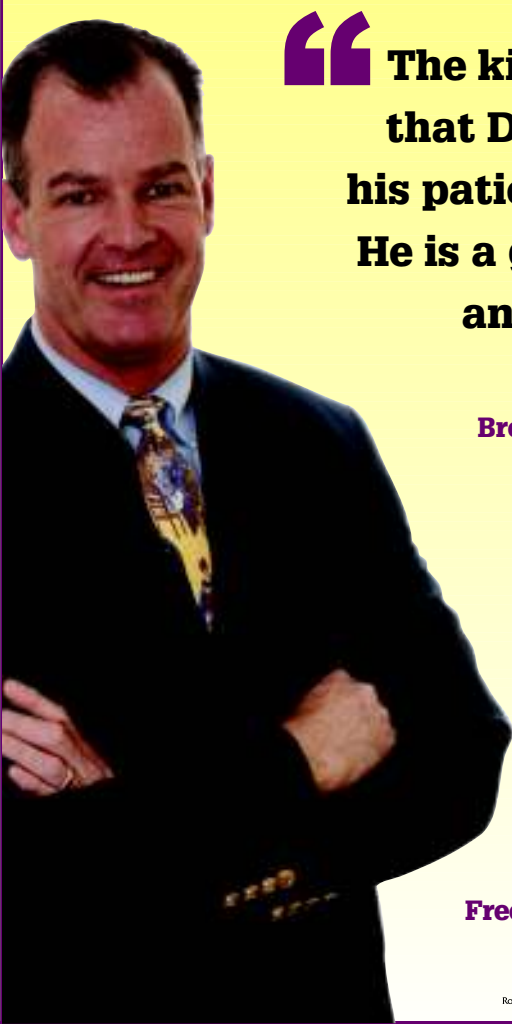


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Kim Knox, MS, PA-C

caretakers merely developed condo projects or shopping malls beside it, stealing its romance (River Run Estates) and doing little to preserve water, access, habitat. Hutsell says people have been dumping crap into the river for decades. The river land (beside and under) is most often privately owned. The water is in the public trust.

The San Diego Foundation and the California Coastal Commission each gave the foundation \$25,000. Hutsell has beat the bushes for money, like Rierdan in Lakeside, securing state grants. Unlike Lakeside, San Diego has a wealthy donor base that Hutsell also taps. He goes to meetings and passes a bucket. A few enthusiasts have donated riverside land. The main expense has been buying land. Of the foundation's \$1.3 million value, \$830K is in land assets, some 626 acres, all of it "at the top of the river."

Two years ago Hutsell had a "gut feeling" about the economy. "This can't sustain itself." He got a \$250K grant from the local Parker Foundation, which almost single-handedly keeps the fiscal doors open. He reorganized the foundation, returned the mission to "we want a clean and healthy river," and got better at marketing to givers and potential partners.

He's weathering the downturn. Having 3400 volunteers helps. He also maintains 5.5 paying positions. Most begin as volunteers or interns. They come and they go. They don't cost a lot. Like Hutsell, they're passionate for the environment. Since there's no upward mobility in his foundation, Hutsell encourages them to move on. But he's careful with advice. "I wouldn't want to be out the door right now, hoping I could find something else."

Minimum Wage Is Where God Wanted Me

The religious nonprofit Youth for Christ is hanging on for dear life. The organization is bare bones: two small rooms; one has a copier, the other two desks that cradle laptops. The "palatial office," as director Don Smith calls it, is part of the barracks-like Faith Chapel in Spring Valley. Smith inherited a \$45K debt in January of 2008 when he took over the organization, and though he's got it down to \$27K, that's about the only good news from this merciless year.

Smith, with no religious background, was saved — "I made the spiritual decision that I really need God in my life" — by the Campus Life group at Patrick Henry High School in 1969. He's since devoted himself to youth ministry as organizer and assistant pastor. "If you cut me, I

bleed Youth for Christ." His group, part of a national organization, has established clubs in schools for decades; after-school meetings don't violate church-and-state separation. They also build "Christ-centered programs" for teen moms or troubled kids in juvenile hall.

In his golf shirt, Smith is the Rick Warren man-of-God sort. He talks people and programs, rarely belief and brimstone. Some donations come from bequests, but most are \$5 and \$10 gifts given at rallies like "Breakaway," picnics, and an annual golf tournament. In fiscal year 2008–2009, he raised \$110K. Middle school clubs are Smith's main target; every year he negotiates contracts with administrators to be on campus after class. Sometimes parents give money. Those whose kids have been "impacted by the organization go, 'Wow, we

like what you're doing with our son or daughter.'"

But when September 2008 hit, Smith's cause was decimated. In the first six months of fiscal year 2009, he says, "Donations are down \$25K." In terms of a budget, "We're treading water, but we're 17 percent below the surface." He spends half his time phoning and blogging, the latter a new way to conjure money.

It's always an uphill battle for a nonchurch religious nonprofit, Smith says. The first priority for Christians is to load the collection plate at church. "Wherever they are in their spiritual life, they stay consistent with that amount." The next tier is to give to a "person with whom they have a relationship," say, a missionary, a pastor with a program in Mexico, a televangelist. The third tier goes to organizations they believe in, like Youth for

Christ. When times are bad, "The third tier gets cut first."

How does he balance both his calling and phone calling?

"I went through a sad divorce," he says. "I didn't want it, but after [obtaining] two restraining orders, I filed for legal separation. She counter-filed for divorce. It's to say to kids that 'God can work in all areas of your life, and, by the way, I'm divorced.' It wasn't God's fault; it was the choice of two individuals."

Smith says that he loves kids, and his focus in the "para-church" is to reach out to "kids without a religious foundation." First impressions are crucial. Recently, he met with a Youth for Christ donor of 30 years. The self-effacing Smith wanted help with being a better fundraiser. "People who know me know that I'm not an executive-type person. I'm great with

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kids but lousy at raising money. I asked, 'What's your advice?' He said, 'To be honest, Smitty, you've let yourself go. You gained too much weight. That has a negative projection on the people you meet with.' I grumbled but needed to hear that." Since then, he's lost 22 pounds. "I needed to do it for my kids and for me."

When the man saw Smith recently, he said, "Hey, you're looking pretty good." Smith is hoping that "at some point a nice check comes in." During the fall 2009 board meeting, it was determined that Youth for Christ had funds to operate until January 31. That's the day they'll reevaluate.

The Rich Don't Feel Rich Anymore

In Cole Porter's Great Depression-era farce *Anything Goes*, Billy Crocker, a failed Wall Street lackey — "a broken-down broker" — steals aboard an ocean liner,

voyaging from New York to London, in hopes of stopping the marriage of an American heiress he's in love with. Yes, he's pure of heart, but he also needs to survive financially. Such a rearview reflection via love, song, and a blistering economy is not lost on Leon Natker, executive director of Lyric Opera San Diego. Natker, a Juilliard graduate, dramatic tenor, and head of Lyric Opera for 21 years, staged Porter's classic this past fall. In fact, a season with four productions so far has been, he tells me from his office above the radiantly remade Birch North Park Theatre, "50 percent higher than last year but still not where it once was. That indicates how much of a disaster it was last year. It was a bloodbath."

Natker is equal parts loquacity and pluck, a necessary balance for an opera impresario. When he took

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over the company, a “Gilbert and Sullivan” troupe, in 1989, it was failing. Both bad management and the savings-and-loan crisis choked off donor support. Lyric Opera’s budget was \$96K in 1989. By 2007–2008 it was \$1.95 million. Natker had no deficit, and the company expanded: out-of-town sets, color brochures, giver soirees. He took the subscriber base from 175 to more than 1000. Oh, happy day — in retrospect.

Then everything crashed. By August 2008, “There were almost no donations, and ticket sales were down to zip.” Natker had already planned to produce four operas and six concerts. Who quit giving? “People who’d been donating \$5K or \$10K a year called up and said, ‘I can’t give you anything.’ ‘I can only give you \$500.’ ‘My portfolio is so bad off, I’ll have to wait a year.’” Several donors were all but wiped out.

“Their retirement incomes of \$8K–\$10K a month dropped to \$2K. What are they going to do, get a blue vest and say, ‘Welcome to Walmart?’” As of September 2009, “We haven’t had a donation of appreciated stock” — one tax-deductible way the portfolio-laden pony up — “in 18 months.”

Natker says “about 1000 people” spread their wealth around to the San Diego arts community. Grants from the city’s transient occupancy tax (TOT), for Lyric Opera, total only four percent of his annual budget. “Somewhere between 500–700 middle-class people give something every year.” Last year’s dark cloud had one silver lining. “The money went down, but the number of donations went up. People knew they had to send something to keep us going.”

For Natker, who as an artist has always lived on the edge of bankruptcy-

retirement-indigence, the only way to increase donations is to keep his four-per-year production schedule alive. Lyric Opera makes 55–60 percent of its budget via ticket sales. His company is “the affordable, accessible alternative.” Top seat is \$52. Unlike most grant-supported nonprofits, his tack is to keep building shows, spending his way into and out of the hole.

But for this season, he’s cut back. The previous staff of 19 full- and part-time employees is down to 12. Their salaries and medical benefits have been preserved, while Natker and his artistic director have taken 12 percent pay cuts. Natker sliced expenses for sets and costumes and recruited six new board members, whose Job One is fundraising. He negotiates with vendors to keep credit extended and bills semi-paid. The budget is down to \$1.75 million,

\$200K less than last year’s.

In September 2008, the Lyric Opera led off with *Candide*, Natker laughs devilishly, “the week Lehman Brothers collapsed.” (Based on Voltaire’s novella, the story is, ironically, about the fall of a hyper-optimistic youth.) “In 2000 it was a sellout. Last year, not so much.” Ticket sales never rose above 70 percent of the house. Another irony: the season was a critical success, perhaps (I ask him to speculate) because freelance artists perform better when faced with imminent loss. “It brings out creativity,” the flip side of “stress and angst.”

Another source of income for Lyric Opera is to rent the North Park Theatre to other companies. Many canceled this year: La Jolla music summer festival; Malashock dance company; a Hawaiian production with a luau-themed Christmas show. More blows

to the bottom line.

The financial hit on opera nationwide, Natker says, has been tremendous. Eight companies and two well-known summer music theaters in Florida and New Jersey went belly-up. In November 2008, Orange County’s venerable Opera Pacific closed before its season was barely rolling. Even the Metropolitan Opera mortgaged its Chagall murals, titanic paintings that adorn the Met’s grand foyer.

When the Dow Jones drops, people are “at home, in a fetal position, under the covers, eating chocolate ice cream.” Getting the nail-biting masses back to the theater is Natker’s goal.

A Public That’s Private

I asked nonprofit directors whether they saw themselves as public or private entities. Bayside’s Jorge Riquelme sculpted the distinction best: the American nonprofit organization

is nongovernmental in name only. “We are paragovernmental agencies, if you look at the source of our funding.” Seventy percent of his budget at the Bayside Community Center is local and state. The problem is that too many organizations are “overly dependent on government.” Riquelme wants more independence: partnerships with local businesses, gifts from local foundations, people donating time.

In a less-hitched model, he says, “People are no longer clients,” to be served by social-service money with strings attached. Instead, he wants “the people [to be the] decision-makers. I want the beneficiaries of the community center to have a stake.” The community center will die if it becomes “a storefront for a government office. You have your private for-profit. You have your government-public. And you have a public that’s private — which is

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The beauty of the non-profit, the verdict of every director, is independence. Bettie Reinhardt, longtime director of the San Diego chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, agrees. Her group is organized by people who have mental illness or have mental illness in their families. The chapter, with a staff of 20 housed in a modest storefront in North Park, provides programs ranging from award banquets to housing subsidies to school presentations, all of it free. Their goal is to advocate for those they serve by busting the stigmas that surround the disease.

Reinhardt's daughter has bipolar disorder. "Our viewpoint is," she says, "that mental-health professionals are knowledgeable. We want them there. But they don't have the lived experience we have. Nobody knows as we do what it is like to live with a mental illness or to be a family member. Nobody helps their peers better than those of us who've walked in their shoes. Our independence is extremely precious."

Is Paradise Generous?

That depends on how you deconstruct the sector, says Pat Libby, director of the University of San Diego's Institute for Nonprofit Education and Research. Having documented the local nonprofit scene for three years, Libby tells me by phone that our nonprofits are among the most poorly capitalized in the state. Local groups pay employees on average \$3 less per hour than their counterparts receive in the rest of the state, \$15.58-\$18.67. San Diego foundations that give to local nonprofits have far fewer assets than their California betters. The state average for foundation assets is three times the size of San Diego's. In San Francisco, whose foundations are among the most generously endowed in America, the asset average is almost 25 times higher!

Except for Joan and

Irwin Jacobs who, among other gifts, ladled \$100 million into the coffers of the nonprofit San Diego Symphony in 2002, San Diego has nothing to rival such family-built private foundations as the Ford, the Rockefeller, the Carnegie, the MacArthur — great enablers of the arts and sciences. The Joan Kroc fortune was disbursed at her death, and she left no foundation. What's more, San Diego is composed of wealthy retirees who often pledge their money to those allegiance-pulling colleges and hometowns of their youth. San Diego has only two Fortune 500 companies now that Science Applications International Corporation is leaving, the semi-generous Qualcomm and Sempra Energy.

San Diegans do give. But it's more often a coin-purse donation or a volunteer hour here and there. Aside from Father Joe, social-service assistance devolves to the state, via county contracts with nonprofits, which,

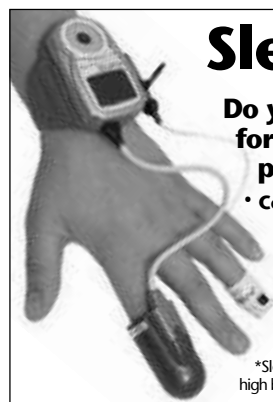
in turn, care for the neediest. Libby's research shows that the most populated areas of the county have the fewest nonprofits; some of the densest areas, where new immigrants and the military live, have virtually no nonprofits to help with neighborhood services. This trend will continue as more low-income people — San Diegans making less than \$10K annually were up 40 percent between 2000 and 2004 — move into communities where they can barely afford housing and no agency exists

to serve them. Those folks must take a local bus to an organization in the city or Mission Valley that will.

What's worse than paradise's lackluster performance is that the health of nonprofits will only worsen, if Libby's most dire prediction comes true. She believes that by the time the recession is over, the number of nonprofits in the United States will be reduced by 75 percent, from one million to 250,000. Most dire indeed. ■

— Thomas Larson

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LETTERS

continued from page 12

ignorant

if everyone admitted their ignorance.

Think of how many strings that would disappear! People seldom need a message, no matter whether they might think they do. Sometimes people just need a sandwich and a bowl of soup. Even in August. Even from a faceless, nameless, quiet source with no message and no strings. Mary and Joseph didn't wander into Bethlehem looking for spiritual enlightenment, they simply needed a place to have a child. They were given use of a manger and, as I recall the story, the innkeeper set no conditions at all for its use.

There were no encouraging messages of enlightenment from anyone.

What happened to Christmas, since then? Too much doing the right thing for the wrong reason.

Restaurant Review Published Dec. 23

By VinnyPaesano 12:46 p.m., Dec. 23, 2009

I tried out Bice a few weeks ago and had a good sample of the menu. It was amazing. This review just makes me want to go back and experience Bice again.

Diary of a Diva Published Dec. 23

By diegonomics 2:53 p.m., Dec 23, 2009

Ha, thats some funny neuros going there. Delightful.

Its so nice to be fresh and clean.

The Arabs take it as an insult when you show them the sole of your shoe. Thats why the one reporter threw that shoe at Bush.

Speaking of eye make up, there are parasites that live on our eyelashes. Where I would be worried is if something happened to your lipstick, Diva. That would be cause for major concern. What exactly is going on with your extraordinary lips? They're like the eighth wonder of the world. But I digress.

Isn't cheese itself a product of some kind of decomposition? Isn't wine itself a product of some sort of decomposition, or fermentation?"

Both wine and cheese never go bad, they just keep, getting more flavorful.

I don't fear any germ, because I figure I'm totally immune. What I fear is food poisoning. One time I ate a piece of bad pork in a carnitas taco in TJ at about 9:00pm. I went to bed, and woke up around 1:00am, and my mouth was watering really bad, it was the weirdest thing. Then my eyes began to water, and I thought to myself, "I think I'm going to hurl", and darted for the toilet bowl.

When I got there, I projectile vomited. If you've heard of the phenomenon, let me assure you that descriptions of it are not in the least bit exaggerated, much like Diva's lips.

Anyway, what happens is your mouth opens wider than you ever thought possible, and your stomach spasms as hard as your body does when it sneezes (sneezes go 100 mile per hour, I've heard)

and everything comes out in literally one to one and a half seconds. Imagine a fire hose of water flowing through your mouth, replace the water with orange vomit, clip the image to about one second, and you're starting to get the picture. It was gross. There's also the time I ate the bad mushrooms and ended up in the emergency room, but thats another story.

Finally, I think that germs and bacteria float around, and have to agree with Diva on the thesis statement, whereas David clearly gets off the best lines in the piece.

By Rocket_J_Squirrel 6:10 p.m., Dec 24, 2009

Barb is correct. 95% of the shoe soles tested at random had e coli on them in a recent study, i.e. the world is covered in poop. So if you wear your shoes into your home, you're also dragging in POOP! Leave those shoes outside your living area.

City Lights, by Joe Deegan Published Dec. 23

By a2zresource 9:20 a.m., Dec 24, 2009

I imagine that suing the City of San Diego must be a lot like suing SDG&E and Sempra Energy.

When SDG&E was indicted in 2006 over the Encanto Gas Holder site demolition in 2000-2001, the US EPA stated that asbestos would cause our horrible, painful deaths from mesothelioma and other lung diseases in two decades or so. We're about half way there now.

Even though we lost our Proposition 65 case in the public interest earlier this fall, we are keeping documents and the depositions of lab analysts who reported rather significant levels of asbestos in the samples taken both inside and just outside the fence line at the site in Lemon Grove, next to the Orange Line trolley tracks. One day when we do start coming down with lung cancer, the documents may be more useful.

One of those documents is a bulk sample report to Ninyo & Moore stating that two samples (used to get guilty verdicts in the 2007 United States v. SDG&E enviro-crimes trial then tossed out in the dismissed new trial this fall) tested at 40-50% asbestos and 5-10% asbestos (<http://eghvsdgc.stickywebs.com/oppmemo/att02.pdf>).

Amazingly more than enough to get guilty verdicts in District Court, these were not the highest levels found there.

In this state, any large demolition job involving asbestos content greater than one tenth of a percent (0.1%) will get the demolition contractor and site owner in some serious trouble if the state is not so advised... unless the workers at the site can't speak up because they were never informed, which is another serious violation...

From a google of "SDG&E guilty": <http://www.justice.gov/usao/cas/press/cas70713-SDGEVerdict.pdf>

Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

Thursday | 31



RING IT IN!

From the Pearl in Point Loma to the Hard Rock Hotel downtown; a bash at Hillcrest's Ruby Room to a masquerade at the Birch North

Park Theatre; flamenco at Café Sevilla and music or gambling at Harrah's — your choices are endless, but we can narrow it down for those who've waited till the last minute of the decade to make their New Year's Eve party plans. Check SDREADER.COM/2010 for all things New Year's Eve.

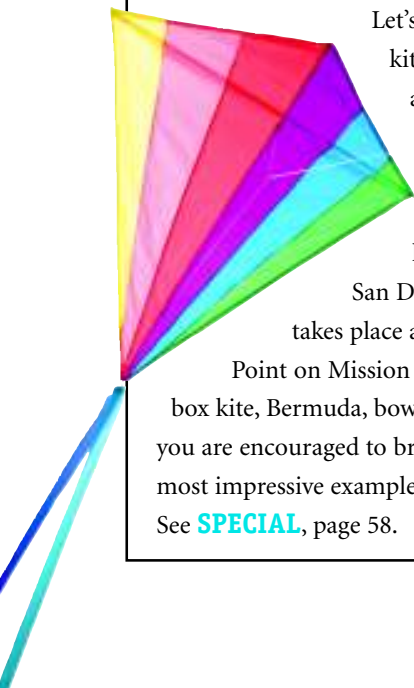
Friday | 1

JUMP PARTY

The New Children's Museum hosts its second annual New Year's family celebration and fundraiser filled with DJ tunes, gallery games, and interactive performances (stories, song, and dance) with the Jumpitz entertainment group. See [FOR KIDS](#), page 60.

LOOK, UP IN THE AIR!

Let's go fly a kite! The 18th annual New Year's Day Kite Festival, hosted by the San Diego Kite Club, takes place at Mariner's Point on Mission Bay. Bow kite, box kite, Bermuda, bowed, or delta — you are encouraged to bring your most impressive example to fly. See [SPECIAL](#), page 58.



Saturday | 2

WHEN AND HOW TO!

It's time to say goodbye to the blooms, but worry not — if you trim those plants correctly, they'll grow back better than ever. The San Diego Rose Society hosts its annual demonstration of when and how to correctly prune rose bushes. Gain hands-on instruction to "really get a feel for the way a bush should be pruned," at Balboa Park. See [SPECIAL](#), page 58.

TO THE LIGHTHOUSE

The gyms will be overflowing with resolute folks, so take to the streets instead and join the San Diego Bicycle Touring Society riders for a flat-road, 47-mile ride that includes a Coronado ferry venture (make sure to bring your fare) and a visit to the Point Loma lighthouse. See [SPORTS](#), page 60.

Sunday | 3

WHALE-AND-DOLPHIN-WATCHING ADVENTURES

Hosted by Birch Aquarium at Scripps and San Diego Harbor Excursion, tours feature Scripps naturalists who share information about gray whales, the ecology, and history of San Diego Bay. Also, detect and listen in on whale and dolphin sounds using state-of-the-art research equipment. See [SPECIAL](#), page 57.



FRIDAY, JANUARY 1: JUMP PARTY

SWINGIN' THE NEW YEAR (WITH SOUL)

Begin 2010 with four nights of swing dancing and live music (and coffee) at Claire de Lune in North Park. Tonight, Mercedes Moore is ready to entertain. See [DANCE](#), page 58.

Monday | 4

EXPLORING THE RENAISSANCE THROUGH SOUND

Take part in the Clairemont library's Resounding Joy program to "learn about music's purpose during the Renaissance period, instruments used, and rhythm and meter." There will be discussion on music's application during the period, intentional listening and music analysis, and active music-making. For musicians and nonmusicians alike. See [LECTURES](#), page 60.

Tuesday | 5

DOWNTOWN SOUND BITES

The Gaslamp has a lot of history. Learn what's going on in your part of the world at the Downtown Information Center, where you can bring your lunch and listen to Gaslamp Quarter Association executive director Jimmy Parker as he presents an "insider's view" of the Gaslamp Quarter. Followed by Q&A session. See [LECTURES](#), page 60.

Wednesday | 6

ARE WE READY FOR BRAIN PACEMAKERS?

"Do you have a remote control for that...?" Scientists are looking at electrical stimulation in the brain to possibly repair "disorders of mood or movement." Panelists Michael Caligiuri of the University of San Diego and Ralph Greenspan of the Neurosciences Institute speak at this latest Exploring Ethics lecture. See [LECTURES](#), page 60.



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Archway into Zagarolo

Zagarolo, Italy

By M'Liss Hinshaw

Zagarolo, Italy, an authentic Italian village nestled in a wine region just above Rome, is yet to be discovered by tourists. Leaving the historic city of Rome was difficult, but once I ventured east by train for 30 minutes to the town of Zagarolo, I felt I was back in old Roman times.

Entryway arches into town embedded with medallion-laden wreathes and mosaics took my mind back hundreds of years. Generations in Zagarolo continue to be proud of their community. Men gathered near the water fountain in the center of town. The women clustered by the cistern, unmoved by current times.

Ovens in the town's bakery have been used for 300 years. I enjoyed partaking in each process of the baking with the bakery's family members. I tasted salami from the local shop and ducked into quaint shops nestled on the main street that led to the town's churches.

My stay at B&B Il Colle degli Ulivi provided me a memorable time with

family-style dinners, sightseeing suggestions, and caring owners (olivetreehill.com for complete details).

Temple Square, Salt Lake City, Utah

By Jan Austin

What I found most fascinating about Temple Square was the tour of the Tabernacle and the performance by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. The choir's Sunday-morning broadcasts and Thurs-



Mormon Tabernacle towers

day-evening rehearsals are open to the public. With 11,623 pipes, the Tabernacle organ is considered one of the world's greatest musical instruments.

Our guide told us that the dome-shaped building, which is 80 feet tall and

continued on page 56

Other Adventures



misshottie45: Paddling in the pond in Greagle, a small town just outside of Portola (about an hour outside of Tahoe)



Microsoft92114: Lattice stones in Hagatna, Guam



BonnieMaffei: House in Lefkes Village, Paros, Greece



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

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Hiking length: 9.4 miles • **Difficulty:** Strenuous



Autumn forest along the Gabrielino Trail

On the Mount Zion loop hike, you get to discover plenty of wild territory tucked back into the steeply rising “Front Range” of the San Gabriel Mountains. Why Front Range? Because these fortress-like ramparts form the mountainous backdrop seen from the San Gabriel Valley and greater Los Angeles Basin.

Get set for a significant effort: 9.4 trail-miles and 2100 feet of elevation gain and loss. Dogs are allowed, and you can stay overnight (if space allows) at either of two trail campgrounds along the way. Contact Angeles National Forest (626-574-5200) to get the latest information about road and trail conditions and other current details.

You’ll start at the ever-popular (parking is sometimes scarce) Chantry Flat trailhead and picnic area above the city of Arcadia. To get there, exit Interstate 210 at Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia. Drive north through Arcadia and Sierra Madre, pass a vehicle gate (open 6am to 10pm) and continue north on Santa Anita Canyon Road about three miles to reach the parking lots at Chantry Flat. A National Forest Adventure Pass, available onsite, is required.

From the south edge of the lower parking lot at Chantry Flat, hike the first, paved segment of the Gabrielino Trail down to the confluence of Winter Creek and Big Santa Anita Canyon (0.6 mile). Pavement ends at a metal bridge spanning Winter Creek. Pass the restrooms and continue up alder-lined Big Santa Anita Canyon on a wide road bed following the left bank. Edging alongside a number of small cabins, the deteriorating road soon assumes the proportions of a foot trail.

At 1.4 miles, amid a beautiful oak woodland, you come to a four-way junction of trails. The right branch goes up-canyon to Sturtevant Falls; the middle and left branches bypass the falls and join again about a mile upstream.

The left, upper trail is recommended for horses. The middle (or lower) trail, for hiking, is more scenic. The lower trail slices across a sheer wall above the falls and continues through a veritable fairyland of miniature cascades and crystalline pools bedecked with giant chain ferns.

A half mile past the reconvergence of the upper and lower trails, you come upon Cascade Picnic Area (2.8 miles), named for a smooth chute in the stream bottom just below. Press on past a crib dam and reach Spruce Grove Trail Camp (3.5 miles), named for the bigcone Douglas-fir (a.k.a. bigcone spruce) trees that attain truly impressive proportions hereabouts.

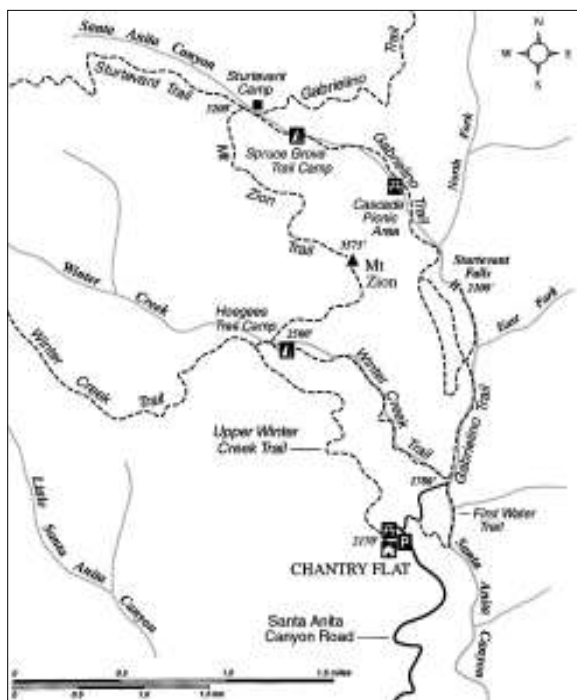
A little higher and farther, the Gabrielino Trail forks right. You go left on the signed Sturtevant Trail. Go left again, 0.1 mile on, at the entrance to Sturtevant Camp, which is a historic (1893) resort and current Methodist Church retreat. Cross above a crib dam

to the opposite side of the creek from the camp, continue another 0.1 mile, and look for stone steps rising on the left — the beginning of the Mount Zion Trail (3.9 miles). You wind upward across a ravine and then along timber-shaded, north-facing slopes.

When you reach the trail crest in a notch just northwest of Mount Zion, take the side path up through manzanita and ceanothus to the summit, where a broad if somewhat unremarkable view can be had of surrounding ridges and a small slice of the San Gabriel Valley.

Return to the main trail and begin a long, switchback descent (1000 feet of elevation loss in about 1.5 miles) down the dry, north canyon wall of Winter Creek. At the foot of this stretch you reach the cool canyon bottom and a T-intersection with the Winter Creek Trail (6.7 miles), lying just above Hoegees Trail Camp. Turn right, going upstream momentarily, follow the trail across the creek, and climb to the next trail junction. Bear left on the Upper Winter Creek Trail and complete the remaining 2.6 miles, cool and semi-shaded most of 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

Gray Whale Migration off San Diego County’s coast peaks this month. The best view spots from land are high points close to the surf. Aside from the whale watching overlook at Cabrillo National Monument, try Sunset Cliffs, the vest-pocket parks and dead-end streets from Pacific Beach to Scripps Park in La Jolla, various ocean overlooks on the trail system at Torrey Pines State Reserve, the cliffs opposite Carmel Valley Road south of Del Mar, overlooks opposite Lomas Santa Fe Drive in Solana Beach, and various clifftop view points and beach-access stairways in Encinitas and Leucadia. Scan the ocean a few hundred yards to a couple of miles out using high-power binoculars. Best times for viewing are about 9am to noon.

Exceptionally High and Low Tides are set to occur on several days in late December through early January. These tides coincide with the full moon (December 31), and nearly coincide with the winter solstice (December 21) — two factors that influence the tidal extremities.

A peak high tide of +6.9 feet occurs on Thursday, December 31 at 8:01am. Friday’s high tide of +6.9 feet occurs at 8:47am. Saturday’s high tide of +6.6 feet crests at 9:34am. Sunday’s high tide of +6.1 feet peaks at 10:22am. If any strong winter storm happens to arrive from the west during these extreme high tides, some flooding of low-lying coastal areas around San Diego is likely. Several exceptionally low tides will also occur within the same time period. On Wednesday, December 30, the tide falls to -1.6 feet at 2:30pm. Thursday’s low tide of -1.8 feet bottoms out at 3:12pm. Friday’s low of -1.8 feet occurs at 3:52pm. Saturday’s low sinks to -1.6 feet at 4:33pm. Sunday’s lowest tide of -1.2 feet happens at 5:15pm. Any of these low-tide occasions are good for exploring marine life in the tidepool areas along San Diego County’s coastline.

Catch a Blue Moon! On Thursday, December 31, the full moon rises majestically from the east horizon at around 5:10pm, about 25 minutes after the time of sunset. Some 14 hours later the moon sets in the west near the time of sunrise. Early-winter full moons spend a long time (up to 14 hours) in the

night sky (as seen from San Diego), just as the early-summer sun spends about 14 hours arcing across the daytime sky. Since this full moon is the second one occurring during the this calendar month, it is colloquially known a “blue moon.” How often is “once in a blue moon”? Statistically about once in every three years.

The Quadrantid Meteor Shower peaks in the late-night and wee hours (11pm to 5am) on the night/morning of January 2-3. Meteor numbers may increase to as many as 20 per hour, only one-fifth the rate this shower is capable of delivering, only because the nearly-full-moon’s light will excessively brighten the sky that night. The Quadrantid meteors appear to “radiate” from the constellation Bootes, which is in the eastern sky during these hours.

“Discover Daley Ranch” Meet naturalist William Sherrard for moderately paced seven-mile hike. 760-839-4680. Tuesday, January 5, 7am; free. Daley Ranch - La Honda trailhead, 3024 La Honda Drive. (ESCONDIDO)

“New Year’s Morning Early Birds, Bugs, and Botany” Nat-

Utah *continued from page 54*

150 feet wide, has acoustics such that when a sewing pin is dropped at the altar, you can hear it 170 feet away in the back of the room. I found that hard to believe until his demonstration — it was like someone dropped a book instead of a pin.

The three city blocks in downtown Salt Lake City that make up Temple Square offer Mormon pioneer history. Check out the two visitors’ centers (open daily from 9:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.). Make time for the Family History Library, which offers the world’s largest collection of genealogical resources and volunteers who will help you research. View the Beehive House, have lunch at the Lion House, and wander the beautiful grounds of the Salt Lake Temple. The temple itself is considered sacred and is open only to members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Nerja, Spain

By Bonnie Maffei

Nerja, in Andalusia, Spain, is located 50 kilometers east of Malaga along the Costa del Sol.

Imagine standing on the “Balcony of Europe,” built on a rock face overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, and being able to watch the rose-colored sun rise out of the sea in one direction, and later, see a reddish orange sun sink into the sea in the other.

In this painter’s paradise, I felt as if



Sunrise over the Mediterranean

the light and color had entered my soul. It was such an inner experience, I began my quest for the spiritual — in nature and within — right then and there.

The sun shines over 300 days a year in Nerja. Great sandy beaches line this stretch of the Costa del Sol, the best being Burriana Beach, to the east, where you can swim, water-ski, scuba-dive, and sail. Or, just slip away to a smaller, more secluded beach between there and the Balcon de Europa.

Four kilometers east of Nerja, the Nerja Caves display beautiful, weird stalactite formations. In summer, for the Festival de la Cueva, classical music concerts are held in one of the underground chambers.

At other times of year, Nerja celebrates the festivals of Carnival, Easter, Christmas, and others with food, music, and all-night parties. Nerja Tourist Information: nerja.org.

I stayed at the beachfront Hotel Balcon de Europa (1, Paseo Balcon de Europa). A twin room with balcony and sea view is well worth the 122.50 euros per night (three-night minimum).

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.

uralist 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, January 1, 7:30am; free. Daley Ranch - La Honda trailhead, 3024 La Honda Drive. (ESCONDIDO)

Blue Sky Fitness Hiking Series Turn New Year's resolutions into fitness solutions — distance and fitness levels will increase gradually over six weeks culminating in hike to Ramona Dam. Series ends February 8. 858-668-4781. Monday, January 4, 9:30am; free. 18 and up. Blue Sky Ecological Reserve, 16275 Espola Road. (POWAY)

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

Hawkwatch 2010 Visit Ramona's grasslands to witness resident and winter migration of hawks, falcons, eagles during outing led by Wildlife Research Institute. Events include demonstrations of hawk banding and tracking eagles with transmitters. Walks led by trained biologist every Saturday through February. Wear hiking or walking boots. Bring binoculars or spotting scopes if you have them. 760-789-3992. Saturdays, 9am; through Saturday, February 27, free; Wildlife Research Institute, 18030 Highland Valley Road. (RAMONA)

Nature Walk with Views! Ranger-led walk along 1.5-mile Wooten Loop-Riparian Trail with views of Stelzer Ridge and Wildcat Canyon, returning through shaded oak- and sycamore-lined trail along Stelzer Creek. Expect easy to moderate hike on unpaved, maintained trail. Parking: \$3. 619-787-2810. Saturday, January 2, 8am; free. Louis Stelzer County Park, 11470 Wildcat Canyon Road. (LAKESIDE)

New Year's Hike Enjoy "trail guide-led hike during this season of celebration and reflection." See natural diversity in plants, animals, rocks, ecology. 619-668-3281. Saturday, January 2, 9:30am; Sunday, January 3, 9:30am; Wednesday, January 6, 9:30am; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

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, January 2, 3pm and 6pm; \$5-\$10. Old Town State Historic Park, 4002 Wallace Street. (OLD TOWN)

"Masquerade: New Year's Eve Celebration" Evening promises "massive art sculptures," video projections, Caburlesque Kittens burlesque troupe performance, music by Delta Spirit, Get Back Loretta, the Burning of Rome, the Hot Moon. Four bars, two dance areas with 5 DJs, all with masquerade theme. 858-945-2830. Thursday, December 31, 7pm; \$45. 21 and up. Birch North Park Theatre, 2891 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

"Winter Solstice" Take "digital tour" of night sky during "The Sky Tonight" planetarium show, then view real sky through telescopes after show (weather permitting). 619-238-1233. Wednesday, January 6, 7pm; \$9-\$10. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

(Ice) Skating by the Sea Enjoy outdoor ice-skating on rink overlooking Pacific Ocean. Two-hour session daily (11am); three-hour sessions begin at 2 pm and 6pm. 619-435-6611. Thursdays, 11am; Fridays, 11am; Saturdays, 11am; Sundays,

11am; through Sunday, January 3; \$10-\$20. Hotel del Coronado, 1500 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

Ask the Horticulturist Enjoy informative tour through garden with horticulturist David Yetz. Bring your questions. Registration: 619-660-0614 x10. Sunday, January 3, 1:30pm; free. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

Craft Club Group gathers to create unique items for sale in garden's gift shop. Reservations: 619-232-2721. Monday, January 4, 10am; \$5. Japanese Friendship Garden, Pan American Road. (BALBOA PARK)

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. Thursdays, 9:45am and 1:30pm; Fridays, 9:45am and 1:30pm; 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)

Holiday of Lights More than 400 lighted, holiday-themed displays for viewing from visitors' cars. Admission: \$14 per vehicle (up to five peo-

ple), \$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; through Sunday, January 3. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Ice in San Diego? "Fantasy on Ice" promises ice-skating outdoors adjacent to Horton Plaza. Skating sessions last two hours. Fee includes skate rental. 619-234-1031. Thursdays, 10am; Fridays, 10am; Saturdays, 10am; Sundays, 10am; Mondays, 10am; Tuesdays, 10am; Wednesdays, 10am; through Sunday, January 10; \$10-\$12. Horton Square, 225 Broadway. (DOWNTOWN)

KnitNight Gather with fellow fiber artists for social knitting, crochet, spinning. 760-806-6744. Tuesdays, 7pm; free. 18 and up. Clever Knits, 214 South Indiana Avenue. (VISTA)

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aquarium.usd.edu
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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.

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)

Look, Up in the Air! The 18th annual New Year's Day Kite Festival hosted by San Diego Kite Club takes place at Mariner's Point (part of Bonita Cove on Mission Bay).

Expect to see "all sizes of kites in the air." Bring your favorite kite. 619-208-4365. Friday, January 1, 10am; free. Bonita Cove, 1100 West Mission Bay Drive. (MISSION BEACH)

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)

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)

Stamp-Collecting Show Stamp and cover dealers offer their wares. 619-218-7835. Sunday, January 3, 10am; free. Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road. (KEARNY MESA)

When and How To! San Diego Rose Society hosts annual demonstration of when and how to correctly prune roses at Inez Grant Parker Rose Garden (across Park

Boulevard from Reuben H. Fleet Science Center and San Diego Natural History Museum). Gain hands-on instruction in art of pruning from consulting rosarian. Participants encouraged to prune bushes, ask questions, "really get a feel for the way a bush should be pruned." Bring pruning shears, long gloves if you have them. 760-739-8342. Saturday, January 2, 9:30am; free. Balboa Park, Park Boulevard at Presidents Way. (BALBOA PARK)

Why Are You Here? Take part in self-assessment exercises to "open your mind to your true purpose" when Teri Mahaney presents "Discover Your Purpose" at 11am. Mahaney returns to focus on "New Intentions for 2010" at 2pm; set intentions for new year, identify personal barriers to these intentions. 760-721-2110. Saturday, January 2, 11am and 2pm; \$20. Kindred Journeys, 510 N. Coast Hwy. #101A. (OCEANSIDE)

CLASSICAL MUSIC

"Salute to Vienna" New Year's concert by Strauss Symphony of America is led by conductor Imre Kollár, joined by soprano Luisa Al-

brechtová, tenor Joachim Moser, dancers from Kiev-Aniko Ballet of Ukraine performing popular Viennese waltzes, polkas, marches, operetta excerpts by "waltz king" Johann Strauss Jr. 619-235-0804. Friday, January 1, 2:30pm; \$64-\$85. Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. (DOWNTOWN)

"Tudor Polyphony: Shepherd and Flock" La Jolla Renaissance Singers perform sacred music by John Shepherd, Parsons, Byrd, Vaughan Williams, along with various English carols. Donation. 760-224-8223. Sunday, January 3, 3pm. Saint Mary Magdalene Church, 1945 Illion Street. (CLAIREMONT)

Classics at the Merc Alize Rozsnyai, soprano, and Diane Snodgrass, piano. Sunday, January 3, 3pm; \$5-\$11. Merc at the Old Town Temecula Theater, 42051 Main Street. (TEMECULA)

Happy Birthday, Spreckels Organ! Concert celebrating this historic organ. 619-702-8138. Sunday, January 3, 2pm; free. Spreckels Organ Pavilion, 2211 Pan American Road. (BALBOA PARK)

DANCE

"Crash Course to Ballroom" Four-week workshop provides introduction to four dance standards: fox-trot, waltz, swing, salsa. 858-451-3775. Monday, January 4, 8pm; \$40. Dance Motions, 12120 Alta Carmel Court, Suite 410D. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

Argentine Tango Colette Hebert leads new six-week session of Argentine tango lessons, Mondays and Wednesdays. 514-726-5567. Monday, January 4, 7pm; free. Dance Place San Diego in NTC Promenade, 2650 Truxtun Rd., Suite 108. (POINT LOMA)

Belly-Dance Dinner Show Belly dance by Talia and Oriental Jewels; live music by John Bilezikjian and Frank Lazzaro. No cover. 760-603-9672. Wednesday, January 6, 7pm. Greek Village, 6030 Paseo del Norte. (CARLSBAD)

Dance, Dance Resolution! Firehouse Swing Dance hosts beginning and intermediate Lindy hop swing (7-8pm), beginning Balboa swing (8-9pm) classes. All ages. Fee: \$15 per class; \$50 for four-week session; class fee includes admission to swing dance (8-11:30pm). 858-305-6060. Wednesdays, 7pm; through Wednesday, January 27. Firehouse Swing Dance, at San Diego Woman's Club: 2557 Third Avenue. (BANKER'S HILL)

Farewell to "Riverdance" This "celebration of Irish music, song, and dance" hits stage for farewell performances. Show was composed by Bill Whelan, produced by Moya Doherty, directed by John McColgan. 619-570-1100. Tuesday, January 5, 7pm; Wednesday, January 6, 7pm; \$18-\$86. San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

Here's to the Holidays! Count down to 2010 on the dance floor. Enjoy "favorite ballroom, Latin, and swing dances." 858-565-9575. Thursday, December 31, 8:30pm; \$20-\$25. Dance for 2, 7528 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)

New Year's Day Tea Dance Live music by Crowfoot for dance hosted by San Diego English Country Dancers. 858-676-9731. Friday, January 1, 1:30pm; \$10. Jean Hart Academy of Dance, 12227 Poway Road. (POWAY)

New Year's Eve Dance Party Balboa Park international folk dance clubs host party. Entry is \$5 with a plate of finger food to share, \$10 without food to share. 619-281-5656. Thursday, December 31,

8pm; \$5-\$10. Folk Dance Center, 4569 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

Salsa Mondays Salsa classes for beginners (6:30pm), intermediates (7:15pm). No partner needed. 858-451-3775. Mondays, 6:30pm; \$10-\$15. Dance Motions, 12120 Alta Carmel Court, Suite 410D. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

Swing into the New Year Crowfoot makes music, Lynn Ackerson calls for contra dance with big-band theme hosted by San Diego Folk Heritage. Beginners' dance workshop: 7:30pm. Wear soft-soled shoes. 619-283-8550. Thursday, December 31, 7:30pm; \$20-\$25. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. (NORTH PARK)

Swingin' the New Year (with Soul) Begin 2010 with four nights of swing dancing and live music. Hal Smith and the Rhythmakers perform December 31; Missy Andersen takes stage January 1; Sonny Leland Trio performs January 2; and Mercedes Moore entertains January 3. 619-347-9366. Thursday, December 31, 9pm; Friday, January 1, 9pm; Saturday, January 2, 9pm; Sunday, January 3, 9pm; \$5-\$120. Claire de Lune, 2906 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

FILM

"Lives Through a Different Lens" Series closes with look at "Frivolity," promising a group of short, lighthearted videos "celebrating humor in everyday situations." Conversation between Joyce Axelrod and media consultant Carol Hasson (formerly with *The New York Times*, ABC News). Audience discussion follows. 858-454-0268. Monday, January 4, 5:30pm; free. La Jolla Library, 7555 Draper Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Garbage Dreams "Community Cinema" preview screening of film directed by Mai Iskander, documenting story of young men searching for ways to eke out a living for their families, facing tough choices in "world's largest garbage village on the outskirts of Cairo." Representatives from Zero Waste San Diego on hand to answer questions after film. 619-236-5817. Wednesday, January 6, 6:30pm; free. San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

FOR KIDS

"Art Made Simple" Art instructor, illustrator, author Lisa Davis DeMattei leads art class for children (6-12). 858-581-9935. Wednesday, January 6, 4pm; free. 6 and up. Clairemont Library, 2920 Burgener Boulevard. (CLAIREMONT)

Jack and the Beanstalk Puppet shows by Big Joe Productions. 619-544-9203. Thursday, December 31, 10am and 11:30am; Friday, January 1, 10am and 11:30am; Saturday, January 2, 11am, 1pm and 2:30pm; Sunday, January 3, 11am, 1pm and 2:30pm; \$3-\$5. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. (BALBOA PARK)

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BONITA

Sapphire Lounge: 18+ Lounge. \$50 per couple includes: Entrance, combo appetizer and champagne toast. DJ Peligro spinning Dub, Drum & Bass, Mix with Reggae Rasta Nation Posse. Bottle service for 21+ and booth reservations available. (619) 470-8000. Myspace.com/sapphirelounge08.

CARLSBAD

Sheraton Carlsbad: Family-friendly festivities, buffet dinner, live music & dancing all night. Kids' party zone. Legoland fireworks. \$75 per adult. Social hours 10 pm-1 am \$25. Reservations recommended. Call (760) 827-2440.

DEL MAR

Fortune's NYE 2010 at the Del Mar Marriott: North County's premiere event with over 20 of San Diego's finest DJs playing in 4 areas from 8 pm-4 am. For more info, to purchase tickets, and to book hotel rooms visit www.421newyears.com or call (619) 269-9713.

DOWNTOWN

4th & B: Ministry of Sound with Yves LaRock, Jabba and Zoo Brazil. Dance.

The Field Irish Pub: Double New Year's Party Irish Style. Irish New Year's at 4 pm. No cover. American New Year's Eve dinner packages available. Live Irish music.

Hard Rock Hotel San Diego: NYE 2010 - 3 floors, 4 venues, 12 DJs, 1 all-access ticket. VIP room packages available. Visit www.hardrockhotelsd.com/nye2010 or call (619) 702-3000 for more information.

Hilton Gaslamp: Karaoke and dancing. All-inclusive package: 1 night accommodations for 2, hors d'oeuvres, party favors, champagne toast and entertainment provided by "Musically Yours". \$299 per couple. For reservations call (619) 231-4040.

House of Blues: NYE 2010. Presented by Victory Nightlife.

Onyx/Thin: Featuring DJs: Rags, RJ Diggs, Ramsey and special guests. Three rooms of music, huge midnight celebration and champagne toast, dancers, high-tech visuals, hosted cocktail hour. For more info, bottle service and VIP reservations contact CharliSSa Dodge at (619) 235-6699 or CharliSSa@onyxroom.com. Early arrival and advance tickets suggested. Pre-sale tickets: onyxroom.com / clubzone.com / 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.

SEAPORT VILLAGE

Buster's Beach House Seaport Village: New Year's Eve 2010 Murder Mystery Party. Complimentary champagne toast, dancing, hors d'oeuvres and party favors. VIP limo/bottle service available. Tickets \$50 per person. On sale now at www.triosandiego.com.

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

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Calendar LOCAL EVENTS

The Rabbit on the Moon A tricky rabbit gets the best of the wily coyote in this traditional Mexican folktale presented by Gaston's Puppets. 619-544-9203. Wednesday, January 6, 10am and 11:30am; \$3-\$5. Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, 2130 Pan American Road West. (BALBOA PARK)

Jump Party Second annual New Year's family celebration and fundraiser promises family-friendly DJ tunes, gallery games, interactive performances with the Jumpitz entertainment group. Reservations: 619-233-8792. Friday, January 1, noon; \$10-\$15. New Children's Museum, 200 West Island Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

IN PERSON

Very Valentine Adriana Trigiani discusses, signs her latest, "the first novel in a new trilogy featuring Valentine Roncalli, 'the funny one,' and her large Italian family." Books must be purchased from Warwick's to be signed. 858-454-0347. Monday, January 4, 7:30pm; free. Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Clean Heart, Clear Mind... These are among "seven essentials to reaching your God-given potential" according to pastor/author

Charles Stanley, who visits to celebrate release of his newest book, *How to Reach Your Full Potential for God*. 760-737-0225. Wednesday, January 6, 6pm. Family Christian Stores, 1356 West Valley Parkway. (ESCONDIDO)

Curmudgeon of Comedy? Laugh with Lewis Black. 800-745-3000. Saturday, January 2, 8pm; \$46-\$56. Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. (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

Are We Ready for Brain Pacemakers? "Many scientists are interested in the possibility that electrical stimulation of appropriate sites in the brain could repair disorders of mood or movement." Panelists Michael Caligiuri of UCSD, Ralph Greenspan of the Neurosciences Institute speak for "Exploring Ethics" lecture. RSVP: 858-822-2647. Wednesday, January 6, 5:30pm; free. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

"Downtown Sound Bites" Bring your lunch and listen when Gaslamp Quarter Association executive director Jimmy Parker presents "insider's view of... Gaslamp Quarter." Question-and-answer session follows. Talk hosted by Centre

City Development Corporation (located above CVS). 619-235-2222. Tuesday, January 5, noon; free. Downtown Information Center, 193 Horton Plaza. (DOWNTOWN)

"Exploring the Renaissance Through Sound" Resounding Joy program for adults to "learn about music's purpose during the Renaissance period, instruments used, and rhythm and meter." Expect discussion on music's applications during the period, intentional listening and music analysis, active music making. For nonmusicians and musicians alike. 858-581-9935. Monday, January 4, 1pm; free. Clairemont Library, 2920 Burgener Boulevard. (CLAIREMONT)

Sogetsu School Ikebana Learn basics of Sogetsu style ikebana (Japanese flower arrangement) from Yumi Rakers. Materials list upon required advance registration. Fee: \$15 per session, or \$40 for four sessions. Registration: 619-232-2721. Tuesdays, 9:30am; through Tuesday, February 23. Japanese Friendship Garden, Pan American Road. (BALBOA PARK)

SPORTS

Eco-Friendly Whale Watching Guided kayak tours "get very close to the whales without large boats and crowds of people to startle the whales or spoil the experience." Tours include La Jolla's sea caves. Participants may encounter sea lions, garibaldi, leopard sharks,

other wildlife. Sightings not guaranteed. Wetsuits included in fee. Reservations: 858-459-1114. Thursdays, 10:30am and 1:30pm; Fridays, 10:30am and 1:30pm; Saturdays, 10:30am and 1:30pm; Sundays, 10:30am and 1:30pm; Mondays, 10:30am and 1:30pm; Tuesdays, 10:30am and 1:30pm; Wednesdays, 10:30am and 1:30pm; through Monday, February 15, \$65-\$110. La Jolla Kayak, 2199 Avenida de la Playa. (LA JOLLA)

New Year's Day Century Join San Diego Bicycle Touring Society riders for 100 miles of peddling through Camp Pendleton to San Clemente and back. 619-561-3846. Friday, January 1, 7:45am; free. Doyle Park, 8175 Regents Road. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

Ride into 2010 Join Knickerbikers bicyclists for easy 30-mile ride starting at South Shores boat ramp, heading around Fiesta Island, Mission Bay, Liberty Station, Harbor Island. 619-255-2890. Friday, January 1, 9am; free. South Shores Park, 500 Sea World Drive. (PACIFIC BEACH)

San Marcos Blast Pedal this 65-mile bicycle adventure with Bicycle Touring Society riders. 619-255-5360. Sunday, January 3, 8:45am; free. Doyle Park, 8175 Regents Road. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

This Is the End... Regular season ends for San Diego Chargers with game against Washington Redskins. Game broadcast on Fox. 800-745-3000. Sunday, January 3, 1:15pm; \$54-\$98. Qualcomm Stadium, 9449 Friars Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

To the Lighthouse Join San Diego Bicycle Touring Society riders for flat, 47-mile ride including Coronado ferry (bring money for fare) and visit to Point Loma lighthouse. 619-647-3212. Saturday, January 2, 8:45am; free. Pepper Park, Tidelands Ave., south terminus. (NATIONAL CITY)

NYE

Big Night San Diego New Year's Eve gala promises 15 themed party areas, five dance floors, multiple balloon drops, midnight celebration, food, more. 571-333-4422. Thursday, December 31, 9pm; \$109-\$199. 21 and up. Hilton San Diego Bayfront, 1 Park Boulevard. (DOWNTOWN)

Bright Lights and Beautiful People Join Walkabout walkers for 17th annual New Year's Eve adventure, a moderately paced, flat walk around downtown. Optional snack follows. Rain cancels. 619-231-7463. Thursday, December 31, 7:15pm; free. County Administration Building, 1600 Pacific Highway. (DOWNTOWN)

First Night Escondido New Year's Eve celebration with live music by many different groups, art making, dancing, activities for kids, Lindley Lopez Family Circus, fireworks (9pm and midnight), more. Alcohol- and drug-free party takes place at California Center for the Arts, Grape Day Park, and Escondido City Hall. 760-715-

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4448. Thursday, December 31, 6pm; \$20. California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard. (ESCONDIDO)

Release the Old, Welcome the New! Enjoy nondenominational New Year's Eve "burning bowl" ceremony to release the old and welcome the new. All are invited. Donations welcome. 760-944-9226. Thursday, December 31, 5:30pm; 16 and up. Seaside Center for Spiritual Living, 1613 Lake Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Resolve to Be Fit! Downtown YMCA's 40th annual Resolution Run includes 5k run or a 1-mile fun walk, beginning at Sixth Avenue and Laurel Street. Event begins with "Fitness Oath." 619-232-7451. Thursday, December 31, noon; \$5. Balboa Park, Park Boulevard at Presidents Way. (BALBOA PARK)

Ring in 2010 in Style This '70s-themed "Swingin' New Year's Bash" includes "Groovy Threads" costume contest and prizes, food, drink. Admission is free before 9pm, \$30 after. Reservations: 619-379-1248. Thursday, December 31, 6:30pm; \$30. 21 and up. Porto Vista Hotel & Suites, 1835 Columbia Street. (LITTLE ITALY)

MUSEUMS & PUBLIC ART

Bonita Museum and Cultural Center Seventeenth annual "Magi Exhibit" continues through Wednesday, January 6. During Korean War, Harris Teller lifted spirits of men in ship's sick bay with display of porcelain nativity set he bought in Pusan Bay. Teller has since collected over 700 sets, and continues to acquire and donate new Magi each year.

Museum features exhibits of local history and fine arts, striving "to preserve and celebrate the spirit of Bonita in its two spacious galleries." Stories of Bonita's 100 year history are told with artifacts, photographs. Displays include Native American culture, lemon orchard period, events of the flood of 1916, and transformation of family life by technology. 4355 Bonita Rd., 619-267-5141. (BONITA)

California Center for the Arts, Escondido Museum "Quint: Three Decades of Contemporary

Art," a survey of artists represented by Quint Contemporary Art, explores "how the vision of one local gallery has contributed to the commonwealth" and documents "changes seen in the artistic community of San Diego, in the world, and for each individual artist as they have found their notoriety and artistic voice." Exhibition features paintings, sculptures, installations, drawings and prints by artists such as Jean Lowe, Sol Lewitt, Mel Bochner, Kim MacConnel, Julian Opie, Ryan McGinness, Manny Farber, and Patricia Patterson. Through Thursday, December 31. 340 North Escondido Blvd., 760-839-4120. (ESCONDIDO)

Chinese Historical Society and Museum "Five Dynasties of Chinese Pottery" features collection of pottery ranging from Han Dynasty to Ming Dynasty, tracing Chinese pottery from its humble, utilitarian origins to its culmination as an

elite art form. Exhibit includes roof tile ends, grave goods, funerary jars, sculptures of horses and carriages, porcelain vessels.

See artifacts from San Diego's Chinese and Chinese-American history, culture, and art. Current museum artifacts include a 1920s warlord's bed, exhibits on Chinese footbinding and Chinese-American veterans. The museum is in a building originally built in 1927 for the Chinese Mission. Adjacent to the building is an Asian garden with koi pond and waterfall. 404 Third Ave., 619-338-9888. (DOWNTOWN)

Chula Vista Heritage Museum "The Way We Learned: Education in the South Bay" illustrates history of buildings, campuses, and people attending school through

photographs, artifacts, school annuals, student memorabilia.

The museum features glimpses of Chula Vista's past; exhibits feature lemon packing-crate labels, photographs of downtown Chula Vista, doors and adobe blocks from the original *Star* newspaper building, and relics from the Otay Watch Company. 360 Third Ave., 619-427-8092. (CHULA VISTA)

Craftsmanship Museum The Joe Martin Foundation hosts this museum and machine shop with displays of projects in metal and wood at the small end of the size-scale, including working miniature gas and steam engines, aircraft models, cars, trains, clocks, miniature tools and guns. Machinists mans the shop (Tuesday-Friday)

for machining demonstrations. Museum is also open on first Saturday each month (10am-3pm). 3235 Executive Ridge, 760-727-9492. (VISTA)

Creation Museum A museum contrasting the evolution and creation worldviews. 10946 Woodside Avenue North, 619-448-0900. (SANTEE)

Embarcadero Urban Trees 6 Public art exhibit of 30 "urban trees" along North Embarcadero on Harbor Drive (between cruise ship terminal and Hawthorn Street). Artists were supplied with a 12-foot-tall pole placed in a con-

crete planter to serve as tree's base; artists alter the pole by attaching materials to create their sculptures. 619-686-6200. Along Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

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

Heritage Walk Museum The museum includes the restored Victorian house, the city's original Santa Fe Train Depot, a railroad

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car with model train, working blacksmith shop, and a barn. Find Heritage Walk in Grape Day Park. 321 North Broadway, 760-743-8207. (ESCONDIDO)

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

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

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

Mingei International Museum North County “Rite and Ritual: Ceremonial Art Across the Cultures” focuses on beauty of objects used for special familial, tribal, community events in traditional cultures such as birth, childhood, initiation, marriage, death, and festivals and in various religious expressions among the world’s peoples. Closes Saturday, October 16. 155 West Grand Ave., 760-735-3355. (ESCONDIDO)

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown “Tara Donovan” features sculptures and installations from past decade. Show traces “ambitious process of this young artist,” who takes mass quantities of a single everyday item (tape, plastic cups, straws, pins, toothpicks, buttons) and “assembles them in different ways.” Closes Sunday, February 28. 1100 and 1001 Kettner Blvd., 858-454-3541. (DOWNTOWN)

Museum of Photographic Arts “Picturing the Process: The Photograph as Witness” explores the variety of ways photographers and photographs document people, places, events throughout history. Exhibit from museum’s permanent collection closes Saturday, February 6.

“Through the Lens: Selections from MoPA’s Education Programs” may be seen through Sunday, January 24, showcasing works created by students who have participated in museum programs.

“Beloved Daughters: Photographs by Fazal Sheikh” includes over 100 photographs focusing on women in India. “Moksha” explores lives of dispossessed widows cast out by their families, denying them legal, economic, human

rights. “Ladli” examines perils faced by girls and young women in modern India. Closes Saturday, January 30. 1649 El Prado, 619-238-7559. (BALBOA PARK)

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

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center Ongoing exhibitions include “Blockbusters,” “So WATT! An Illuminating Look at Energy,” “Aging for All Ages,” “Kid City” (for preschoolers). “Escape from Dino Island” is theme for motion simulator ride. Films shown daily in IMAX theater. 1875 El Prado, 619-238-1233. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Air and Space Museum “The Da Vinci Experience” reveals how Leonardo Da Vinci’s conceptual designs for many technological wonders were centuries ahead of their time. “For the past 50 years a group of Florentine artisans have pored over Da Vinci’s notes and drawings in an attempt to faithfully create replicas of his many inventions, relying solely on materials that were available in 15th-century Italy. The result is over two dozen fully functional models, 11 of which are full-sized.” The interactive models are displayed with a facsimile of relevant Leonardo Da Vinci drawing. Closes Sunday, January 3.

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

The museum offers exhibits of over 65 aircraft, including an RQ-1K Predator UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) on indefinite loan from the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, which “saw action over the Balkans in the late 1990s”; a replica of *Spirit of St. Louis*, a Fokker Scourge (or Fokker Eindecker E-III), a World War I Spad VII, flight deck of the USS *Yorktown*, and a Lockheed Blackbird spy plane; 1400 scale models, 10,000 aviation-related items, and memorabilia from Montgolfier hot-air-balloon era to Space Age, along with an International Aerospace Hall of Fame. 2001 Pan American Plaza, 619-234-8291. (BALBOA PARK)

San Diego Archaeological Center Center hosts monthly archaeological-themed lectures, workshops, and family events on second Saturday of each month.

Museum is dedicated to curating and sharing archaeological collections with public for educational, scientific, cultural use. 16666 San Pasqual Valley Rd., 760-291-0370. (ESCONDIDO)

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

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

Also open for touring: the USS *Dolphin*, also known as the “world’s deepest-diving submarine”; and a B-39 Soviet attack submarine, among the largest conventionally powered submarines ever built. This Project 641/Foxtrot class diesel-electric submarine was designed to track U.S. and NATO warships throughout the earth’s oceans. There are also nautical exhibits, ship carpenters, model building, ships in bottles, woodcarvers, complete research library. 1306 North Harbor Dr., 619-234-9153. (DOWNTOWN)

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

The “Retablos” exhibit features retablo art of Peru, originating as a popular religious art form during the Romanesque period. Retablos are small portable altars. Exhibition shares information about people who make them: how the events and traditions around them have influenced their lives, specifically featuring Andean artist Nicario Jimenez Quispe. Closes Sunday, January 24.

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

San Marcos Historical Society Museum 270 West San Marcos Blvd., 760-744-9025. (SAN MARCOS)

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

Intensive Care On December 20, Long Beach indie-rock band Crystal Antlers arrived at the North Park home of 24-year-old Matt Kelly with their gear ready to play a show that Kelly, former guitarist of local punk trio Chaz, had put

he'd taken almost every day for the past two years. The truck ran over Kelly and dragged him 20 feet before coming to a stop.

Edwards told the Antlers that the \$500 collected at the door was needed to support Kelly, who was in the intensive

phone conversation, Edwards discussed Kelly's condition. He had visited Kelly, his friend since middle school, the night before in the hospital. Kelly was sedated but opened his eyes and looked at Edwards. The medical staff had changed his status from critical to stable condition that day, though they weren't sure of Kelly's prognosis. The internal bleeding had stopped, Kelly moved his toes, but doctors fear Kelly suffered nerve damage to the lower half of his body and might not walk again.

"The doctors are optimistic," says Edwards. "It's really a miracle that he's lived through this. He's a great guy, and everyone who knows him loves him. This whole thing has just been really hard."

And while Kelly lay in the hospital recovering from multiple surgeries and awaiting more, Edwards and many of their friends are trying to raise money for Kelly. Edwards and his family started a website — friendsofmattkelly.com — where they are able to collect donations. Kelly's sister Erin also started a blog on her brother's recovery at matthewscottkelly.blogspot.com. In addition, the Pearl hotel in Point Loma is planning a benefit for Kelly. Visit thepearlsd.com for more.

— Dorian Hargrove

Tackling Local Radio

A decimated radio business has triggered the fire sale of three radio stations to a former NFL linebacker who an insider says might take one of those stations out of music and into sports. John Lynch, who once played for the Pittsburgh Steelers, just finalized a deal for his company, Broadcast Company of the Americas, to take over 91X, Magic 92.5, and Z-90 from locally based Finest City Broadcasting.

Finest City took over those stations four years ago for \$110 million. Lynch/BCA got those stations by assuming \$18 million in debt, meaning the three stations lost more than 83 percent of their value in four years.

All three are Mexican-licensed stations, which means Lynch/BCA will operate the three stations but won't own them outright. Lynch already operates XX Sports Radio (1090 AM) and oldies station the Walrus (105.7 FM), which are Mexican-based stations owned by Mexican citizens.

Lynch played a role in local radio in the '80s. As general manager/co-owner,

Lynch switched 91X to a "cutting edge" alternative format in 1983 and a few years later made AM 690 one of the first all-sports stations in the country. Both moves proved



FORMER FOOTBALLER JOHN LYNCH MANAGES AIRWAVES NOW

to be successful. His group sold those stations in 1996.

Currently, Z-90 is the only local station focusing on the urban/hip-hop genre, and Magic 92.5 is unique with its R&B oldies. 91X competes with Rock 105.3 and 94/9 for the modern-rock fan.

At press time, Lynch had yet to announce officially the acquisition of these three stations. He did not return a request for comment.

What could temper Lynch's decision on any potential format change is the sudden availability of Mikey Esparza, anchor of the long-running *Mikey Show* on Clear Channel-owned Rock 105.3. That station announced

December 17 that Esparza was leaving to go to another station in town, suggesting that he was leaving for more money. Rock 105.3 then announced that, essentially, *The Mikey Show* would go on without Mikey and that his four sidekicks would continue to do the morning show without its former namesake. Insiders say Esparza was earning in the \$500,000 range but that he was looking for a significant pay increase.

Several insiders say the days of bloated morning-show salaries are over. Jeff and Jer, local radio fixtures for 20 years, were rumored to be getting \$3 million annually. When their contract with Clear Channel-owned Star 94.1 was up in August, Clear Channel offered them a significantly less lucrative contract to stay. They opted to walk, telling their listeners that they would be back on the air "in a month or two." They are still off the air.

— Ken Leighton

Over a Billion Served

Pathology's newest singer, Pascual Romero (Strangled by Strangulation), marks the metal band's third vocalist this year; Mason Gregory left in early '09, and Matti Way departed in September, coming after the previous defection of singer-guitarist Levi Fuselier.

(continued on page 66)

blurt

the inside track

together. David Edwards, Kelly's roommate, greeted the Antlers at the door with the news that they wouldn't get paid for the show as prom-

care unit at Scripps Mercy Hospital — at the time, Kelly was in critical condition. His pelvis was shattered. He was bleeding internally. Crystal



FRIENDS OF MATT KELLY PULLING TOGETHER

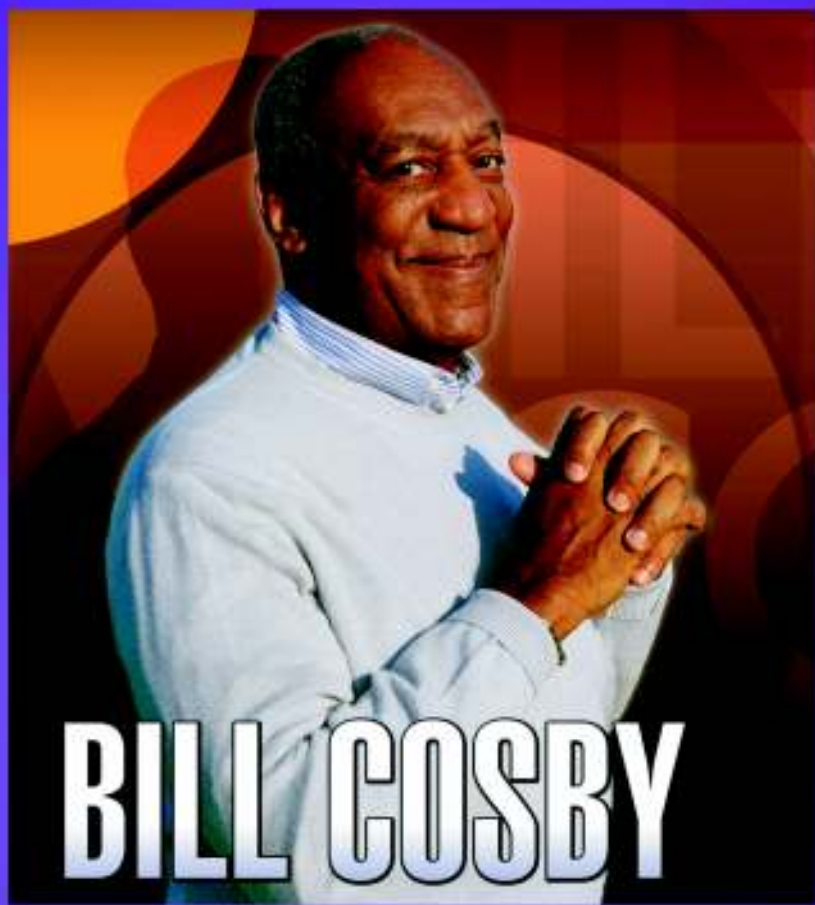
ised. Instead, the money would go to help Kelly, who two days before had been hit by a tractor-trailer in City Heights while biking to work at Woodstock's Pizza, a ride

Antlers, along with local bands Irradio, Life Deposits, and Weatherbox, agreed to play the show for free, as a benefit to Kelly.

During a December 22

<p>etix Saturday, January 9</p> <p>ILL REPUTE</p> <p>CRITICAL ME PASS THE AXE THE AGGRONAUTS</p> 	<p>BRICK BY BRICK</p> <p>Friday, January 1 "NYE PARTY II" EVEN KEEL • LB</p> <p>Saturday, January 2 SCAR'D SANITY • AIZEN DESPITE THE WOLVES BENEATH LANSTON</p> <p>Wednesday, January 6 SUMMER CIRCUS VOICE IN THE DARK</p> <p>Thursday, January 7 BETTER OFF DEAD</p> <p>Friday, January 8 KONTIOUS & THE KO-OP AS THE SUN SETS FIRE (CD Release) DAYGO PRODUCE DOOMTRAIN</p> <p>Sunday, January 10 SILENT CIVILIAN BLIND WITNESS</p> <p>Thursday, January 14 BLACK RESUME I-45 • H.E.L.P. UNEXPECTED • GORDO</p> <p>Saturday, January 16 "THE INTENSE INDIVIDUAL PARTY" #6</p> <p>Friday, January 22 LEXINGTON FIELD GIANT PEACH</p> <p>Saturday, January 23 RUINS OF ABADDON DROWNSWERVE</p> <p>Sunday, January 24 AGAINST ALL WILL</p> <p>1/27 That 1 Guy</p>	<p>NSD Friday, January 15 etix</p> <p>ADEMA (ALL ORIGINAL MEMBERS)</p> <p>UNSET SILENCE BETRAYED BREAK THE CHAIN MONDAY'S ALIBI</p>  <p>Friday, January 29 etix</p> <p>AGNOSTIC FRONT (25TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR)</p> <p>DEATH BY STEREO SYSTEMATIC ABUSE SAN DEVIATES</p> 
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"The reality is this," emails Romero. "One singer needed to move on with his life and work for a living, so he moved back to Texas. The other singer lives in Northern California, and it became very difficult to keep working with the band. He owns his own business and has a lot of responsibilities. It's not so much that they can't keep singers; it's that circumstances were very difficult for the original two singers.... The changing lineup was always a circumstantial thing."

The band — formed in 2006 by Dave Astor (Cattle Decapitation, the Locust) — recently signed on to produce their fourth album for their fourth label, Victory Records. The announcement at *blabbermouth.net* was followed by a number of derogatory, expletive-laden comments on the signing, the group, its new singer, and "selling out."

"Speaking as a person who's been accused of being a sellout more than once," says Romero, "I can just say

this is pretty typical of any metal band signing a record deal that's more than a \$2000 loan from some guy who distributes from his basement.

"To me, selling out is deciding not to follow your dreams. Sellouts never take risks to fulfill the things that they need to be complete. So, yes, I took advantage of an opportunity to be with a label with worldwide distribution and media access. Yes, we will be on MTV. Yes, you



FRONTMAN ROMERO SHOWS HIS FANGS

will hear us on satellite radio. Yes, we will grace T-shirts, CDs, DVDs, and whatever other marketing tool we come up with.

"But, before you call me a sellout, you should probably change out of your McDonald's uniform."

— Jay Allen Sanford



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Revive the Vibe "We've been planning a Big Mountain album," says singer-guitarist Quino McWhinney of his dormant reggae band. "But what it's gonna be, we're not sure." McWhinney and his brother James have remained the nucleus of Big Mountain through years of personnel changes. The band's last record was a collection of covers released in 2004 by their label in Japan. After, Big Mountain took a five-year break.

"We're hoping to have a real good game plan by March. Maybe we'll record a live album here in San Diego," he muses. "Big Mountain has never done a live album."

Big Mountain had a hit single with 1992's "Touch My Light" and more success in 1994 with a reggae-style cover of Peter Dinklage's "Baby I Love Your Way." At the peak of their fame, Big Mountain

headlined two Sunsplash reggae festivals in Jamaica. Aside from a recent side project called Quinazo ("It is very Chicano oriented"), Quino says he went back to school and eventually took a day job teaching at Olympia High School in Otay Mesa.

"Big Mountain is coming back to life on the backs of friends in the music business," he says. "These seeds we planted, man, it's kind of funny. These were seeds that we planted years ago. You never know." To that end, there are plans for a Brazil tour in January.

"We're going for about three weeks." He says that he and his brother James will be touring under the Big Mountain name, but with the backing of local pickup musicians. "It's the most economi-

cal thing to do. We're kind of breaking back into the scene like that." He says they will be sharing the bill with the Brazilian roots-reggae band Afrodizia.



BACK TO BIG MOUNTAIN FOR QUINO

"It's just a whole new market, man, South America. Even with all its economic issues, there's still money to be made and records to be sold and shows to be played."

Quino describes the last few years as "biting the bullet,

just because we knew that the last time we were doing this it just didn't feel right, you know. We've been trying to get the vibe back again. When you're young, everything makes so much sense.

Business has a way of just bringing about a lot of loose ends, so many loose ends you forget what it was really all about and why. I think it was perfect that we had that time to get away from it," he says. During the time out, he and his brother got their priorities in order. "Our families are good, and everybody's healthy."

"Another thing," he says, "is that this time we're paying attention to details. We don't want to rock the boat. It's, like, let's do this, but let's not sacrifice happiness and tranquility."

— Dave Good

CONTRIBUTORS

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

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FLAT OUT LIARS

Friday, January 1 • No Cover
KING FISH TURNER

Saturday, January 2 • No Cover
HIGH PLAINS DRIFTERS (Day)

THE FARMERS (Night)

Sunday, January 3 • No Cover
BLUES JAM anchored
by the **BLUES BROKERS**

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DOUG ALLEN and **SUZU BONGO**

Wednesday, January 6 • No Cover
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SATURDAY, JANUARY 2 THE ZEROS • THE CHOKE BEATERS DJ VICTOR ESPINOSA		TUESDAY • JANUARY 12 MINIPAX • CARNEY STRIPES AND LINES
SUNDAY • JANUARY 3 ARCHONS • LORD HOWLER OF THE HORIZON	THURSDAY • JANUARY 7 THE VISUAL UNDERGROUND FILM/ROCK/ART TO DRINK TO CRASH ENCORE REPUBLIC OF LETTERS DJ EDGARTRONIC	WEDNESDAY • JANUARY 13 DUAL CD RELEASE SHOW DREW ANDREWS BOOMSNAKE + WRITER METROFIQUE
MONDAY • JANUARY 4 ANTI-MONDAY LEAGUE PRESENTS ADDIQUIT MICROPHONE MIKE D-PAIN • SEX MANNEQUIN GRAMMATICAL B	FRIDAY • JANUARY 8 BIG SANDY & HIS FLYRITE BOYS SMITH'S RANCH BOYS BRAWLEY	THURSDAY • JANUARY 14 DAVE HILLYARD AND ROCK STEADY 7 SEE SPOT
TUESDAY • JANUARY 5 BOYSCOUT DRUG WARS • KNIVES!	SATURDAY • JANUARY 9 THE NERVOUS WRECKORDS MIDNIGHT RIVALS BLACK HONDO	FRIDAY • JANUARY 15 EARLY SHOW AA BONDY THE PADDLE BOAT
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2 Shows**

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**T-Fox &
The Fox
City Band**



9:30 pm • Dance at the
Backstage Lounge

**Detroit
Underground**



Saturday, January 2
5 pm • Dance/Rock/Funk

Caliber

9:30 pm • Motown/Dance

**The
Mighty
Untouchables**



Sunday, January 3
8 pm • Jazz/Dance

**T-Fox
with
Reggie Smith and
Darryl Williams**



Monday, January 4
7 pm • Blues

**Chet Cannon's Blue
Monday Blues Party**

Tuesday, January 5
7 pm • Original Acoustic

**Songwriters Showcase
Competition**

Wednesday, January 6
8 pm • '80s Disco

Metro

UPCOMING

Saturday, January 9

Candy Kane

Sunday, January 24

Nils

Friday, January 29

John Lee Hooker, Jr.

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MATT PRYOR (DRUMS)
CHRIS CONLEY (GUITAR)
ANTHONY PANERI (BASS)
JAN. 8
ALL AGES

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

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

THE GREAT MISDIRECT TOUR
BETWEEN THE
BURIED AND ME
CYNIC
JAN. 16
ALL AGES

FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH
JAN. 22
ALL AGES

1/1 - BIKER GIRL PRESENTS
DO BENEVOLENT NIGHT
1/18 - SET THE BAR 2010
ON THE VODKA STAGE
1/23 - BOMBER & APOCALYPTIC
1/24 - BLACK VAMPIRE
1/27 - THE USED
1/28 - TORNADO
1/29 - NEW FOUND GLORY
1/30 - STAYED LIVE

1/31 - HILL
1/31 - NW CLASSIC PRESENTS
THE APRIL EXPERIENCE
2/5 - BACCHUS & TRIBUTE
TO WISHLIFE
2/9 - EXTORT
2/11 - ST3P
2/12 - G. LONE & SPECIAL GANCE
2/17 - PROCOO PARTNER AND WOOD

2/18 - LIGHTS-A TRIBUTE
TO JOURNEY
2/28 - THE EXPONENTIALS
2/28 - GEORGE THOMAS
& THE DESTROYERS
3/4 & 5 - REBOLUTION
3/11 - BRANDI CARLISLE
3/12 - PELLISSA PERICH-ON THE FIFTH
AVE. 10PM SHOW

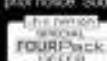
3/13 - BLACK HOLE MOTORCYCLE CLUB
3/18, 3/20 & 3/21 - BAD RELIGION
3/24 - BRAYTON
3/25 - HAPPEHALL
4/1 - OVERALL
4/15 - THE JUST BROTHERS

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December 31

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Egyptian Lover
JJ Fad & Twilite 22

JAN 16

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THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

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

Thursday, 8pm — Ministry of Sound. 12 hours of nonstop music with Yves LaRock, Java, and Zoo Brazil, spanning house, electro, minimal, and techno. Champagne toast at midnight. \$50.

710 Beach Club: 710 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-483-7844. Thursday, 9pm — Chimney Fish. With Boom Snap! Hosted by VH1 Tough Love 2's Liz and Angel. Rock. Free.

Anthology: 1337 India St., Little Italy, 619-595-0300.

Saturday, 7:30pm and 9:30pm — The Squirrel Nut Zippers. Swing. \$19-\$27.

Bar Leucadian: 1542 N. Coast Hwy. 101, Leucadia, 760-753-2094. Friday, 8pm — Eddie Jason Coven. With Blizzard and J.D. Romance. Rock. 21 and up.

Belly Up Tavern: 143 South Cedros Ave., Solana Beach, 858-481-8140. Friday, 9pm — Del tha Funky Homosapien. Hip-hop. \$20-\$22. 21 and up. Saturday, 9pm — 40 Oz. to Freedom. A tribute to Sublime. Covers/rock/ska. \$13-\$15. 21 and up. Wednesday, 8pm — New Acoustic Generation. Featuring Michael Tiernan and Lee Coulter. Acoustic. \$8. 21 and up.

Birch North Park Theatre: 2891 University Ave., North Park, 619-239-8836. Thursday, 7pm — "Masquerade: New Year's Eve Celebration." Evening promises "massive art sculptures," video projections, Caburlesque Kittens burlesque troupe performance, music by Delta Spirit, Get Back Loretta, the Burning of Rome, the Hot Moon. Four bars and two dance areas with five DJs, all with masquerade theme. 858-945-2830. \$45. 21 and up.

Brick by Brick: 1130 Buena Vista Ave., Linda Vista, 619-275-5483. Friday, 7pm — New Year's Eve (Part 2). Night of celebrating the new year again with performance from the Even Keel. Includes a countdown to bring in 2010 once more. \$10. 21 and up.



Billy Watson, January 6, Hensley's Flying Elephant Pub

Café Bahia: 998 West Mission Bay Dr., Mission Beach, 858-539-7635.

Thursday, 9pm — Adrienne Nims & Spirit Wind. Contemporary jazz/global music.

The Caliph: 3100 5th Avenue, Hillcrest. Thursday, 9pm — Blue Velvet.

Retro lounge with Kevin Cavanaugh, Fran Hartshorn, John Carroll, and Barbara Toombs. Doing songs from Burt Bacharach, Sinatra, and the Human League.

Carvers: 11940 Bernardo Plaza Dr., Rancho Bernardo, 858-566-2400. Thursday, 8pm — The Elevators.

NEW YEAR STARTS RIGHT HERE.

MONDAY: KARAOKE NIGHT

Sushi from \$3.95 / Dinner entrees \$6.95
\$2-3-4 drinks 8pm-close / Karaoke Night 9pm-close

TUESDAY: TACO TUESDAY

\$1.75 tacos & enchiladas, \$6.95 fajitas, \$5.95 burritos
\$3 frozen margaritas, \$2.50 Mexican bottled beer
Guest DJ on the Patio 6pm-10pm / DJ Marvin 10pm-close

WEDNESDAY: \$5 BURGER & BEER

1/2 price pizzas / \$2.00 Beers all day, \$2.00 off drinks after 8pm
LIVE MUSIC ON THE PATIO 6-9pm / DJ Tone Capone 9pm-close

THURSDAY: TASTE OF ITALY

\$6.95 Pasta dinners, 1/2 price Pizzas, 1/2 price drinks from 8pm
\$3 off all shots / 2 DJ's spinning the hottest tracks, 9pm-close!

FRIDAY, JAN 1... NEW YEAR'S DAY

HAPPY HOUR 4PM-CLOSE: \$2.50 drafts & wells, 1/2 price drinks
50¢ Mini Appetizers, 1/2 price Appetizers / 4 popular DJ's 6pm-close

SATURDAY, JAN 2... HAPPY HOUR 4-10PM

\$3 wells, wines & drafts, \$3 off Appetizers / 3 DJ's 6pm-close

SUNDAY, JAN 3... INDUSTRY NEW YEAR PARTY

For all who worked on New Year's Eve, this is your Party... \$2 DRINKS FROM 8PM

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TO WALK THE NIGHT • STELLA • 7 pm • \$12

JANUARY 27: Joe Troutman presents: KORPIKLAANI • TYR • SWASHBUCKLE
WHITE WIZZARD • AVENTALE • METATONIC • SHINING SWORD • 6 pm • \$22

JANUARY 3: Joe Troutman pres. GOOD SIR • ENDURE THE FALL • FURY NEVER FADES • ANTIETAM and guests
JANUARY 7: INTO THE PRESENCE • PSYCHO TROPICO • NORTHERN LIGHTS • HAIL THE SUN • AIRBORNE AGE

JANUARY 15: NIHILIST • EXMORTUS • VECTOR • KEAPER • ASSAULT

JANUARY 16: MOBILE DEATHCAMP (ft. Beefcake the Mighty of GWAR) • CRIBWALL PRISON
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MINDY SMITH **\$10 V-TIX**

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Dirk's Niteclub: 7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove, 619-469-6344. *Thursday, Friday, Saturday*, 9pm — FX5. Covers/standards/dance.

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

Friday, 8pm — Pluto Factory. Rocking the New Year with with sweet melodic rock.

El Cajon Grand: 351 W. Main St., El Cajon, 619-444-0949.

Thursday, 9pm — Ramshackle. Covers/rock. \$10.

Friday, 9pm — The Bumpin' Ugliers. Rock.

Saturday, 9pm — Industry 1. Rock.

Encinitas Library: 540 Cornish Dr., Encinitas, 760-753-7376.

Sunday, 2pm — En Fuego. First Sunday Music Series welcomes En Fuego and their "fusion of passionate flamenco-jazz melodies

entwined with romantic gypsy."

The band includes jazz guitarist Jimmy Patton, internationally recognized Celtic fiddler Patric Petrie, and *Latin American Idol* percussionist Enrique Platas. (Additional parking available at City Hall, west of the library.) Free.

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

Thursday, 9pm — Wickhauser. Rock. Free. 21 and up.

Galley at the Marina: 550 Marina Parkway, Chula Vista, 619-422-5714.

Thursday, 8pm — Joey and the Sting Rays. Blues/country/rock.

Hard Rock Hotel: 207 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 866-751-7625.

Thursday, 8pm — New Year's Eve Bash. Featuring Aubrey O'Day, Dave Dreseden, Danny Love, Dadon, Cheapshot, Schoeny, Sid Vicious, Kurch, and Card 1. Electronica/pop/rock. 21 and up.

Harrah's Rincón: 777 Harrah's Rincón Way, Valley Center, 760-751-3100.

Thursday, 7pm — "Hit It Big in 2010." Featuring Diva Soul, Federal Funk, and the Superfreaks. Covers/pop/rock.

Friday, 9pm — Tony Suraci. Country/rock. Free.

Saturday, 8pm — Rising Star. With DJ Van. Electronica/Top 40. Free.

Hensley's Flying Elephant Pub and Grill: 850 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, 760-434-2660.

Wednesday, 8:30pm — Billy Watson and Robin Henkel. Blues/jazz.


Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines: 10950 North Torrey Pines Rd., La Jolla, 858-558-1500.

Thursday, 4pm — Evolve. Featuring Rabbit in the Moon, the Mutaytor, Danyavaad & the Shimmy Sisters, Visual Symphony, and more. Electro/house. \$25-\$420. 21 and up.

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill: 5500 Grossmont Center Dr., La Mesa, 619-713-6900.

Thursday, 9pm — California Celts. Reggae/ska.

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House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-299-2583. *Thursday*, 9pm — NYE 2010. Presented by Victory Nightlife. \$10-\$30. 21 and up.

Java Joe's at Café Libertalia: 3834 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-9360. *Thursday*, 8pm — Rob Dee. With Nick Z and Lavelle. Acoustic.

La Jolla Shores Hotel: 8110 Camino del Oro, La Jolla, 866-392-8762. *Thursday*, 8:30pm — Sabira Woolley and Chris Morante. Covers/jazz/lounge. Free.

Lestat's Coffee House: 3343 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, 619-282-0437. *Friday*, 9pm — Scott West, Chris Carpenter, Carl Durant. Acoustic rock. \$6.

Manhattan Cocktail Lounge: 400 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-422-6641. *Thursday, Friday, Saturday*, 9pm — Stone Wolf. Rock.

Molly Malone's: 1270 Main St., Ramona, 760-789-9050. *Thursday*, 9pm — Coldfire. Rock. *Friday*, 9pm — RadioStar. Covers/rock. *Saturday*, 9pm — Fuzz-Huzzi. Alternative/pop/punk.

The Movement: 1370 West San Marcos Boulevard, San Marcos, 760-510-1160. *Thursday*, 8pm — New Year's Bash. With Braille, Nova, theBREA, Marz Jukebox. Blues/soul, funk, gospel, DJ. \$5-\$10.

North Bar Sports and Spirits: 200 West El Norte Parkway, Escondido, 760-480-8228. *Thursday*, 6pm — Mike Gardner. Rock. Free.

O'Connell's Pub and Nightclub: 1310 Morena Bl., Linda Vista, 619-276-5637. *Thursday*, 8:30pm — Roxy Monoxide. With Fat Man's Misery. Rock. Free. 21 and up.

O'Sullivan's Irish Pub of Carlsbad: 640 Grand Ave., Carlsbad, 760-729-4072. *Thursday*, 8:30pm — The Clay Colton Band. Acoustic/standards/rock.

Pala Casino: 35008 Pala Temecula Rd., Pala, 877-946-7252. *Thursday*, 8pm — No Limit. Dance/Top 40. \$20.

Patrick's II: 428 F St., Downtown, 619-233-3077. *Thursday*, 9pm — New Year's Eve Blow-Out. Ring in 2010 on the dance floor with the Dennis Jones Blues Band. Hats, horns, noise-makers, food, fun, and a champagne toast at midnight. \$25 in advance. 21 and up. *Friday*, 9pm — The Bill Magee Blues Band. Blues. *Saturday*, 9pm — Family Style. Blues/rock. *Sunday*, 9pm — Len Rainey & the Midnight Players. Blues/jazz. *Monday*, 9pm — The Bayou Brothers. Zydeco/blues/R&B. *Tuesday*, 9pm — Jasper and Ain't Misbahavin'. Rock. *Wednesday*, 9pm — Missy Andersen. Blues/funk/soul.

OF NOTE

BY WILLIAM CRAIN

A few years ago, San Diego punk-rock hero **John Reis** decided that he was tired of playing in two or three bands at the same time. He disbanded both Rocket from the Crypt and Hot Snakes in 2005 and broke up the Sultans in 2007. Since then, he has merely been running a record label (Swami Records), operating a nightclub (Bar Pink), hosting a radio show (on FM 94/9), doing voice-over work for a cartoon (*Yo Gabba Gabba*), and being a father. Oh, and he formed another band, the **Night Marchers**, and put out a great record. That's right: While most of us

can't seem to find time to do our laundry, Reis, at 40, still does five times the work of musicians half his age. And the craziest thing is that so much of what he does is really good.

The Night Marchers are kind of a supergroup of the underground, featuring drummer **Jason Kourkounis** (the Delta 72), guitarist **Gar Wood** (Beehive & the Barracudas) — both of whom were also in the Hot Snakes — and bassist **Tommy Kitsos** (CPC Gangbangers). The band's sound has the rhythmic drive of Rocket from the Crypt, but with less swagger and more swing. It has a bit of the weirdness of Hot Snakes and Drive Like Jehu, but more in the lyrics than anything else. And it has the attention to melody of the



NIGHT MARCHERS

Sultans, but lots more of it. "We're Goin' Down," the closing song on the band's 2008 *See You in Magic*, is perhaps the catchiest thing Reis has ever done.

NIGHT MARCHERS: Bar Pink, Thursday, December 31, 9 p.m. 619-564-7194. \$20.

RT's Longboard Grill: 1466 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-270-4030. *Thursday*, 9pm — The Pheromones. Blues/rock/soul. *Friday*, 9pm — Helicopter. Rock. *Saturday*, 9pm — The Erika Monet Band. With DJ Fast Eddie. Rock.

Radio Room: 3519 El Cajon Bl., Normal Heights, 619-284-3323. *Friday*, 9:30pm — Dave the Butcher. Alternative/rock. \$5. 21 and up.

Riley's Music Lounge: 2901 Nimitz Bl., Point Loma, 619-255-8635. *Saturday*, 9pm — West of 5. Classic to current rock.

Ruby Room: 1271 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-7372. *Thursday*, 8pm — NYE Bash. Featuring Four Minutes Til Midnight, Rare Form Live, and Bully Blinders. Hosted by the Ladies Stardust. Rock.

San Diego Sports Arena: 3500 Sports Arena Bl., Midway District, 619-224-4171. *Saturday*, 7pm — Lil Wayne. With Young Money. Hip-hop/rap/alternative. \$49-\$154.

San Vicente Inn and Golf Course: 24157 San Vicente Rd., Ramona. *Thursday*, 9pm — New Year's Eve Celebration. With City Limits. Blues/soul, country. In the Par Lounge.

Soda Bar: 3615 El Cajon Bl., City Heights, 619-255-7224. *Friday*, 9pm — Chris Clarke, Emily Bonn & the Vivants. With Trouble in the Wind. Acoustic, bluegrass/roots. *Saturday*, 9pm — "San Diego Experimental Guitar Show." Featuring M&M Blues, Michael J. Stevens, Esteban Flores, Peter Graves, David Wightman, Marcelo Radulovich, Sam Lopez, Mike Keneally, and Nathan Aguilar. Experimental/noise. \$5. 21 and up.

Sushi Performance & Visual Art: 390 11th Ave., East Village, 619-235-8466. *Tuesday*, 8pm — Margaret Noble. With Susan Narucki. Electronic. \$10-\$15.

Tango Del Rey: 3567 Del Rey St., Clairemont, 858-794-9044; tangodelrey.com. *Thursday*, 5pm — New Year's Eve Mardi Gras Ball. Featuring the

Charles Burton Band and Theo and the Zydeco Patrol. Blues/jazz/zydeco. Cajun food, samba dancers, lots of beads. \$45-\$55. 21 and up. *Sunday*, 7:30pm — The Jeff Miles Quartet. Jazz jam session.

VFW Hall: 136 Chambers Rd., El Cajon. *Thursday*, 9pm — New Year's Eve Mobster Bash. Featuring Dannicus Live. Acoustic/metal/rock.

VFW Post 5179: 1116 South 43rd St., Southcrest, 619-262-0566. *Wednesday*, 7pm — Willovealot. Blues/soul.

UPCOMING SHOWS

4th&B: 345 B St., Downtown, 619-231-4343. *March 26* — Andre Nickatina.

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 7* — Abrina. *January 8* — The Pete Escovedo Orchestra. *January 14* — The John Jorgenson Quartet. *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.



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1/27 Alyssa Jacey - Album release show	2/3 Rhett Miller & the Serial Lady Killers	2/19 Steve Poltz Birthday Bash w/Mojo Nixon
1/28 Reggae Nights - Stranger	2/4 Mighty Diamonds	2/25 Willie K & Joe Cano
1/29 Stepping Feet: Dave Matthews Band Experience	2/5 & 2/6 The English Beat	2/27 The Mother Hips
1/30 Atomic Punks	2/7 The Thermals	2/28 Raul Malo
1/31 Nathan James Blues - Matinee	2/10 St. Vincent	3/2 Midlake
2/2 The Dave Rawlings Machine w/Dave Rawlings, Gillian Welch & guests	2/11 ALO	3/3 Galactic feat. Cyril Neville (of the Neville Brothers)
	2/13 Los Lonely Boys Acoustic Brotherhood Tour w/Alejandro Escovedo & Carrie Rodriguez	3/6 Pine Mountain Logs
	2/17 Henry Rollins Frequent Flyer Tour	3/7 Laugh for Recovery - Matinee
		3/7 Blind Boys of Alabama
		4/27 Rogue Wave

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Bar Pink: 3829 30th St., North Park, 619-564-7194.
February 2 — Fat Skeleton.

Belly Up Tavern: 143 South Cedros Ave., Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.
January 7 — Robben Ford.
January 8 — Pato Banton.
January 15 — Keb' Mo'.
January 20 — Cowboy Mouth.
January 22, January 23 — Ozomatli.
January 30 — Atomic Punks.
February 3 — Rhett Miller.
February 11 — ALO.
February 13 — Los Lonely Boys.
March 3 — Galactic.

Birch North Park Theatre: 2891 University Ave., North Park, 619-239-8836.
February 27 — Arturo Sandoval.
April 30 — Eddie Palmieri.
May 15 — Poncho Sanchez Latin Jazz Band.

Brick by Brick: 1130 Buenos Ave., Linda Vista, 619-275-5483.
January 13 — Holdsworth, Bozzio, Levin, and Mastelotto.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido: 340 North Escondido Bl., Escondido, 760-839-4438.
February 19 — Rock Steady.
April 14 — Arlo Guthrie.

The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Bl., Little Italy, 619-232-4355.
January 15 — A.A. Bondy.
January 31 — Firethorn, Heavy Glow, Nautical Disaster, Boy Scout.

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.

Dizzy's: 200 Harbor Dr., Downtown, 858-270-7467.
January 7 — The Joshua White Modern Music Project.

East County Performing Arts Center: 210 East Main St., El Cajon, 619-440-2277.
January 17 — Kris Kristofferson.

Harrah's Rincón: 777 Harrah's Rincón Way, Valley Center, 760-751-3100.
January 15 — Arctic Heat.
January 16 — The Basix.
January 22 — Private Domain.
January 23 — The Baytown Band.
January 29 — Aunt Kizzy's Boyz.
January 30 — Superfreaks.

House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-299-2583.
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

OF NOTE

BY DAVE GOOD

JamBase.com says that L.A.'s KROQ aired the **Squirrel Nut Zippers'** 1996 single "Hell," a giddy calypso thing with Sunday-school overtones, as a joke. But "Hell" became a hit. "Now the *d* and the *a* and the *m*/ And the *n* and the *a*/ And the *t* and the *i-o-n*/ Lost your face, lose your name/ Then get fitted for a suit of flame." In a year's time, the album from which "Hell" came (*Hot*) would sell over a million copies, and for a moment, the Zippers, a North Carolina band, seemed on the road to fame.

You may recall that the year 1996 was part of the swing-revival era, and jump-blues groups were as plentiful as tats on a greaser. Bands such as the Cherry Poppin' Daddies

and Big Bad Voodoo Daddy fanned some mighty flames, but by the end of the decade swing went away, and so did the Squirrel Nut Zippers.

Think of the Zippers as a creative hurdy-gurdy band, and you won't be disappointed by their lack of individual devotion to musicianship. Sloppy, a little, but who cares? They're good enough for the task at hand, which resembles a cartoon soundtrack from the 1930s — minus the cartoon. Their sound is parted out from remnants of Cab Calloway, primitive blues from the Delta, Gypsy jazz, and klezmer, making the Zippers far more interesting than their peers. Formed by the husband-wife team of **Katharine Whalen** and **James Mathus** as an art project in 1993, they were making Arcade Fire-ish noises a decade before that band came



SQUIRREL NUT ZIPPERS

to fame. Reunited in 2007, the Zippers are at present touring a new CD, their first in almost a decade. *Lost at Sea* swings, yes, but have the Zippers finally become a swing-tribute band? No. That's not the point.

SQUIRREL NUT ZIPPERS: Anthology, Saturday, January 2, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. 619-595-0300. \$19, \$27.

2010.
February 28 — George Thorogood & the Destroyers.
March 4 — Rebellion.
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.

La Paloma: 471 S. Coast Hwy. 101, Encinitas, 760-436-7469.
January 29, January 30 — George Winston.

The Lake Wohlford Café: 25484 Lake Wohlford Rd., Escondido, 760-749-6585.
January 9 — Cowboy Jack Johnson and the North County Cowboys.

Lestat's Coffee House: 3343 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, 619-282-0437.
January 18 — Eddie Jason Coven.
January 20 — Joe Firstman.
January 29 — Jordan Reimer and Catherine Feeny.

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.
March 10 — Dawes.
March 17 — Kalamian Balogh & the Gypsy Cimalom Band.
April 7 — Gretchen Parlato.

Mandeville Auditorium at UCSD: 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD.
February 2 — Gospel Choir.

New Village Arts Theatre: 2787-B State St., Carlsbad, 760-433-3245.
January 9 — Eve Selis.

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It's Yogurt Time
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Joe's Smokin BBQ
Juice It Up-Murrieta
Jump Tokyo
Jumping Bean Mexican Cafe
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Knockout Burgers-Vista
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Los Primos
Los Tacos
Luc's Bistro
Luna Grill
Mario's New York Pizza
Mona Lisa Italian Foods
Monsoon Group
Mr. Charlie's Fortune Cookie
Mr. Chick
Murrieta's Restaurant
Nami
Neveria Tocumbo
New Panda Buffet
NYPD Pizza
Odyssey Greek
Oggi's Pizza
Ono's Cafe
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Ottavio's Cucina Italiana
Panda Chef
Panda Garden Buffet
Paradise Grille
Penguin Yogurt Factory
Pernicano's
Pete's Grill
Philly Steak Subs
Philly's Best
Pho SuperBowl
Phra Ram 9
Pita King
Pita Pit
Pizza Factory
Quizno's-Escondido
ra-ka-de-ka Fresh
Thai Kitchen
Ranch House Restaurant
RB Sushi
Red Ginger China Bistro

Robek's-Temecula
Round Table Pizza
Sam's Pizzeria
Sandcrab Cafe
Sarika Thai Kitchen
Dolci Mango (El Cajon)
Senor Grubby's
Sizzler
Smoke House Grills
Smokey J's Pit BBQ
Smokin' Joe's Pizza
Smokin' Sam's BBQ
Solana Beach Fish House
Solana Sushi
Stir Fresh Mongolian Grill
Submarina
Sunrise Buffet
Super Jr. Market
Sushi 4 U
Sushi Cafe
Sushi Yama
Taste of Italy
Taste of Italy
Thai Time II
That's Amore Pizza
Thornton's Irish Pub
& Chop House
Tio Leo's
Tivoli Pizza
Tony Roma's
Totally Toppings
Tutti Frutti
Two Brothers from Italy
Unique Pizza

Via Sicilia
Whole Lotta Yogurt
Wild Mango Yogurt
Windy City Pizzeria
Wonderful Sushi
Yo Yo's
Yoberry Yogurt
-Rancho Bernardo
Yogurt Heaven
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SAN DIEGO
Reader

The Old Globe Theatre:
1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park,
619-234-5623.
January 11 — Duncan Sheik.

Pala Casino: 35008 Pala
Temecula Rd., Pala, 877-946-7252.
January 31 — The Pink Floyd
Experience.
February 14 — The Romantics.
April 18 — Tony Bennett.

Patrick's II: 428 F St.,
Downtown, 619-233-3077.
January 18 — The Bayou
Brothers.
January 19 — Jasper and Ain't
Misbahavin'.
January 22 — Missy Andersen.
January 31 — The Road Dogs.

Pechanga Resort & Casino:
45000 Pechanga Parkway,
Temecula, 951-693-1819.
April 15 — Mark Knopfler.

**Ramona Mainstage
Nightclub:** 626 Main St.,
Ramona, 760-789-7008.
January 30 — Metal Mayhem.

San Diego Civic Theatre:
1100 Third Ave., Downtown, 619-
570-1100.
May 7 — Celtic Women.

San Diego Sports Arena:
3500 Sports Arena Bl., Midway
District, 619-224-4171.
February 15 — Tribute to the
Reggae Legends.

Soma: 3350 Sports Arena Bl.,
Midway District, 619-226-7662.
January 23 — Anti-Flag.

Spreckels Theatre: 121
Broadway, Downtown, 619-235-
9500.
April 21 — Pat Metheny.
April 24 — Norah Jones.

Tango Del Rey: 3567 Del Rey
St., Clairemont, 858-794-9044.
January 10 — Flamenco Nova.
January 17 — Allison Adams
Tucker.
January 19 — Portside Blonde.
January 23 — Karin Carson.
January 24 — The James Gordon
Williams Quartet.

EVERYONE'S A CRITIC



Shut Up
CD Review
by Mary Leary

Gotta love a group
claiming Don Knotts
as a member. Gotta
listen beyond "The
Stadium Moves,"
which sounds like
other disillusioned
musicians...but these
reference T. Rex and
the Merseys, so leave
the CD in the
drive...through the
been-done progres-
sions but startling

lyrics of "Oakland 2008" ("Saw you bleeding from
the hip...bleeding from the shoulder"). Engage-
ment grows with the piano-and-bass-anchored
majesty of "The Miserablists."

On "(Nobody Cries for the) Missing-Hearted,"
David Williams shares the cracked semi-mumble of
King of the Hill's cartoon teen Bobby. I open the
digipak to see a picture by Derek Erdman that
could have been drawn by Mike Judge. Since the
Supermachines are based in Austin, things are
starting to make a warped sort of sense.

Then there's this explosion — "Carolyn Says" —
which offers (1) affirmation that everyone in the
band has gone off his medication and (2) the furi-
ous catharsis I've craved since Pere Ubu, Thinking
Fellers, and Polvo shoved their needles in my arm.
While nothing else meets the heat of "Carolyn
Says," "Local Honey" mixes some of that "hurting
people hurt" juice with stimulating interplay. This
is a project to watch — or, if you prefer tidy cate-
gories — to watch out for, at least until it's been
herded back into the psych ward, from which it may
still emit the Teenage Fanclub/Stones-ish riffing of
"Diagnosis = Permission."

Music Reviews from Our Readers

Crazy Rhythms
CD Review
by Andrew Hamlin

The Feelies sure look
like geeks against the
ocean-blue on their
debut album cover,
and Glenn Mercer's
lightly clogged intona-
tion suggests Jonathan
Richman's taking the
lonely boy in the cor-
ner to the stage. Looks
and intonations can
fool, though. Cut in
1980 and featuring
tunes worked over
sometimes for years
before that, *Crazy
Rhythms* is not about
filling out the inner
life of sweaty stutter-
ers in cardigans

(Jonathan needs no help
on that territory) or shout-
ing love and acceptance to
a recalcitrant world (ditto).
The nine tracks here find
the path to that glory
through harmonic minimal-
ism and sonic variety.



The quartet bangs and rattles a lot of things but
knows always when and what to bang and rattle.
The record starts in clave dots of sound almost like
birdsong, and indeed many times the percussion
proves more tuneful than the trance-inducing
stringed instruments.

You'll learn about all the stuff the band studied
(Velvet Underground, Eno) without learning how
much they got from Duane Eddy, Chuck Day, the
Viscounts' take on "Harlem Nocturne," private-eye
TV-show soundtracks, and sound-effects records. All
of that's interesting, and none of it matters much.
They are going for the beyond, and at several
breath-hitching moments, they mop clean our
darkly glass.

\$50 for your concert review, \$20 for your CD review. Submit at SDReadercritic.com

January 31 — The Sam Johnson
Jazz Group.
February 7 — The Carla Bizzett
Quartet.

**University of California San
Diego:** 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD,
858-534-2230.
January 15 — Asobi Seksu.

**Viejas Casino
DreamCatcher Show Room:**
5000 Willows Rd., Alpine, 619-
445-5400.
February 19 — David Sanborn.

DJ

How to submit a DJ listing:
Call 619-235-3000 x405, night or
day by 5 pm Friday, the week prior
to publication. To send weekly or
monthly schedules, fax to 619-231-
0489 or mail to Reader Music Scene,
P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA
92186. You may also submit infor-
mation online, get directions, maps,
event alerts, RSS feeds, club coupons,
and more at SanDiegoReader.com.

Bacchus House: Thursdays,
9pm: Club '80s. With DJs Bryan
Pollard and Arzola1. '80s/
industrial/underground. 3054
University Ave., North Park. 619-
299-2032.

Bar Dynamite: Thursdays, 9pm:
Dynamite Thursdays. Featuring
Sound Selectors Smoovgrooves,
Hobbs One, Eclectic, and
Thumbprint. Hip-hop/soul/
dancehall. 1808 W. Washington St.,
Mission Hills. 619-295-8743.

Beauty Bar: Tuesdays, 9pm:
Trans Am Tuesdays. New wave '80s
dance party with DJ Heather
Hardcore. Free. 4746 El Cajon Bl.,
Kensington-Talmadge. 619-516-
4746.

The Brew House at Eastlake:
Saturdays: Brew 30 DJ. Dance. 871
Showroom Pl., Chula Vista. 619-
656-2739.

Café Sevilla: Thursdays, 10pm:
DJ New Yo Rican. Salsa. Tuesdays,
10pm: DJ Israel. Bachata. 555
Fourth Ave., Downtown. 619-233-
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
Dmond. '80s/hip-hop/pop. Free.

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**TUESDAY: JANUARY 5
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**FRIDAY: JANUARY 8
THE UNRULY BANGS
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EVERYONE'S A CRITIC

Music Reviews from Our Readers

91X Wrex the Halls

Concert Review
by Earl Dove

The lineup for Wrex the Halls 2009 provided something for everyone in attendance at Viejas Arena. Festivities began with a great set by local act and battle-of-the-bands winner Chasing Claymore. Followed were stellar performances by newcomers Paper Tongues and Anberlin. Thrice provided transition to the second half of the bill.

30 Seconds To Mars was next with their brand of soaring theatrical rock. Lead

singer Jared Leto provided the most interactive performance of the evening by walking among the audience as he sang. The band whipped their fans into a frenzy before hitting a climatic peak with their current hit "Kings and Queens."

Chicago's Rise Against took the stage next with a commanding punk set. The band ran through a string of hits, including "Prayer of the Refugee" and "Ready to Fall" at a breakneck pace. The exception in their raucous set was the poignant "Hero of War," which was dedicated to U.S. troops.

After Rise Against, the stage was set for AFI, touring in support of *Crash Love*. AFI hit the stage running with "Torch Song." Clad in a white blazer, Davey Havok took to the microphone like a punk version of Freddy Mercury. Havok twirled and wailed through each song and engaged the audience. The dynamic performance kept the crowd on their feet all night as the band blasted through a decade plus of fan favorites.



California Girl

Concert Review
by Chad Brookman

Tristan Prettyman brought her brand of country-surf-folk-pop to the Belly Up. Not normally a show I'd hit up on a Monday, but I bought the tickets the day they went on sale. Turned out to be a good move.

The show sold out and several people were testing the waters for extra tickets as we waited in line. The venue was suited to the loose and friendly vibe of the crowd and afforded a decent

view for all — even those who, like us, arrived too late to get a seat. The crowd was mostly female, decked out in their casual but classy surf-wear, but diverse in age.

Prettyman opened the set with a couple of radio favorites — "Love, Love, Love" and "California Girl" (the chorus of the latter was still stuck in my head the following morning).

The highlight of the evening was when Prettyman performed solo, demonstrating her seductive voice, tremendous range, and songwriting skills. During this portion, she took requests and introduced a couple of new songs she'd been working on "in Anya Marina's kitchen." "Trader Joe" is a cute story about someone she either fantasized about or maybe have met at the grocery store. The women in the crowd laughed at lines like "your pants would look better on my bedroom floor." Prettyman said that she felt as if she was "playing for 600 friends." By the end of the show I felt like one of them.



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

21 and up. **Mondays**, 9pm: DJ Underground. With guests Hip-hop/rap/reggae. **Wednesdays**, 9pm: 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.

Hawthorn's Restaurant: **Wednesdays**: DJ Kiki. 2895 University Ave., North Park. 619-295-1688.

House of Blues: **Saturday**, 7:30pm: SD Industry Night. Presented by Rick Ortiz. Alternative/rock. \$12. 21 and up.

1055 Fifth Ave., Downtown. 619-299-2583.

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: **Thursday**, 9pm: Club '80s NYE. NuWave NewRomantic underground '80s with DJ Bryan Pollard, DJ 101G, and DJ Roxanne Redlight. Free. **Monday**, 9pm: Gimmie

Gimmie. With DJs Brian Pollard, Adamnation, Barnesey, and Stem. Old-school punk/new wave. Free. **Tuesdays**, 9pm: Darkwave Garden. Featuring B. Pollard, Heather Hardcore, MarieScaryMary, and guests. Gothic/industrial. 4696 30th St., North Park. 619-640-2500.

The Kava Lounge: **Thursday**, 9pm: "2010: A Bass Odyssey." Featuring Dr. Indulgent, Machino, Robbie Durham, and Brenden Wesley. Hip-hop/electro/techno. \$10-\$15. 21 and up. 2812 Kettner Bl., Little Italy. 619-543-0933.

McDini's: **Tuesdays**, 9pm: '90s Throwback Tuesdays. Hosted by Zerland of Pali Roots. 105 E. 8th St., National City. 619-474-6771.

Ocean House: **Friday**, 9pm: Citizen X and DJ Grim. Citizen X playing reggae in the cafe 9pm-1am; DJ Grim spins in the big room at 10pm. \$5. 21 and up. 300 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad. 760-729-4131.

Onyx/Thin: **Thursday**, 8pm: New Year's Eve Party. Three rooms of music, huge midnight celebration and champagne toast, erotic dancers, high-tech visuals, hosted cocktail hour. Featuring multiple DJs: Rags, R.J. Diggs, Ramsey, and special guests. For more info, bottle service, and/or VIP reservations, please contact CharliSSa Dodge at 619-235-6699 or charliSSa@onyxroom.com. Early arrival and advanced tickets suggested. Presale tickets: onyxroom.com/ clubzone.com/ newyearseve.com. 21 and up. 852 Fifth Ave., Downtown. 619-235-ONYX.

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

Pierview Pub/Bub's Whiskey Dive Bar: **Mondays**, 6:30pm: Metal Mondays. Metal all night long. 301 Pier View Way, Oceanside. 760-757-2827.



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RA Sushi: *Thursday*, 8pm: REMIX NYE Party. Featuring Joey Jimenez. Pop. 21 and up. 474 Broadway, Downtown. 619-321-0021.

RT's Longboard Grill: *Saturday*, 9pm: DJ Fast Eddie. Electronic. *Mondays*, 9pm, *Wednesdays*, 9pm: DJ Famous Dave. Mixes music videos. 1466 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach. 858-270-4030.

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.

Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina: *Thursday*, 9pm: New Year's Eve Extravaganza 2010. Six areas of music and entertainment. With Kaskade, Christopher Lawrence, Mark Farina, Joachim Garraud, and guests. Electronica/trance/house. \$75-\$200. 1380 Harbor Island Dr., Downtown.

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*: DJ Girth. Spins hip-hop and rock hits. *Sundays*: Soul Glo Sundays. With DJ Girth and friends. *Wednesdays*: Beer Pong.

With DJs. 10109 Maine Ave., Lakeside. 619-561-6767.

Soda Bar: *Thursdays*, 9pm: Expressway to Yr Skull. Punk/rap/rock. Free. 21 and up. 3615 El Cajon Bl., City Heights. 619-255-7224.

Static Lounge: *Saturdays*, 9pm: Club Backbeat. Hip-hop/rap. \$15-\$20. 18 and up. 634 Broadway, Downtown. 619-544-1609.

Stout Public House: *Fridays*, 9pm: DJ CC. 1125 Sixth Ave., Downtown. 619-702-7933.

Tavern at the Beach: *Thursdays*, 10pm: DJ D-Skwiz. *Fridays*, 10pm: DJ BDP. *Saturdays*, 10pm: DJ BDP. With DJ MIC-E. *Wednesdays*, 10pm: DJ WhO. Hip-hop/rock. 1200 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach. 858-272-6066.

The Office: *Sundays*, 10:30pm: Club '80s. Featuring DJs Bryan Pollard, Adarnation, 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.

Tower23: *Thursday*, 8pm: T23 Hotel hosts JRDN NYE 2010. DJ Coop Da Loop, DJ Smoke, DJ Quendi + DJ Flesch. Tickets include dinner buffet and dancing. Dinner 8-11pm. \$75/person before December 30. Reserve tickets at 858-270-5736. \$75. 4551 Ocean Bl., Pacific Beach. 858-270-2323.

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.

Typhoon Saloon: *Thursday*, 7:30pm: NYE at Typhoon Saloon. Featuring buffet, party favors, and DJ. \$15-\$21. 21 and up. 1165

as i hear it

BY BRIAN CARVER

Artist: **Monkeys in Space**
Song: "You, Me and the Devil Makes Three" (from *In Wake of Recent Events*)
Heard by: **Ricky V.**, San Diego



Ricky

It's a good song. The way it starts off with the intro is good; it's kind of mellow. The verses were kind of...meh. I think they emphasized the intro and chorus the most to get people's attention. They're kind of like Jimmy Eat World.

Another band that comes to mind is Nickelback. They sound like "radio rock." They definitely have some talent. The good thing about them is they're not trying to be overbearing and make their music so musical that the average person can't listen to it. How far would they go? I don't know. I think they'd have to reinvent themselves if they're going to go far. It's way too typical.

Artist: **Conceptus**
Song: "Which Way" (from myspace.com/conceptus)
Heard by: **Lorenzo Ochoa**, North Park



Lorenzo

It reminded me of the Mamas and the Papas. It seems influenced or inspired by them. It has a soft melody to it. The guitar kind of reminds me of Weezer. Overall, I felt relaxed. I liked the way the guitar overpowers the lyrics. The lyrics are mysterious and a little bit soothing. I think it does have commercial potential but only because of the guitar. It really stands out. The vocals were a little bit underplayed. I'd give that song a 7.5 out of 10.

Artist: **City Limits**
Song: "Waiting for the Punchline" (from myspace.com/citylimitstheband)
Heard by: **Adam Araujo**, Normal Heights



Adam

I don't know exactly what sort of genre this falls under, but I really did enjoy the introduction. It was lean and mellow. It was really nice. As far as the overall dialogue, it seemed like it was aiming toward family. Being the holidays, it was interesting to hear that from a local band. There was more guitar than anything. There was some drumming in the background, but it was light. There was a male singing, and it was really light — it wasn't aggressive by any means. I'm a little more into hardcore rock, so that wasn't, per se, my personal preference of music. I'd give it a 6 out of 10.

TO GET YOUR LOCAL CD HEARD, PLEASE MAIL IT TO:

Music Editor, As I Hear It, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803

Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach. 858-373-3474.

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 Jester, Peril, Dash Eye, Unite, and Rashi. Reggae. 21 and up. 3112 University Ave., North Park. 619-584-4188.

Whiskey Girl: *Fridays*, 9pm, *Saturdays*, 9pm: DJ Marc Thrasher. Mixes music videos. *Mondays*, 9pm: U-Call-It Mondays. With DJ Marc Thrasher. 600 Fifth Ave., Downtown. 619-236-1616.

Whistle Stop Bar: *Sundays*, 9pm: Too Many Creeps. With DJ Mario O and guests. Post-punk. 21 and up. 2236 Fern St., South Park. 619-284-6784.

The Wit's End: *Fridays*, 5pm: DJ Artistic. 420 Robinson Ave., Hillcrest. 619-294-4848.

Wonderhaus Bakery: *Thursday*, 8pm: NYE @ The Wonderhaus. The Wonderhaus is an open industrial space with raw steel, historic brick and timber, wood bowstring trusses, and 25' clear ceiling heights. 4 THE DJ and PushPop & Scream team up to give you an 18+ party that you will never forget. Le Castlevania, Klever, Nick

Catchdubs, Turbo Teen, the Office Twins, Paul Najera, DJ Rhythm, Baquai, and many more. For hard tickets, email jamie@thededj.net. \$30. 18 and up. 171 14th St., Downtown.

Xavier's Bar & Grill: *Thursdays*, 9pm: Almost Famous Thursdays. Electro/funk/house. *Fridays*, 10pm: Red Carpet Fridays. Dance/top 40. *Saturdays*, 9pm: Special Screening Saturdays. Featuring rotating DJs. 750 Fifth Ave., Downtown. 619-233-0500.

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1/18/10
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1/22/10
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2/6/10
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2/15/10
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2/28/10
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Sat. 2nd A Tribute to UB40 and Beyond! Labour of Love PARTIDE A CONSCIOUS FEW	Upcoming Jan. 8th THICKER THAN THIEVES Jan. 9th DAZED and CONFUSED Jan. 22th PAU HANA

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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

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Fri. 1/1 NO COVER Roots Rock and Reggae PSYDECAR	Tues. 1/5 6-9 PM: Think 'N' Drink Trivia NO COVER NIGHT Rock & Metal Bands DOWNSPELL TSHIZABI And guests
Sat. 1/2 NO COVER THE STYLETONES 	Wed. 1/6 4-8 PM: Dub Master Cue meets Seismic Levelers TONIGHT: WORLD BEAT MUSIC THE JASON CHASE TRIO 3RD BOROUGH
Sun. 1/3 1:15 PM: Redskins vs Chargers 6:30 PM: The Matt Cook Live Show (OB's Only Live TV Show) TONIGHT OB•O•KE HOSTED BY JOSÉ SINATRA \$2 drinks 9 pm to close 	UPCOMING: 1/7: JETWASH with The Bluegrass Boys Band 1/8: THE DEVASTATORS 1/9: MIKE PINTO & THE WATCHLIST 1/14: DUMPSTAPHUNK 1/15: ARMY

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Friday & Saturday, January 1 & 2 • 9 pm



Classic Rock
Serious Guise

Monday, January 4
Karaoke

Wednesday, January 6
Off The Wagon
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Upcoming: Thursday, January 7
Charlie Ayers & The Second Chance Comedians
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Friday & Saturday, January 1 & 2



'80s Rock
6 One 9

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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 18+ Lounge & Hookah: Tuesday, 5-9pm: All well drinks two-for-one price. \$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 price. \$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-Thursday, 4-7pm: \$2 margaritas. \$1.50 tacos. Friday, 4-7pm: \$2 margaritas. \$1.50 tacos.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/mimosas w/ purchase.

Pal Joey's: Monday-Saturday, all day: \$3 personal pitchers. Sunday, all day: \$3 personal pitchers. 7pm-close: \$1 Kamikaze shots.

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, noon-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 sangria. Friday-Saturday, 5-6:30pm: 1/2-price garabato.

Candelas: Every day, 5-7pm: All drinks 1/2 price.

Downtown Johnny Brown's: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$3 domestic bottled beer, \$3.50 pints of the day. 40% off appetizers.

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.

Fuddrucker's: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: \$4.50 Bud Light/Coors Light pitchers. \$1 off all beer, wine. Saturday, 10pm-midnight: \$4.50 Bud Light/Coors Light pitchers. \$1 off all beer, wine.

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 Haole 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.

Sally's Seafood on the Water: Monday, 2:30-5:30pm: \$3 local beer on tap. Tuesday, 2:30-5:30pm: \$4 margaritas, \$3 Mexican bottled beers. Wednesday, 2:30-5:30pm: \$3 hot sake, \$3 Japanese bottled beers. Thursday, 2:30-7pm: \$3 drafts, \$5 wells/house wine.

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.

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.

GASLAMP TAVERN



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M-F
3-7PM

\$3 Drafts
\$3 House Wines
\$3 Well Drinks

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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.

EL CAJON

Double D's on Broadway: Every day, 10am-noon, 4-7pm: \$2.50 domestics, \$.50 off mixed drinks, \$1 off shots.

El Cajon Grand: Monday-Friday, 4-8pm: \$2 domestic drafts, \$2.25 Saturday-Sunday, \$5 20-oz. Bloody Mary w/ jumbo shrimp.

Flinn Springs Inn: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$2 domestic drafts, \$2.25 domestic bottles, \$3 wells. Saturday, 5-9pm: \$14.99 prime rib dinner. Sunday, 4-9pm: Kids eat free.

Main Tap Tavern: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: \$1 off 16-oz. drafts, \$2 off pitchers, \$3 calls. \$5 nachos.

Thornton's Irish Pub and Grill: Wednesday-Sunday, 11-6pm: \$2 wells, \$3 drafts.

ENCINITAS

Savory: Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 5-6pm: 30% off food & beverages in the bar & lounge area. Friday-Saturday, 5-6pm, 9-10:30pm: 30% off food & beverages in the bar & lounge area.

ESCONDIDO

Holiday Wine Cellar: Monday, 5:30-7:30pm: \$5 for five wine tastings.

Tango Restaurant & Lounge: Every day, 4-7pm: \$1 off all drinks; 1/2-off bar menu.

GOLDEN HILL

Turf Supper Club: Friday-Sunday, 12-4pm: \$5 lunch: 1/2-lb. burger, chicken sandwich, or two Louisiana hot links + bag of chips. 12-4pm: \$1 off all beer/wine/spirits. All day: \$1 off sirloin steaks, surf and turf.

GRANTVILLE

Tio Leo's: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$3 pints, \$4 house margaritas, wells. \$5 appetizers.

HILLCREST

Bangkok Thai Bistro: Every day, 4-7pm: 1/2-off wine, beer & appetizers.

Cafe Eleven: Every day, 2-6pm: \$4 house margaritas, \$3 wells, house wine, bottled beer. \$3 appetizers: shrimp cocktail, stuffed mushrooms, thai chicken skewers.

Wine Steals: Tuesday, 5:30-7pm: \$5 wine tasting. Saturday, 4-6:30pm: \$10 wine tasting.

KEARNY MESA

94th Aero Squadron: Monday-Friday, 3:30-6:30pm: \$2.75 Bud Light on tap, \$3 wells. Saturday-Sunday, 1/2-price bottles of wine.

Carriage House Cocktails & Karaoke: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$2.50 domestic bottled beer, \$3 wells, domestic pints. Free munchies.

Churasan: Monday, Monday night football special: \$4 hot dog, garlic fries, small beer. Tuesday-Friday, 5-8pm: \$4 large Japanese beers. \$3 appetizers. Sunday, Sunday football special: \$4 hot dog, garlic fries, small beer.

Khan's Cave Grill & Tavern: Monday-Friday, 3-6:30pm: \$1 off draft, \$1 off glass of wine. Saturday, 3pm-close: 1/2-off bottles of wine.

Pampas Argentine Grill: Tuesday-Saturday, 5-7pm: \$3 beer/wells. \$4 margaritas/wine specials. \$2.50 empanadas (bar only).

Shogun Kobe Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm (sushi bar only): 30% off sushi and rolls (excludes sea urchin, giant clam, toro & cocktails). 30% off sake and beer.

Tajima Sushi & Japanese Tapas: Monday-Thursday, 5:30-7pm: 1/2-off house sake/draft beer.

KENSINGTON-TALMADGE

Beauty Bar: Monday, \$4 bombs. \$5 Brunettes/Blondes. Tuesday, \$4 bombs. \$5 Brunettes/Blondes. \$4 Three Olives. Wednesday-Thursday, 3-7pm: \$5 wine. \$6 martinis. 1/2-off select wine bottles. Friday, \$4 bombs. \$5 Brunettes/Blondes. \$3 Fernet.

Kensington Cafe: Every day, 3-7pm: \$3 all beers, \$4-\$5 all glasses of wine, all tapas under \$5.25.

The Kensington Club: Every day, 10am-6pm: \$2.50 wells, drafts, domestic bottles.

Kensington Vine: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$5 fine wine. \$5 appetizers.

LA JOLLA

Beaumont's: Every day, 4-6pm: \$3-5 cocktails, wine, beer.

Clay's La Jolla: Every day, 4-7pm: \$3 drafts, \$4 wells, \$5 sangria, \$6 house wine.

Karl Strauss Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: \$3.50 beer.

La Jolla Brew House: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$3 wells, house drafts. \$4 house wine. \$5 premiums.

La Jolla Rancherita: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$4 wells, \$2.50 domestics, \$2.75 imports.

Lupi Italian Restaurant: Tuesday-Sunday, 5-7pm: \$3-\$5 martinis, beer, wine. Free doggie treats.

The Melting Pot: Every day, 5-7pm: 1/2-off cheese fondue, salads, chocolate fondue.

Rock Bottom Brewery, La Jolla: Wednesday, 7-9pm: \$2 beers.

Roppongi: Every day, 3-6pm: 1/2-off Asian tapas & sushi rolls.

La Sala: Sunday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$3 bottled beer, \$4 drafts. \$5 house wine. \$7 specialty cocktails.

The Shack Bar & Grill: Every day, 3-7pm: \$1 off wells, domestic taps.

The Shores Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: Five for \$5 menu food/drink specials. Sunday, 3-7pm: \$7 glass, \$25 pitcher red/white sangria.

The Steakhouse at Azul: Every day, 4-7pm: \$1 off all beers, \$2 off all wines by the glass, \$6 Appletinis, Lemon Drops, Cosmopolitans, margaritas. 1/2-off all lounge, patio appetizers.

Su Casa: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: 1/2-off wells; 1/2-off appetizers (excludes seafood & guacamole).

Sushi on the Rock: Every day, 5-6:30pm: \$2 hot sake, Coors Light, \$3 cold sake, \$4 Soju spritz, \$5 house wine. \$1.75 vegetarian roll, spicy crab roll, \$2.75 spicy tuna roll.

Whaling Bar & Grill: Monday, 4-7pm: \$5 house wine. \$7 specialty cocktails. 4-10pm: \$3 bottled beer, \$4 drafts. Tuesday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$3 bottled beer, \$4 drafts. \$5 house wine. \$7 specialty cocktails. Sunday, 12-10pm: \$3 bottled beer, \$4 drafts. 4-7pm: \$5 house wine. \$7 specialty cocktails.

LA MESA

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill: Every day, 3-7pm; 10pm-close: \$1.50 off drafts, \$1 off all mixed drinks, bottled beers, glass of wine.

Riviera Supper Club & Turquoise Room: Every day, 4-6pm: \$2 off all cocktails, wine, drafts; \$2 off 8-oz. sirloin.

Tarroz Sports Bar: Monday, Wednesday-Sunday, 2-7pm: \$2.50 domestic beer, tequila shots, \$3 imported beer, \$4 premium drafts.

LAKESIDE

Coach Stop: Monday-Friday, 9am-12pm, 4-7pm: \$2.50 large drafts, domestic bottles. 7-11pm: \$1.50 12-oz. drafts, \$6.50 60-oz. pitchers.

LEUCADIA

Bar Leucadian: Monday-Friday, Sunday, 4-7pm: \$2.75 wells. \$2.50 domestics. \$3 Corona, Pacifico, Imperial.

The Calypso Café: Every day, 5:30-7pm: \$4 wells, sangria, margaritas. \$4 house wine. \$3.50 beer.

LINCOLN PARK

L&L Hawaiian BBQ at Market Creek Plaza: Monday-Friday, 4-8pm: \$2 domestic drafts. \$1 off appetizers. Sunday, all day: \$1 drafts. \$1 tacos & wings.

LINDA VISTA

Brick by Brick: Every day, 3-6pm: \$2.50 house wine. 1/2-off beer.

The New Morena Club: Every day, noon-7pm: \$2 domestic drafts, \$2.50 domestic bottles, wells.

Tio Leo's: Monday, 3-7pm: \$3 pints. \$4 wells, margaritas. Tuesday-Friday, 5-7pm: \$3 wells, domestic drafts. \$4 margarita (keep shaker).

LITTLE ITALY

Anthology: Monday-Friday, 5:30-7pm: \$6 wells, wine specials. \$8 margaritas. \$9 martinis.

Puerto la Boca: Monday-Saturday, 4:30-7:30pm: \$3 glass of house wine, \$3.50 draft beer, well drinks, \$6 house martini. 30% off appetizers. Sunday, noon-close: \$3 glass of house wine, \$3.50 draft beer, well drinks, \$6 house martini. 30% off appetizers.

MIDWAY DISTRICT

Brick Alley Bar & Grill: Every day, 3-7pm, 9pm-close: \$1 off pints, \$2 off tall beers.

MIRA MESA

Excalibur Cigar Lounge & Wine Bar: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$3 select pints, \$5 house wine.

The Filling Station: Monday, \$2 kamikazes. Wednesday, premium beer \$3.50/pint. Saturday, \$3 Bloody Marys. Sunday, \$3 mimosas.

Mira Mesa Lanes: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$2 domestic pints, \$7 pitchers. \$3 import pints, \$10 pitchers. \$2.50 wells. \$3.50 chicken strips, chicken wings.

MISSION BEACH

Coaster Saloon: Friday, 10pm-close: \$2 wells, all drafts.

Guava Beach Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: 2-for-1 cocktails, beer, shots. Saturday-Sunday, \$12 Bionic Beavers, \$2.50 kamikazes, \$8 Bud/Bud Light pitchers.

Sandbar Sports Grill: Monday-Thursday, 4-7pm: \$2.50 domestics/drafts, wells, \$1 off premium beers/wine by the glass, \$3 off pitchers. 1/2-off appetizers. Friday, 4-9pm: 1/2-off all drinks.

MISSION HILLS

The Aero Club: Every day, 2-7pm: \$4 drafts, \$3 bottles.

Bar Dynamite: Monday-Saturday, 5-9pm; Sunday, noon-8pm: \$2 domestic bottles and drafts, \$3 wells. Free food from Lucha Libre Taco Shop.

Shakespeare Pub & Grille: Every day, 4-7pm: \$4.95 all imported 20 oz. draught beers, \$3.75 well drinks, \$1 off all bottled beers and house wines by the glass.

Starlite: Monday-Saturday, 5-7pm: \$3 drafts, wells, \$1 off other. Sunday, all night: \$5 mules. \$15 off wine bottles.

MISSION VALLEY

950 Lounge: Wednesday, \$3 wells, beer, house wine.

All American Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$3.75 selected craft beers, \$5 specialty drinks, \$2 off wine by the glass and grazing menu.

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HAPPY HOUR

The Office: *Every day, 5-8pm: 2-for-1 prices on all drinks.*

Toronado: *Monday, 11:30am-5pm \$1 off drafts. Tuesday-Sunday, 11:30am-5pm: \$1 off drafts.*

True North: *Monday, 12pm-close: \$1 off all beer, wine, spirits. Tuesday-Saturday, 12pm-7pm: \$1 off all beer, wine, spirits. Sunday, 7pm-close: Industry Night, \$3 calls.*

West Coast Tavern: *Every day, 4-7pm: \$1 off all drinks. Five menu items for \$5 each.*

OCEAN BEACH

The Arizona Bar: *Every day, 4:30-6:30pm: \$3 house wines, 20 oz. domestics, microbrew pints, wells, 1/2-off all pitchers. \$3 food specials.*

Blue Parrot: *Monday-Friday, 2-6pm: \$2 off glass of wine, \$3 margaritas. \$2.50 tacos, \$5.25 nachos or wings. Saturday-Sunday, 10am-3pm: \$2.50 mimosas. \$5 Manmosas. \$4 screwdrivers, tequila sunrises, greyhounds.*

Dream Street Live: *Tuesday-Saturday, 4-6pm: \$2 wells, domestic pints. \$4 Guinness pints.*

Portugalia: *Tuesday-Sunday, 10pm-1am: \$3 domestic beer, \$5 wine; \$4-\$10 food specials.*

Sunshine Co.: *Every day, 5-6pm: 1/2-off all pitchers.*

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

Fred's Mexican Cafe Old Town: *Monday-Saturday, 4-7pm: \$3 12-oz. house margaritas, \$5 20-oz. house margaritas, \$2.50 14-oz. domestic drafts, \$3.50 20-oz. domestic drafts.*

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 & P.J. 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-Thursdays, 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.*

Sinbad Café: *Every day, 4-8pm: \$1 drafts, \$1.50 wells, shots, \$2 imports. \$3.50 appetizers. 11am-8pm: \$12-\$15 hookahs.*

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-Thursdays, 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, \$5.50 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: *Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$2 domestic drafts, \$8 pitchers, \$3.50 wells, house wines.*

RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Cottonwood Golf Club Bar & Restaurant: *Every day, 4-6pm: \$2 drafts. 1/2-off all appetizers including pizza, quesadillas, wings, calamari.*

RANCHO SANTA FE

Cavaillon: *Monday-Thursdays, 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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The Year in Restaurants

Famous Chinese curse: “May you have an interesting life.” It’s been an interesting year, the financial weather a perpetual windstorm battering restaurants around along with the rest of the economy. Newspapers are flapping in that gale, too: my expense budget was cut (a bearable 20 percent) — but given the general mood, I’d have downscaled anyway. This year’s game has been to find the best food for gentler prices. And the lesson it’s brought: it’s easier to find delicious food at either the top of the heap, or else at the bare-bones mom ’n’ pop bottom, than in the middle.

Several of the finest restaurants pushed themselves toward greater accessibility — for their own survival’s sake, since the only people living large lately, besides bailed-out bankers, seem to be footballers, Nick Cage, and the Kardashians (who?), plus those perpetual un-reality stars, the Gaslamp club-kids whose money falls from the sky. Even in million-dollar neighborhoods, folks who lost lots on stocks now hide their money in their socks.

Several top-end restaurants (including Bertrand at Mr. A’s, Marine Room, Mille Fleurs, and Quarter Kitchen) introduced generous prix-fixe budget menus and/or extended their Restaurant Week discount dinners for months. These offered wonderful opportunities to sample superb cooking — if not quite a free-range pass to the most venturesome outlands of their menus, still highly rewarding meals. Not coincidentally, the restaurants lowered their formality levels as well. Jackets? Nah — clean jeans go almost everywhere now, leastways on weeknights.

The year’s biggest food fad is...booze. Makes emotional sense, right? (Little ol’ wine-drinker me, I got onto this one late but resolve to do better this year!) Bartenders, renamed “mixologists,” are becoming liquid chefs, magnetic crowd-pullers as they create new libations often more fascinating than some of the solids served at their restaurants. The classic course succession is playing musical chairs: the cocktail is now the appetizer



Paul McCabe at Kitchen 1540

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALAN DECKER

them, the food-only price (\$35–\$42 for three courses with shared desserts) was no higher than the lousy dinners at some trendy neighborhood joints. (Just watch out for wine prices! Them gobblins’ll getcha if you don’t watch out!)

This year, “molecular gastronomy” finally crept into San Diego on little cat feet. Pet that kitty! It played a major part in my best meal of the year, at El Bizcocho — where it was so unwelcomed by the Rancho Bernardo Inn duffers (not to mention the *UT*’s reviewer) that the chef who introduced it fled back to London in a London minute (according to folklore, that’s 12 chimes of Big Ben). But the cat’s out of the bag and is sneaking into the best kitchens — Paul McCabe at Kitchen 1540 and Fabrice Hardel at Westgate, for instance, are making fun foods like airy foams, intense gélées, ultra-pure flavor essences. Fear not, it’s still real food, beautiful food!

The envelope, please.

course, and often, the appetizer (or a couple of them) is the main dish. (Hey, they’re usually more exciting than entrées, anyway.) Which brings us to closely related fad number two:

Forget your troubles, c’mon get happy! An explosion of deeply discounted happy hours has spearheaded this new way to eat out: *drink a little drink, graze a little graze [repeat several times], get down tonight.*

Even with these boosts, finding good food at lower prices is too often an oxymoronic quest. Ethnic mom ’n’ pops are the champs at providing quality and excitement for minimal bucks, but more than ever, eaters crave creature comforts, familiar flavors in a neighborhood ambiance rather than exotic adventures at naked tables. Problem is, food costs soared (along with rents, supplies, laundry) even as the economy tanked, and it takes a rare chef to spin the straw of third-rate ingredients into gold — especially with low-paid, minimally trained

kitchen crews executing the dishes. Trying to cover more low-moderate restaurants, old and new, bought me a membership in the Frustration of the Month Food Club. It was a year of swallowing disappointments, mediocre, retrogressive, often ill-cooked grub untouched by the “farm to fork” movement.

Relief came from unexpected sources, higher on the food chain: new or newly revamped hotel restaurants with surprisingly lower prices than in days of yore. Stand-alone restaurants often live on their receipts month by month and go down hard when income can’t cover costs (see “Obits” below). Hotels live larger: a prestigious restaurant on-premises may be a magnet to high-end guests even if it doesn’t necessarily pay its own way. Exorbitant room rates subsidize fine ingredients and well-staffed kitchens. Several of this year’s “bests” are hotel dining rooms with creative chefs stretching their wings — and at *all of*

Meal of the Year: El Bizcocho. A five-course tasting meal combined “farm to table” with futuristic techniques to showcase fresh ingredients in dazzling new ways. The delicate experiments in molecular gastronomy created garnishes to provide startling little surprises — sudden bursts of intense flavor, unexpected textures, flashes of color — a mini magic show on the plate and in the mouth. The brilliance of a scallop sashimi, with its bejeweled garnishes, for instance, put even our best sushi bars to shame. Until the chef ran away with the spoon.

Best “New” Upscale Restaurant: Kitchen 1540 (L’Auberge Del Mar). The former J. Taylor’s was renovated and reopened with a fresher, less-formal dining room under a new name. Chef Paul McCabe remains as top toque. Always a dab hand at creating palatal pleasures, his seasonal and mainly local menu is now branching out technically into both discreet touches of molecular gastronomy and house-made *salumi*. On the early

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Calendar RESTAURANTS

summer menu, the scallops with exploded popcorn purée were unforgettable — but earthy wild-nettle-and-ramp risotto with tempura-fried morels was equally revelatory.

Best New Ethnic Restaurant: Sab-E-Lee. This is the one that lovers of authentic (non-*farang*) Thai food have been waiting for. The crowded, no-rez, no-frills, BYOB mom 'n' pop serves the fiery cuisine of Issan (northeast Thailand, on the Laos border), but these aren't the mindless flames of culinary machismo. From under the heat rise symphonies of complex flavors. Even liver (of all things!) is transformed into a treat, and the rich, oniony tom yum soup is world-beating. After El Biz, my second-favorite meal of the year. (BTW, don't all run there at once again, or you'll wait hours and overwhelm the kitchen.)

Best "New" Seafood: Westgate Room. In another remade hotel restaurant, an airier, less-formal ground-floor (and more down-to-earth) space replaces the stuffy old Le Fontainebleau. Beautiful, with superb service, it still feels *luxe, calme, et volupté*, but prices are lower while culinary standards remain exalted. Normandy-born chef Fabrice Hardel, who grew up savoring seafood, is a marvel at preparing it. (And, *psst*, a little molecular magic provides surprise thrills.) Stay away from old-menu shibboleths, go for the fresh-fish creations.

Best New Vacation-on-a-Plate: Vela. The restaurant's name means "sail," and at the new Bayfront Hilton, you feel as if you're on a luxury yacht, relaxing into a mini-vacation of ease and indulgence. The farm-fresh, seasonal food is as delightful as

the waterfront view. Gulf prawns in *escabeche* were stunningly sweet and tender, and Meyer beef carpaccio had my whole table moaning like Meg Ryan (but quietly). Prix-fixe international "exploration" dinners are treats (for the chef, too — you can taste it), while the appetizer array and affordable wine flights invite grazing dinners. Best yet is the spirit of generosity. They really aim to please.

Best New Italian: Bice. The local offshoot of a hugely successful Milan-based international chain looks slick and modern, but its kitchen follows Italy's old traditions of artisanal ingredients and farm-fresh produce, "slow food" from the country that invented it. Want to taste some of the food-stuffs you've heard Mario Batali rave about? There's a cheese-and-*salumi* bar (its offerings available at tables, too), house-made breads and pastas, exquisite not-too-sweet desserts (e.g., a superb panna cotta). And on this huge, inviting menu, most dishes are under \$20! Service is warm but not stifling, intent on providing maximum pleasure. **Runner-up:** Operacaffe. This welcome throwback to the pre-convention center Gaslamp (when Italian restaurants were small and affordable) rolls back the cost and the tension. It offers unselfconscious Florentine home-style cooking, simple and sensual and *delizioso*, in a hospitable, laid-back atmosphere. "This one is just for San Diegans — no tourists!" say the owners.

Best New Fusion: Jai. Aah, finally, this is what fusion should be! This Wolfgang Puck spin-off is hidden amidst lovely tall trees on the UCSD campus, a gleaming, comfortable modern restaurant instead of a witch's cottage, with excellent service. Chef Yoshinori Kojima does benign witchcraft of his own with precise, masterful dishes, such as an outstanding

tempura soft-shell crab with tender meat, and a miso-glazed butterfish, its sweet flesh robed in a silken sauce. Food-pundits say that fusion's about to go out of style (as it should, given how screwed-up it often is); even so, Jai deserves to survive as a living monument to the genre at its finest.

Best New "Have It Your Way" Hangout: Cucina Urbana. Restaurateur Tracy Borkum killed her upscale Laurel and replaced it with this racker, informal Italian-inspired eatery offering creative and shareable nibbles, for grazing or gobbling, eating (and spending) a little or a lot — at tables, at the bar, at a huge communal table favored by singletons. An attached wine shop offers all bottles at \$7 corkage over retail price. The primary flaw is the price of success: how can you hang out at a hangout where reservations and even bar-seats are horribly hard to score?

Best Greek: Apollonia Greek Bistro. In a town filled with Greek restaurants of highly variable quality, Apollonia has the most complete and nearest-to-authentic menu (including seafood — remember, Greece consists of islands!). The greaseless moussaka is exceptional; other joys include wonderful *taramasalata* (cod roe mousse) and lush stuffed eggplant, *imam bayaldi*.

Best New Upscale Mexican: El Vitral. The creative mainland Mexican *nueva cocina* is wildly uneven here dish to dish — plus they foolishly withhold their four fabulous salsas from the table, providing them only with certain entrées. But when it's good, it's very good: try the rich *sopa de elotes* (corn soup), handmade quesadillas (totally fabuloso), scallops, duck mini-enchiladas, *cochinita pibil* (Mayan-style "pulled pork"), duck fettuccine with mole, and above all, a

dessert of churros with coconut sauce. The "Smokin' Tippler" spicy margarita makes a mighty tippie, and dining on the patio with its toes on Petco is fun.

Best New Inexpensive Mexican: Cantina Mayahuel. In a tiny but attractive space, the short menu is authentically mainland, a limited selection of soft "street tacos" plus salads, "bowls" and weekly specials, including Friday night's extraordinary chicken moles — a choice of house-made poblano or imported Oaxacan black mole or half and half. Margaritas are big and cheap (\$5); food prices top out at ten bucks.

Best New Middle Eastern: Mystic Grill and Bakery. Still looks like the cheap pizza joint it used to be. Still serves cheap pizza. (Don't go there.) But the Jordanian chefs are proud professionals. If you've given up on *felafl* and *kibbe*, try again here. They'll blow your mind. Top ingredients (halal Prime beef, fresh baby chickens) and skilled cooking "from scratch" set this one well above the norm. Don't skip the house-made, not-oversweet desserts, including three variations on baklava.

Best Happy Hour: Candelas, Coronado. The best happy hours don't just drown your troubles, they carry you away from them. At Candelas, a generous menu of exquisite, sometimes exotic upscale-Mexican creative appetizers at half-price, paired with half-price drinks in a stunning bay-view location, makes this the ultimate happy-hour heaven to wash all your blues away. **Runner-up:** Puerto Alegre. Argentina's dinner hour starts at 11:00 p.m., so the cuisine includes a rich array of tasty "teatime" tapas to enjoy along with South American wines. Puerto Alegre isn't a splashy bar scene but an instant

escape to some artists' café in Buenos Aires, a sophisticated epicurean experience at deeply discounted prices.

Best New Gastropub: All American Grill. In a hipper location, this huge pub might challenge crowded Cucina Urbana (not to mention Jayne's Gastropub, et al.) as a casual foodie hangout. But it's way off the trodden gastronomy trail that runs from Mission Hills to Kensington. Down the cliff in Route 8 mall country, it occupies a former Trophy's in Hazard Center. (Yes, the TVs remain, usually muted but springing to life during Sunday games.) Nonetheless, talented chef Timothy Au is transforming pub grub into genuinely good grub, using fresh local ingredients and a wood-fired grill to make creative mini-pizzas, classy burgers, gorgeous roasted Carlsbad mussels, steaks, ribs, et al. And creative cocktails (with juices, not cloying commercial mixes) cost about the same as a glass of wine.

Most Welcomed Sushi in the City: Hane. Finally, an urban branch of Sushi Ota, with skilled, friendly chefs who (unlike Ota-San himself) all speak English. Alas, it's usually jam-packed now that word's out. (I still haven't tried Kaito Sushi in Encinitas, which from many reports is giving Ota a run for his money as the best local sushi. It's on my list for 2010.)

Best Combread and Gumbo: Bull's BBQ. After trying five new barbecues, sorry, good old Barnes' BBQ is still the king. Bull's was my favorite of the new crop (for smoky, tender meats), but its most riveting dishes were sides: a deep, dark, voodoo gumbo, best in town since Juke Joint closed and as good as any in NOLA, served with light, sweet, moist corn muffins subtly flecked with

jalapeño. **Runner-up BBQ side dishes:** Genuine Hill Country Texas link sausages in a rich, cheesy sandwich at Brett's BBQ; authentic bean-free Texas chili at West Coast BBQ.

Creative Cocktails: Bite. The chef's prosecco cocktails made with fruit essences, flower syrups, and sorbets are light, cool, and enchanting. The one with aromatic rose syrup drives me mad.

Other memorable dishes: Arterra's cauliflower soup with braised beef; Alchemy's pork-stuffed piquillo peppers, and vegetarian lasagna; Himalayan Cuisine's Tibetan lamb *momos*; Iris's chocolate brownie cake; Milles Fleurs' Chino tomato-and-eggplant salad and smoked-eel appetizer; Muzita's fried okra coated in Ethiopian teff grain; Quarter Kitchen's wine-braised short ribs and T-Day special of chestnut soup with sweetbread croutons.

Obits (partial list): Most heartbreaking, Better Half (last year's "best new moderate") went down to defeat. So did Apertivo (heartless rent increase), Batter Up (but owner-chef Mel Johnson's gone over to Lil' Piggy's Bar-B-Q, which bodes well for Q in Coronado: he's the very man to liven up the side dishes), Café Noir, Café One-Three, California Cuisine, Crescent Grill (another short-lived star from last year's "bests"), Dakota Grill, Epazote (replaced by a steakhouse, same owners), Fix Me a Plate Cafe, the Guild, Illume, La Vache, Milles Feuilles (ouch! another short-lived "best"), Modus, Mukashi, Ole Madrid, Parallel 33, Rainwater's (say goodbye to the last great Beef Wellington), Sluggers.

Stibo ("Obits" spelled backward): The delightful Chilango came back from the dead! Stay alive, we're rooting for you! ■

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The Vegan Word

It's fusion, without killing anything — that can run away, anyway.

This place is run by a 'Supreme Master?' says my buddy Lee. He's driving us to a vegan eatery with an innocent name, "Loving Hut."

"Yeah," I say. "But we're cool. It's the food. Good for you. Guaranteed."

I've read about this new chain. Serves nothing unhealthy. Desperate to check it out. Trouble is, it's run by acolytes of a "Supreme Master," someone who, like, tells you how everything is supposed to be.

"I don't want to get mixed up in some cult," says Lee.

Lee's a college-lecturer type. Known him for years. And anyone claiming "supreme authority" has committed the worst crime in his book: intellectual mediocrity. 'Course, he considers my mind too soggy to worry about.

We pull in next to this little place that couldn't look more clean and healthy. Yet I can't help thinking of that Leonardo DiCaprio movie, *The Beach*, how everything was perfect, too perfect — before it went south.

Loving Huts, I hear, are springing up like mushrooms, around the world and across the U.S. Anybody can go. Nobody makes you hold hands and chant before you eat. But once inside, I see that the hanging flat screens are all spouting "Supreme Master" television, praising the work of this lady they call Ching Hai.

We sit down at a table. The place is mostly full. Normal-looking families, couples, oldies. We should be looking at the menu but can't help being drawn to the TVs, the Supreme Master's pearls of wisdom. The message is world peace and veganism. Fine, but it's also about how She, the Master, can "take you home" through Her wisdom. And, yep, like

God, She gets Caps all the Way.

"Jim Jones," mutters Lee. "Mind control. I don't like it. I don't care how beautiful her ideas are."

**TIN
FORK**
ED BEDFORD

"Let's see if the food clarifies our feelings," I say.

Must say, the place is all airy, new, and prosperous-looking, with butter-cream walls and gold columns and big, clean, cream-colored floor tiles.

A sign says "Be Veg., Go Green, Save the Planet." The word "Love" is painted in flowery script across the ceiling.

Pleasant young guy named Ted comes up with menus. Heck, for vegan, they have a lot. Starters, salads, vegetables, noodles, rice dishes, "fish" dishes, even "ham" burgers and spaghetti. It's fusion, but without killing anything — that can run away, anyway.

We start out ordering golden wontons with a dipping sauce (\$3.25). A coffee for me (\$2.50) and a (nonalcoholic, natch) piña colada for Lee (\$2.95). The wontons are a good price, and danged good-tasting, with — is that sour cream inside? — a side of plum sauce to dip them into. We get a plate of "fresh summer rolls" (\$3.25). These are delish, too, about ten of them, thin rice-paper wraps stuffed with carrots and jicama, with a bit of basil tossed in. They come with a similar dipping sauce topped with nuts.

Except Lee's not eating.

"I'm from Wisconsin. What does that say to you?"

"Uh, you're a meat 'n' potatoes guy?"

"Exactly."

"We do have a Loving Hut burger," says Ted. "The patty is soy, not beef. But it tastes pretty similar."

"Aha! Saved by the bell," says Lee. And when it comes (with french fries, lettuce, pickles, mushrooms, and onions, \$4.95), he dives in. Three minutes later, he comes up for air to pay a high compliment: "For a non-burger, that's not a bad burger."

While he's burgering, I order one more thing. Seeing as the Supreme Master comes from Au Lac in Vietnam, it seems only right to taste the soup named after, uh, Her region — Au Lac Sweet and Sour soup (\$5.75; a larger size costs \$6.75).

It's not bad. Has "shrimp" that could pass for shrimp, peppers, chunks of soy and pineapple, celery, tomatoes, bean sprouts, okra, basil, and taro stems. It's a *pho*, I guess, but with a strong, sweet pineapple flavor.

"Where do you think they get the money to open up all over the world, and a dozen new places in the U.S.?" I ask Lee, in a whisper, as if Correctness Guards might haul us off for being too curious.

"The internet, I bet," says Lee. "Why don't you go ask?"

So, what the heck, I do. Problem is, Ted the server doesn't really want to talk Supreme Master stuff. "I don't know too much," he says. "Better just go online. They can explain." And that's it.

I sit back down. One flat screen is now showing "good news" from around the world, read cheerily. The other has the Supreme Master Herself, sitting on a dais in front of hundreds, lapping up Her every word.



Ted

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALAN DECKER

"Maybe it's a cultural thing," I say to Lee as we leave. "Maybe 'Supreme Master' is just a compliment, and we resent it because she's not an old European male. We have popes, archbishops... I mean, main thing is the food here was fresh, a helluva deal, healthy, right?"

"For crying out loud," Lee says. "Why don't we just give over our hearts and minds to The Organization? Why did we fight for democracy? They're conquering us through our stomachs."

"So would you come back and eat again?"

He thinks for a moment. "Probably."

"But I thought you hated mind control."

"As Oscar Wilde once said, 'Consistency is the last refuge of the unimaginative.'" Lee sighs. "Plus, that was a damned good burger." ■

The Place: *Loving Hut, 1905 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park 619-683-9490*

Type of Food: *vegan, Asian-American fusion*

Prices: *Golden wontons with dipping sauce, \$3.25; fresh summer rolls, \$3.25; Loving Hut burger (soy patty with french fries, lettuce, pickles, mushrooms, and onions), \$4.95; Au Lac Sweet and Sour soup (with shrimp, soy, pineapple, celery, okra, taro), \$5.75 medium, \$6.75 large; heavenly salad (with soy chicken, peanuts, shredded cabbage, carrots, onions), \$6.25/6.95; grilled "chicken," with lettuce on rice, \$6.75; Guru fried rice (with carrots, peas, onions, curry flavor), \$5.95/6.75; vegan cheesecake dessert, \$3.50*

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Calendar

RESTAURANTS

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.

Allied Gardens

Brothers Family Restaurant 5150 Waring Rd., Allied Gardens, 619-287-0880. All the staples: country-fried steak and eggs, pork chops with ham, bacon, and sausage — even hefty beef or tuna or turkey sandwiches with soup. Inexpensive.

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 weekends. Moderate to expensive.

Fred's Old Fashioned Burgers 2754 Alpine Bl., Alpine, 619-445-1264. You get a bang for your burger buck, from the junior burger to quarter-pounders and half-pounders to Fred's three-quarter-pound "monster burger."

Even the BLT sandwich comes loaded with six slabs of bacon. Inexpensive.

Baja

From the United States use the prefix 011-52 when calling Mexico.

Cien Años Calle Jose Maria Velazco #1407, Tijuana, 664-634-3039. Mexican haute cuisine, with complex sauces based on Mexican ingredients including tropical fruits, nuts, and chili peppers. Treats: mushrooms steeped in beef marrow, crocodile-meat mini tacos, posole with crab-meat. Moderate.

Happy Face Restaurant In Plaza Viva Tijuana (near Yellow Cab parking area), Tijuana. Breakfast (all day) includes *chilaquiles* with chips doused in cheese, a thin steak, frijoles, rice, chips, salsa, coffee, and a house salad. Inexpensive.

Manzanilla Boulevard Teniente Azueta #139, Ensenada, 646-175-7073. Sophisticated "nuevo" Mexican cuisine at this Euro-style bistro features seasonal menus with fresh-caught seafood, locally grown vegetables, and mesquite smoke from the wood-burning grill. A spectacular rib-eye steak, tender and intensely beefy, is a constant. Moderate.

El Nido Boulevard Benito Juárez #67, Rosarito, 661-612-1430. In a restaurant full of caged birds (and a patio with free birds a-wing), enjoy sublime mesquite-grilled aged steaks, quail with garlic sauce, or venison — especially the savory *machaca de venado* (meat strips with peppers, onions, and tomatoes). Mostly moderate; cash only.

Rica Torta Niños Héroes Avenida #890, Tijuana, 664-685-8579. This café may have the best *tortas* (call them Mexican-style hamburgers) in

Tijuana. Six-inch rashers of marinated carne asada, slices of ham, squares of cheese, chopped salad, tomato slices, fresh-scooped avocado. Inexpensive.

Salón Azteca Rosarito Beach Hotel (south end of Blvd. Benito Juárez), Rosarito, 661-612-1111. This fabled old hotel's all-you-can-eat Sunday brunch buffet offers a great excuse to check out the gorgeous architecture and meet other travelers in town. Somewhat expensive for the area.

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.

Hexagone 495 Laurel St., Banker's Hill, 619-236-0467. This urban spin-off of Rancho Bernardo's French Market Grille offers provincial "bourgeois cuisine" (snails, frog legs, bouillabaisse) nearly identical to that of the mother ship — including the inconsistent nightly quality. Moderate to expensive.

Hob Nob Hill 2271 First Ave., Banker's Hill, 619-239-8176. All-day breakfasts and sandwiches, and at dinner, while there are à la carte choices, affordable three-course prix fixe dinners (with a regular entrée for each day of the week, Mom style) are the order of the day. Inexpensive to low-moderate.

Bay Park

Bay Park Fish Company 4121 Ashton St., Bay Park, 619-276-3474. Go big (surf 'n' turf can cost you

thirty-plus) or small: a filling seafood stew or the panko-crust halibut tacos go for \$10. Lunch, dinner daily. Inexpensive to expensive.

Borrego Springs

Olde Homestead Fudge Co. 590 Palm Canyon Dr., Borrego Springs, 760-767-7782. The chocolate walnut fudge is delicious, but the masterpiece when in season is the Date Shake — a cold quaff that's ambrosial on a hot afternoon. Inexpensive.

Pablito's of the Desert 590 Palm Canyon Dr., Borrego Springs, 760-767-5753. The most authentic dishes come from the Specialties section of the menu, including a good pork in green chile sauce, enchiladas, and *chilaquiles*. Inexpensive to low-moderate.

Cardiff

Beach House 2530 S. Coast Hwy. 101, Cardiff, 760-753-1321. Branch of a beachy mini-chain. Great ocean-front view, but stay with the simplest foods — burgers, steak, unfussy eggs. Weekend brunch moderate, dinner moderate to very expensive.

Carlsbad

Fidel's Carlsbad 3003 Carlsbad Bl., Carlsbad, 760-729-0903. It's not upscale modern Mex, but who gives a flyin' fajita when you can order just about any traditional SoCal-Mexican dish and know it's gonna be good? Inexpensive.

Vivace 1100 Four Seasons Point, Carlsbad, 760-603-3773. First-class

ingredients enliven skillfully executed Italian haute cuisine — think Medici princes, not *mamma mia*. Four-course tasting dinner a relative bargain, but wine list may blow the budget. Moderate (pastas) to very expensive.

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.

Jimbo's, Naturally! 12853 El Camino Real, Carmel Valley, 858-793-7755. Organic grocery chain with prepared foods to go. Best deals at the hot case are usually the daily specials, like vegan seitan stew (a low-fat meat substitute) or Shelton's jerk turkey in fig sauce. Inexpensive to moderate.

Oggi's Pizza & Brewing Co. 12840 Carmel Country Rd., Carmel Valley, 858-481-7883. Several San Diego locations. House-made brews and American-style pizzas, with thick, slightly sweet crusts, many with elaborate toppings. Also pub grub and vaguely Italian food. Inexpensive.

Sammy's Woodfired Pizza 12925 El Camino Real, Carmel Valley, 858-259-6600. Additional locations in La Jolla, La Mesa, Mission Valley, University City, and Downtown. The crusts are Californian: thick and slightly sweet. The toppings range from ordinary to exotic. The menu includes many salads and a handful of American-Italian entrées. Inexpensive.

Spices Thai Café 3810 Valley Centre Dr., Carmel Valley, 858-259-0889. Additional locations in Mira Mesa

and Rancho Bernardo. Not only elegant, but the food contains no MSG and very little fat. The seafood dishes rate highly. Among other delicacies are duck and frog legs. Inexpensive to moderate.

Chollas View

Asia Café 4710 Market St., Chollas View, 619-527-1917. Rare Laotian restaurant's dishes include the famous *larb-kai* (chicken salad with hot peppers, lemon grass, and sticky rice). Inexpensive.

Chula Vista

The Family House of Pancakes 562 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-425-5133. Famous for Grandma's buckwheat pancakes, banana-pecan pancakes, and rolled pancakes. Other good bets: deluxe burger with french fries, tomatoes, and house sauce, and grilled tuna sandwich with fries. Inexpensive.

Miguel's Cocina 970 Eastlake Parkway, Chula Vista, 619-656-2822. Additional locations in Coronado and Point Loma. Soups are built on fine stocks, salads can be vibrant, and seafood is treated so tenderly that the shellfish-stuffed tortilla concoctions (shrimp enchiladas, lobster burritos) are luscious. Great for kids. Moderate.

Zorba's Greek Buffet 100 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-422-8853. Families are here for the buffet, spooning up the *spanakopita* (spinach in flaky pastry), dolmas (ground beef and rice rolled in grape leaves), moussaka (eggplant, zucchini, and ground beef), and lamb. Inexpensive.

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City Heights

Asmara Eritrean Restaurant 4155 University Ave., City Heights, 619-677-3999. Similar to Ethiopian food, with a long, interesting menu, including a fine three-meat combo platter, luscious veggies. Seasoned to your specifications: "hot" means "hot!" Cash only. Inexpensive.

Canada Steak Burgers 3604 University Ave., City Heights, 619-283-4345. Run by a Greek-American family for 30 years, their hamburgers and especially their steak burgers are nicely seasoned and a great value. Interesting Greek choices include gyros souvlaki (skewered lamb), chicken kebabs. Inexpensive.

College Area

D.Z. Akin's 6930 Alvarado Rd., College Area, 619-265-0218. A full range of European-Jewish specialties including deli meats and smoked fish, house-baked breads and pastries, huge sandwiches and dinner entrées (including a lively Rumanian skirt steak and an ethnic sampler platter). Moderate.

The Living Room Café and Bistro 5900 El Cajon Bl., College Area, 619-286-8434. Additional locations in Old Town, Point Loma, La Jolla, and National City. This Swiss-owned café is a student hangout with good breakfast food in huge quantities. Try "The Works" omelet. Inexpensive.

Toshi Sushi 5943 El Cajon Bl., College Area, 619-287-3536. The tempura special roll takes battered whitefish and wraps it around the seaweed casing, which is filled with whitefish and garnishes. The Johnny roll shows octopus at its most tender. Inexpensive to moderate.

Coronado

Bino's European Coffees and Crepes 1120 Adella Ave., Coronado, 619-522-0612. House-baked breads and croissants and crunchy imaginative sandwiches like the Brie Fantasy (Brie, chicken, roasted peppers). Bino's Austrian wife makes great Viennese-style coffee. Inexpensive.

Burger Lounge 922 Orange Ave., Coronado, 619-435-6835. Additional locations in Kensington and La Jolla. Their Tallgrass beef is juicy, tastes sweeter, and comes only from grass-fed cattle. Inexpensive, if you avoid extras like fries and onion rings.

Lil' Piggy's Bar-B-Q 1201 First St., Coronado, 619-522-0217. They call themselves "Memphis style" and indeed cook their meats and tender chicken in a hickory-fueled smoker. Consistency problem — some days you taste smoke, other days not a whiff. Local delivery available. Moderate.

Primavera Ristorante 932 Orange Ave., Coronado, 619-435-0454. Classic fine Italian cooking with creative nightly specials. Stuffed pastas are made in-house and rolled thin, gnocchi are expertly crafted, and entrées are more interesting than the appetizers. The *osso buco* is outstanding, as is a summertime special of white king salmon. Expensive.

Village Pizzeria 1206 Orange Ave., Coronado, 619-522-0449. Mootime Creamery owner David Spatafore decided to set up a cheap, back-east Italian, red-and-white tablecloth, dangling-Chianti-bottle eatery where local families and amateur sports teams can come in and pig out on great pizza and calzone. Inexpensive.

Del Mar

Il Fornaio 1555 Camino del Mar, Del Mar, 858-755-8876. Also 1333 First St., Coronado, 619-437-4911. Regional Italian dishes range from *fiatino con bisteccina* (thin grilled steak on a baguette with creamy Dijon and salad) to a mesquite-grilled 22-ounce *bistecca alla fiorentina*. Great breads, of course. Moderate.

Shimbashi Izakaya Del Mar Plaza, 1555 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar, 858-523-0479. Izakaya-style restaurant and sake bar with ocean-view dining serving fusion sashimi, tempura, shiitake seafood sandwich, sushi rolls, grilled yakitori, and desserts.

Downtown

Anthony's Fish Grotto 1360 N. Harbor Dr., Downtown, 619-232-5103. Additional locations in La Mesa and Chula Vista. 18 fish to choose from, available seasonally, most prepared simply. Moderate.

Anthony's Fishette 1360 N. Harbor Dr., Downtown, 619-232-5103. Fast fish, mainly fried, but the clam chowder — New England or Fisherman — is fresh, thick, tasty. Inexpensive.

Brickyard Coffee and Tea 675 G St., Downtown, 619-696-7220. You sit under poplar trees in a brick patio — and except for the wind, it's blissfully silent. With light fare like quiche, salads, and *panini*, it's the nearest thing to a French country café downtown. Inexpensive.

Buster's Beach House & Longboard Bar 807 W. Harbor Dr., Downtown, 619-233-4300. The real Buster surfed the world — Baja,

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Calendar RESTAURANTS

Oahu, Fiji, Naples, Ocho Rios, Phuket. Here there's a surfer-pub dish from each of those waters, not one of them authentic. Bay view. Prices cover the waterfront.

Le Cake Château 1152 Seventh Ave., Downtown, 619-325-0977. This true French pâtisserie offers golden croissants, gorgeous pastries, and terrific lunches including *croque monsieur* (grilled ham-and-cheese sandwich covered with a Mornay sauce) and crepes with seasonal fruit and sweet cream cheese. Inexpensive.

Cheese Shop 427 Fourth Ave., Downtown, 619-232-2303. Also 2165 Avenida de la Playa, La Jolla, 858-459-3921. Not much retail cheese anymore. They still have all-cheese sandwiches but now specialize in overstuffed spit-roasted meat sandwiches like lamb and roast beef. Inexpensive.

Chopahn Authentic Afghan Cuisine 750 Sixth Ave., Downtown, 619-236-9236. Enjoy grilled-to-order marinated meats (especially lamb), stews, rice dishes, and appetizers like leek ravioli (*aushak*), leek or meat turnovers (*bulanee*), and battered vegetables (*pakawra*). Moderate.

City Pizzeria 1125 Sixth Ave., Downtown, 619-531-0955. Definitely West Coast pizza, with specialties like the Ranch Chicken pie with garlic chicken, basil, and ranch dressing, or the BBQ chicken with pineapple, red onion, BBQ sauce, and mozzarella. Inexpensive.

Croce's 802 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-233-4355. Live music comes free with dinner. Seasonal, creative menu, but simple dishes are best here, like the

shrimp carbonara fettuccine in white garlic cream sauce. Fun people-watching from window tables. Expensive.

Jsix 616 J St., Downtown, 619-531-8744. The chef's charcuterie — sausage, cured beef, and smoked ham — is impossible to pass up. Wait-staff talks up the seafood, but the beef dishes are better — rib eye and Angus short ribs, especially. Grazing meals moderate to expensive, full dinners very expensive.

Maryjane's Coffee Shop Hard Rock Hotel, 207 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-764-6950. Back to the '50s with frozen peas and instant-tasting mash. The meaty meat loaf may improve on Mom's, but the chicken pot pie is barely better than Morton's. Moderate.

Ocean Room and Lounge 630 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-501-6550. Pleasant dishes include mussels *marinière*, Cajun seafood pasta, seafood pan roast, and Fanny Bay oysters on the half-shell. Or try the oyster shooters. Expensive (but less than average for the neighborhood).

Operacaffe 835 Fourth Ave., Downtown, 619-234-6538. True Tuscan cuisine, not austere but simple and sensual, priced for a song — with salads to sing about, unique Florentine home dishes, and sublime seasonal specials. This one's for us, not conventioners. Low-moderate.

Organic to Go 1143 Sixth Ave., Downtown, 619-236-0086. Lunch for most is a lunge at the salad bar, but they make a cheddar albacore tuna melt, a toasted meat loaf sandwich, and a vegan Thai-style veggie wrap. Other interesting dishes include mango-chutney-curry chicken salad sandwich. Inexpensive.

Osteria Panevino 722 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-595-7959. The glory days have passed, but starters (mozzarella campagnola, fritto misto) still

shine, and pastas can be excellent. Osso buco with marrow is best entrée. Try the lemon torte, leave the cannoli. Expensive on up.

Roy's Marriott Hotel, 333 W. Harbor Dr., Downtown, 619-239-7697. Also 8670 Genesee Ave., La Jolla, 858-455-1616. Our outpost of top Hawaiian chef Roy Yamaguchi's ever-expanding chain, serving Pacific Rim fusion and sushi on a daily changing, seafood-oriented menu. End with the signature chocolate soufflé. Very expensive.

Royal India 329 Market St., Downtown, 619-269-9999. Standard North Indian Sikh menu. The lunch buffet costs a bit more than rock bottom, but is a decent deal if you care about flavor — none of the dishes have that sludgy sameness that mars cheaper buffets. Moderate to expensive.

Sadaf 828 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-338-0008. Also 613 Pearl St., La Jolla, 858-551-0643. Good Persian food, better at the more adult-oriented L.J. branch. Try skewers of chicken or ground filet mignon with rice or salad, or *albalou polo* (rice, dried cherries, and chicken). Inexpensive to moderate.

Suite & Tender Hotel Sè, 1047 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-515-3003. Celeb chef Christopher Lee officially presides — phoning it in from Manhattan. Cocktails are more creative than the corporate, Vegas-created "pick hits" menu. Fine raw bar and surf 'n' turf combos won't rock your world. Expensive.

Table 535 Fourth Ave., Downtown, 619-238-0048. Offshoot of popular Tijuana restaurant offers eclectic, Mexican-based global fusion including fine steaks, duck, seafood, in unexpected preparations — with glimpses of the owner's native Persia and Southeast Asia. Long menu is made for play, no boredom. Low-moderate to expensive.

Toscana Café and Wine Bar 238 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-231-5788. This clubby bistro/coffee/wine place offers reasonable breakfasts with organic coffees, lunch specials, and elegant happy-hour specials on bites, wines, upscale beers. Inexpensive to moderate.

Vela 1 Park Boulevard (at Harbor Drive), Downtown, 619-564-3333. "Farm to fork" local-grown dinners include surprise international luxury ingredients, and first week of the month offers a bargain prix fixe exploring a national cuisine. Vibrant starters and lush desserts could make a great grazing meal with a view. Expensive, but not very.

The Westgate Room Westgate Hotel, 1055 Second Ave., Downtown, 619-238-1818. New, less-formal dining room brings air and modernity to a formerly stuffy venue. Skip the old menu classics; French chef Fabrice Harel uses modern techniques to create thrilling, fresh seafood dishes with pleasure-value well beyond their price. Upper-moderate to very expensive.

East Village

La Casita 1247 C St., East Village, 619-531-0044. Some of the best *chorizo con huevos* (spicy pork sausage with eggs) in town. Most delicious is watching Anglo city-hallers trying to love the house-made *menudo* (tripe soup). Inexpensive.

J. Wok 744 Market St., East Village, 619-231-1088. Brave attempt to fuse Asian and American foods. Eat on the sidewalk or inside under *The Tiger* (a great mural by local artist Mark Richmond). Try the "Modern Mix" side of the menu — with, say Korean BBQ getting the Philly treatment — or the "Traditional" side, with standards like

pad thai. Open daily, lunch till late. Inexpensive.

Lotus Thai 906 Market St., East Village, 619-595-0115. Also 3761 Sixth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-8272. The chefs are from northwest Thailand, and something in their cooking hints of their region — a zestiness, a love of strong citrus and herbs — evokes the Ping River and the hills of Chiang Mai. Low-moderate.

Neighborhood 777 G St., East Village, 619-446-0002. This mainly male-patronized, ractety gastro-pub's menu centers on fine half-pound burgers, plus steak tartare, sweet potato fries with bleu cheese curls, creative deviled eggs, mac 'n' cheese, and big, interesting salads. Inexpensive to very low-moderate.

Pokéz Mexican Restaurant and Vegetarian Cuisine 947 E St., East Village, 619-702-7160. Hipster atmosphere and mainly Mexican vegetarian fare (with some carnivore dishes like steak ranchero or sautéed chicken fajitas). Inexpensive.

Zanzibar Café 707 G St., East Village, 619-230-0125. Also 976 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-272-4762. Casual food until 11pm or later. The three-egg breakfast scramble is great. So are the avocado fontina cheese omelet and eggs Benedict with non-Canadian bacon, and the indulgent blueberry buttermilk pancakes. Inexpensive.

El Cajon

Ali Baba Restaurant 421 E. Main St., El Cajon, 619-442-3622. Chaldean specialties served until midnight, in a "sheik's oasis" atmosphere, offering airy house-baked bread, kebabs, lamb shanks, yummy "potato pie," and a "Feast for Three" that will feed five. Inexpensive to moderate.

Hacienda Casa Blanca 700 N. Johnson Ave., El Cajon, 619-442-9827. Old California-style family-friendly Mexican atmosphere and food, including lively *camarones al tequila* and *enchiladas suizas* in tangy green sauce. Brunch and all-day buffet Sundays. Inexpensive to low-moderate.

Hammurabi Family Restaurant 401 W. Main St., El Cajon, 619-401-3200. This Chaldean eatery in Iraq-rich El Cajon offers exotica like stuffed honeycombs and intestines, along with comforting kebabs, marinated lamb shank, crushed wheat pie stuffed with beef, and baklava. Inexpensive to expensive.

Jasmine Bistro 315 Parkway Plaza, El Cajon, 619-588-8228. By day, the fare centers on fresh Chinese dim sum (finger food) offered by cart and by menu. At night, multiethnic chefs step in to cook up a pan-Asian panoply. Mainly moderate (except for some special entrées).

Encinitas

Bubby's Gelato 937 S. Coast Hwy. 101, Encinitas, 760-436-3563. Sandwiches include intriguing Mediterranean combinations. Gelati are twice as rich as Häagen-Dazs and feature bold flavors, e.g., vanilla rosewater and chocolate cinnamon. Inexpensive.

Kim's Restaurant 745 First St., Encinitas, 760-942-4816. Both Vietnamese and Chinese dishes are offered in a calm atmosphere with quick, pleasant service. Huge menu highlighted by Vietnamese house specialties and seafood also includes a whopping 45 vegetarian/vegan dishes. Moderate.

Potato Shack Café 120 W. I St., Encinitas, 760-436-1282. You'll find generosity here, of the North County-



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Great Cuisine

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hang-loose-surfer kind. You can split a plate for no charge, get bottomless coffees, endless fries (French or "American cottage fries"), "manhole-cover size" pancakes (weighing as much as their name implies), good pork chop breakfasts, great lunch burgers, and huge trees to sit under.

Roxy Natural Foods Restaurant 517 N. Coast Hwy. 101, Encinitas, 760-436-5001. The focus is vegan and vegetarian, but they've added fish and a garlicky chicken pizza. Most popular item: falafel burger (made of garbanzo beans) on a bun with melted cheese. Inexpensive.

Swami's Café 1163 S. Coast Hwy. 101, Encinitas, 760-944-0612. There are standard dishes, like eggs Benedict or black-bean burrito, but the emphasis is health. Try the protein veggie wrap, with avocado, feta cheese, tofu, and mole, or the Indian curry with tofu. Inexpensive.

Escondido

Golden Egg Omelet House 316 W. Mission Ave., Escondido, 760-489-6420. Omelets are light, thin crepe-like eggs wrapped around mounds of elaborate fillings. Thick waffles can be topped with fresh fruit. And then there are eggs, hash, crepes, potato casseroles, humongous burgers, and sandwiches. Inexpensive.

Hernandez' Hide-Away 19320 Lake Dr., Escondido, 760-746-1444. The margaritas (rocks, not slush-ee) are terrific, on a par with Baja's best. The food is a standard menu of Cal-Mex specialties. A pleasant "enchilada pie" is as good as any Midwestern mom's. Inexpensive to moderate.

Golden Hill

Pizzeria Luigi 1137 25th St., Golden Hill, 619-233-3309. Also 2121 El Cajon Blvd., North Park, 619-294-9417. Real New York pizza, with just-right sauce and crusts thin enough to fold in a V and eat on the run. Better yet: get a whole pie to enjoy at leisure. Neighborhood delivery available. Inexpensive.

Hillcrest

Aladdin's Mediterranean Restaurant 1220 Cleveland Ave., Hillcrest, 619-574-1111. Also 5420 Clairemont Mesa Bl., Clairemont, 858-573-0000. Middle-Eastern favorites (hummus, tabbouleh, kebabs, *shawerma*, etc.). Hillcrest branch offers more authentic Lebanese flavors. Inexpensive to moderate.

Café on Park 3831 Park Bl., Hillcrest, 619-293-7275. The place looks trendy, but don't expect PC food. Plates overflow with hearty American fodder. Breakfast especially popular, with huge elaborate scrambles and the prize plate of '49er miners who struck gold: the Hangtown Fry, marinated oysters in scrambled eggs. Moderate.

Crest Café 425 Robinson Ave., Hillcrest, 619-295-2910. "Hearty Homemade Comfort Food" is both the boast and the cuisine, including Sloppy Joes, honey-glazed pork chops, steamed veggie basket, and 11 types of burger (including salmon). Open early to midnight, daily. Inexpensive.

Hong Kong Restaurant 3871 Fourth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-291-9449. Quick service until 2:30am from a huge menu of vaguely Szechuan-Mandarin fare. Consider fried pork-

filled wontons on raw cabbage, curry-tinged Singapore-style rice noodles, shrimp with lobster sauce, scallion ginger chicken. Inexpensive.

Kazumi Sushi 3975 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-682-4054. Kazumi's simple but imaginative rolls are distinctively seasoned to flatter the particular fish's flavor. For families, the Ultimate Boat is a huge, encyclopedic platter of sushi, *gyoza*, assorted appetizers, yakitori, teriyaki, and terrific tempura. Inexpensive to moderate.

Kous Kous Moroccan Bistro 3940 Fourth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-295-5560. Witty staffers treat you like dinner guests. Start with chicken or shrimp *b'stila* in cinnamon-dusted phyllo. Lamb Tagine with honey, nuts, and fruit and Chicken Tagine with olives and lemon are standouts. Moderate.

Ortega's Bistro 141 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-692-4200. You'll find Baja-style cuisine featuring seafood and grilled foods, with a focus on lobster. Unlike the Baja Ortega's, the lobster isn't deep-fried before grilling. Fun margarita variations. Mainly moderate (lobsters and Kobe skirt steak expensive).

The Tractor Room 3687 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-543-1007. Menu highlights include identical stews of wild boar and buffalo, grilled salmon, and Prime-grade bone-in rib eye, plus good sides of acorn squash and heavy-cream mashed potatoes and gravy. Moderate to very expensive.

Whole Foods Market 711 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-294-2800. Also 8825 Villa La Jolla Dr., La Jolla, 858-642-6700. Gourmet organic grocery eat-in/take-out selections offer healthy plates like Emerald Mushrooms salad and couscous studded with almonds, raisins, scrambled egg, and veggies. Inexpensive to moderate.

Imperial Beach

Giant Pizza King 600 Palm Ave., Imperial Beach, 619-423-7601. If pizza size matters to you, try on these nine-inch-wide, foot-long, loaded pizza slices. The fish 'n' chips dish is generous, they make a large lasagna with garlic bread and salad, and the half-pound shrimp combo is a good value. Inexpensive.

M2M Seacoast Bistro 875 Seacoast Dr., Imperial Beach, 619-424-5800. Serious gastronomy, low price. Weekend breakfasts tend to be simple but sophisticated, like frittata with Polish sausage, prime rib steak and eggs, or scrambled eggs with smoked salmon. Creative dinner fare varies nightly. Inexpensive to moderate.

Julian

Jeremy's on the Hill 4354 Highway 78, Julian, 760-765-1587. What a surprise — out here, an ambitious, sophisticated, but well-priced, chef-owned, California-fusion eatery, with dishes like brie and mango quesadilla, mushroom burgers, and bison steaks. Inexpensive to moderate.

Kearny Mesa

94th Aero Squadron 8885 Balboa Ave., Kearny Mesa, 858-560-6771. Built to mimic a WWI French farmhouse taken over by Yankee flying aces, offering classic American fare and mighty cocktails. Moderate.

Nijiya Market 3860 Convoy St., Kearny Mesa, 858-268-3821. Pass by Nijiya's steam trays and heat lamps

and go straight to the coolers, where you'll find delicious Japanese chicken cutlets, fresh sushi, and chilled noodles, as well as dessert delicacies like a sweet-bread roll filled with sweet bean paste. Inexpensive.

Phung Trang Vietnamese Seafood Restaurant 4170 Convoy St., Kearny Mesa, 858-565-6750. Vietnamese "people's food" emphasizing noodle soups, but there are more elegant house specialties, including the "Special Sauce" Dungeness crab from the live tank. Inexpensive to moderate.

Seoul B.B.Q. 4344 Convoy St., Kearny Mesa, 858-505-8700. Try the Korean BBQ marinated short ribs or thick marbled slices of sirloin, which come with a bevy of small accompaniment dishes. Adventurous? Go for the goat meat hot pot or Korean steak tartare (*yukhoe*). Moderate.

Shanghai City Restaurant 3860 Convoy St., Kearny Mesa, 858-278-5883. Local Chinese come here for Shanghai seafood dishes or clay hot pots filled with eel and chestnuts or steamed rockfish on a big oval platter. Open to midnight. Inexpensive to moderate.

Spice House Café 9035 Clairemont Mesa Bl., Kearny Mesa, 858-565-1028. Greek-American cuisine, mainly. We don't know if it's the Ortega chiles or Jack cheese or tangy tomato sauce, but some guys find relief with the Hangover Omelet. Other choices: Portuguese sausage with three eggs and the Italian sausage frittata. Inexpensive.

La Jolla

Adobe el Restaurante 9700 N. Torrey Pines Rd., La Jolla, 858-550-1000. California-Mediterranean cre-

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ative seasonal dishes with local produce and something for every taste. Moderately expensive.

Bull and Bear Bar and Grill 1271 Prospect St., La Jolla, 858-551-0077. Bond-trader atmosphere, prole prices. Best bang for the buck: the Hot Stock Burger, a half-pound patty with a split Louisiana sausage on top. Inexpensive.

Cliff Hanger Café 2800 Torrey Pines Scenic Dr., La Jolla, 858-452-9858. Spectacular ocean view. Try the Launch (a breakfast burrito with scrambled eggs, bacon, cheese, onions, bell peppers, and salsa). Also great and grilled right there are generous half-pound hamburgers. Inexpensive.

La Jolla Rancherita 7404 La Jolla Bl., La Jolla, 858-459-5877. When local spiny lobsters are in season (typically from late October to about February), here's one place that does them right. The juicy critters come with two melted-butter dips, tart coleslaw, and comforting mashed potatoes. Moderate.

Marrakesh 634 Pearl St., La Jolla, 858-454-2500. A dramatic Moroccan restaurant with tented ceilings and low-banquette "sheik" seating offers five-course prix fixe dinners with superb lentil soup, salad, chicken-filled phyllo

Join us for New Year's Day!

New! Top Sirloin Steak (evenings only) & Teppanyaki Grill!

Voted one of San Diego's Best Japanese/Sushi Restaurants for the past 10 years! —Union-Tribune Readers' Poll

10% off* the world's largest Japanese seafood buffet

Seniors (over 65) **20% off** (Dinner only)
Children (5 feet and under) **50% off** or more from adult price

45 kinds of sushi | 20 selections of salad | sashimi | fresh salmon
 18 different hot food entrées including beef, chicken and pork
 shrimp tempura | green lip mussels | Japanese noodle soup
 fresh seasonal fruit | 20 delicious French-style desserts
 and much, much more!

Evening menu selections also include: Maine lobster, jumbo shrimp, crab legs and oysters

Lunch	Dinner
Mon.-Fri. 11:30 am-2:30 pm	Mon.-Fri. 5:30-9 pm
Sat. 11:30 am-2:30 pm	Sat. 5-9 pm
Sun. 11:30 am-3 pm	Sun. 5:30-9 pm

Party platters and catering now available.

*Valid only Mon. through Thurs. with ad. Not valid on holidays or with any other offers.

Expires 1/7/10.



2828 Camino del Rio So.
 (off Fwy 8 @ Texas St.,
 left on Camino del Rio S.,
 under the 805 overpass)
619-299-8996

todaisandiego.com

New Year's Eve Extravaganza

Tapas Bar
 2 seatings: 6:30 pm & 8:30 pm

Main Dining Room Dinner Shows
 3 seatings: 4:30 pm, 7 pm & 9:30 pm

Club Sevilla Dinner Show
 6:30 pm show & dance party
 Call for info & reservations

Flamenco Dinner Shows
Fridays & Saturdays

Tapas Bar. Restaurant
Late-night dining

Sevilla
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 (619) 233-5979 · cafesevilla.com

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 —Rachael Ray's Tasty Travels

SAN DIEGO • RIVERSIDE • LONG BEACH

Calendar RESTAURANTS

pie, entrée, and orange-flower perfumed almond baklava. Best entrées: lamb with honey (when available), chicken with olives, duck. Moderate.

Roppongi 875 Prospect St., La Jolla, 858-551-5252. Gorgeous interior, large, heated street patio, Euro-Asian fusion menu with tapas and sushi as well as entrées. The treats of any size add up to expensive.

The Shores Restaurant 8110 Camino del Oro, La Jolla, 858-456-0600. The hotel restaurant with close-up sea views serves "Neighborhood American Cuisine" with a fun wine list. Moderate to high, with weeknight inexpensive happy-hours bites 4 to 6pm

Sky Room La Valencia Hotel, 1132 Prospect St., La Jolla, 858-551-3744. After renovation in 2007, Sky Room is now modern, sleek, and quietly chic, with a simplified menu of California cuisine and slightly lower (still steep) prices. The romantic, panoramic view remains, of course. Expensive.

La Taverna 927 Silverado St., La Jolla, 858-454-0100. Italian home-style, including chef-owner Mary Ann Vitale's house-made Sicilian-style fennel sausage. If the feather-light potato gnocchi is on special, just say "yes." Moderate.

Truluck's The Aventine, 8990 University Center Lane, La Jolla, 858-453-2583. Florida-based surf 'n' turf chain offers irony-free retro '50s décor and dinners featuring crustaceans (including seasonal stone crabs), other seafood, and natural meats — all carefully cooked, but the meals are piled high with starches. Towering sweet desserts, fun wines. Moderate to very expensive.

La Mesa

Himalayan Cuisine 7918 El Cajon Bl., La Mesa, 619-461-2503. Nepalese-Indian-Tibetan food, ranging from high-country exotica to steam-table buffet clichés — but subtly different from standard Punjabi renditions. Worth the detour: Tibetan momos (steamed dumplings) resembling fine dim sum, stuffed with beautifully seasoned lean lamb or gentle greens. Also: Nepalese samosas. Inexpensive.

Jitters Coffee 8201 La Mesa Bl., La Mesa, 619-460-4800. This small corner café is a local morning favorite. Flyin' Hawaiian waffle has macadamias, chocolate, banana syrup, whipped cream, but "plain" standards like the breakfast burrito are plain good. Lunches offer homemade soups, sandwiches, and salads. Inexpensive.

Lemon Grove

Charley's Famous Hamburgers 8213 Broadway, Lemon Grove, 619-460-2690. An old red-and-white gas station that looks like a café. The palm and ficus trees have replaced the gas pumps. The menu is a long list of hamburgers, hot dogs, sandwiches, and kebabs. Inexpensive.

Leucadia

La Especial Norte 604 N. Coast Hwy. 101, Leucadia, 760-942-1040. It's famed for superb soups — the Mexico City-style chicken soup is laden with avocados, chicken shreds, cilantro, and rice, and the eggplant soup includes airy little croutons of puffed *relleno* batter. Inexpensive.

A Little Moore Coffee Shop 1030 N. Coast Highway 101, Leucadia, 760-753-8228. Standard but generous breakfast and lunch fare in an old-time atmosphere has kept the place humming since the 1950s. Specials named after local characters. Inexpensive.

Lincoln Park

Magnolias 342 Euclid Ave., Lincoln Park, 619-262-6005. Soul food from Louisiana: the fried chicken is beyond compare, the jambalaya well-nigh perfect, and the BBQ shrimp, crawfish bisque, and étouffée are splendid. Great side dishes include candied sweet potatoes and cornbread dressing. Low-moderate.

Little Italy

Pappalecco 1602 State St., Little Italy, 619-238-4590. Copy of a café in Pisa that three brothers created there, and now here. Meals are mostly salad-charcuterie-cheese combos. One delicious combo: the Rustico, varied Italian cold cuts with pungent goat cheese and bread. Inexpensive to moderate.

Vincenzo Ristorante Italiano 1702 India St., Little Italy, 619-702-6181. The specialty at this tourist favorite is Sicilian seafood. Succulent veal is expertly grilled, and the Italian sausages (from Pete's Meats, up the block) are zesty. Moderate.

Logan Heights

La Fachada 20 25th St., Logan Heights, 619-236-8566. Open until 3am (and 24 hours on weekends), this restaurant serves both Mexican and

Anglo food. Good Western omelet breakfast, great Mexican seafood soups, and fun outdoor eating evenings until 11 pm. Inexpensive.

Patty's Fruitland 1789 National Ave., Logan Heights, 619-239-3085. The specialty is fruits — in drinks, salads, and combos like *pico de gallo* (rooster's beak) with fresh-sliced fruit and raw veggies (jicama, cucumber dusted with cayenne). Also meat sandwiches, shrimp tostadas, hot dogs. Inexpensive.

Midway District

Bull's BBQ 1129 W. Morena Bl., Midway District, 619-276-2855. Genuine BBQ, tender meats, and poultry dry-rubbed with spices, smoked over mesquite-applewood chips, lightly sauced. (Order at the counter.) Masterpiece dish: dark, spicy, file gumbo, served with a spectacularly moist jalapeño-spiked corn muffin. Patio seating. Moderate.

Mira Mesa

Ashoka the Great 9474 Black Mountain Rd., Mira Mesa, 858-695-9749. Classic North Indian menu specializing in tandoori dishes. Numerous vegan and vegetarian choices, too. Buffet lunch daily and some dinners. Inexpensive.

Gateway to India 9520 Black Mountain Rd., Mira Mesa, 858-566-5522. Friday or Saturday, it's crowded with Indian families coming for the all-you-can-eat buffet of Punjabi and Gujarati specialties, including aloo curry, *chhole* (garbanzo beans), *ben-gan bartha* (eggplant), and sensational Asian-mango desserts. Inexpensive.

Mission Beach

The Mission Café and Coffee House 3795 Mission Bl., Mission Beach, 858-488-9060. Eco-conscious breakfasts and lunches. Outstanding are cinnamon French toast, blackberry-banana pancakes, and roast beef hash with rosemary potatoes and eggs. Chino-Latino lunch items. Inexpensive.

Mission Hills

Gathering Bar and Grill 902 W. Washington St., Mission Hills, 619-260-0400. Familiar comfort fare, like the Southwest burger (avocado, Jack cheese, and salsa) or the Monte Cristo sandwich. Owner does magic card tricks around 6pm some evenings. Inexpensive.

El Indio Mexican Restaurant 3695 India St., Mission Hills, 619-299-0333. The deep-fried taquitos are their top-selling item. But try Burrito Indio, a wheat tortilla stuffed with marinated zucchini, corn, beans, onions, cheese, and tomato, and the potato burrito, another good vegetarian choice. Inexpensive.

Mission Valley

24-Hour Valley Kitchen Family Restaurant 875 Hotel Circle South, Mission Valley, 619-819-1017. Hot French dip is great and burgers are generous. Better yet, breakfast around the clock. Inexpensive to moderate.

Uno Chicago Bar and Grill 7007 Friars Rd., Mission Valley, 619-298-1866. Also Escondido, Pacific Beach,

Fashion Valley, Chula Vista. Deep-dish pizzas have become one of Chicago's better-known exports. Now Uno does serious steak too, with Angus top sirloins. Inexpensive to moderate.

National City

The Barbecue Pit 920 E. Plaza Bl., National City, 619-477-2244. Rustic timber, knotty pine, animal heads on the walls, and meats cooked true Southern BBQ style, over oak. Inexpensive.

China Super Buffet 3007 Highland Ave., National City, 619-336-9989. This buffet promises "over 100 items daily." Many are very good — marinated baby octopuses, mussels topped with melted cheese, roast beef au jus. Plus groaning salad bars, adequate sushi. Inexpensive.

North Park

Chicken Pie Shop of San Diego 2633 El Cajon Bl., North Park, 619-295-0156. Now, as in the '30s, chicken pie comes with chicken meat, doused with white gravy and accompanied by mashed potatoes, veggies, coleslaw, a roll, and dessert. Inexpensive.

Sea Rocket Bistro 3382 30th St., North Park, 619-255-7049. It's easy being green with a menu of sustainable, mainly local seafood and produce. Sea urchin bisque and grilled fresh sardines are top picks, along with plump, seared Baja scallops, and any dish with Carlsbad mussels. Noisy room. Moderate.

Urban Solace 3823 30th St., North Park, 619-295-6464. American comfort food with a faint Southern accent, including, sweet potato fries, a big



\$5 off
your purchase of \$25.00 or more!
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Must bring original coupon.

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Cannot be combined with any other offer.

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THE OMELETTE FACTORY
The Omelette Factory



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One coupon per table.

6390 El Cajon Blvd.
College Area
619-287-6858

3750 John J. Montgomery Dr.
San Diego
858-292-4716

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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

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Yogurt Heaven



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.
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858-792-1111

423 F St.
Downtown/Gaslamp
619-234-8000

Expires 1.7.10 • 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

Expires 1.7.10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

Jade Thai Cuisine
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 1.7.10 • 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

Expires 1.7.10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

PIZZA DEPOT



Buy one frozen yogurt, get one free
Not valid with any other offer.

1231 Camino Del Mar
Del Mar
858-720-1168

Expires 1.7.10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

Seaside Yogurt



\$1 off buffet
Limit one per customer.

9254 Scranton Rd., Ste. 102
San Diego
858-458-2858

Expires 1.7.10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

Sher Punjab Indian Cuisine
Sher Punjab Indian Cuisine



Free order of garlic knots
With purchase of slice special.
Must present coupon.

See website for locations:
www.flippinpizza.com

Expires 1.7.10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

Flippin' Pizza
1.23.10 TO 1.31.10



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

Expires 1.7.10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

The Bullpen Bar & Grill

burger made of Brandt Natural Beef "cooked your way" (and rare is reasonably safe). Great "bluegrass brunches" with live music. Moderate.

Zensei Sushi 3396 30th St., North Park, 619-546-6171. The sushi is well made and based on seafood from the same fishmonger used by Ota and Nobu. The party rolls (like Stuffed Tomato or Honeymooners) may not be original, but they're delicious fun. Moderate.

Ocean Beach

Roots 4976 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach, 619-222-9000. Tiny vegan-organic eatery offers crunchy wraps like the Thai Peanut and the Arti (artichoke hearts, feta cheese). Interesting sandwiches include portobello mushroom with tomato and provolone on ciabatta or the Avo (avocado, onion, and tomato). Inexpensive to moderate.

Sapporo Japanese Restaurant 5049 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach, 619-222-6686. Lunchtime specials give you a miso soup, salad, and a combo like chicken teriyaki and California rolls and white rice. Other specials include *yaki soba*, *champon* noodle soup, and the chicken bowl. Inexpensive.

Oceanside

Azafran 1001 S. Coast Hwy. 101, Oceanside, 760-435-0005. Cuban cuisine. Try the house-baked breads, the tender roast pork with garlicky *mojo* sauce, or the traditional Cuban pressed sandwich oozing ham, roast pork, cheese, mustard, pickles. Inexpensive.

Hill Street Cafe & Gallery 524 S. Coast Hwy. 101, Oceanside, 760-966-0985. Organic in O'side, including Cajun chicken for lunch and breakfasts of tofu/spinach scramble and *pan perdu* (to us peasants that's French toast) with fresh fruit and syrups. Inexpensive.

Old Town



2304 San Diego Ave. • Old Town
(619) 220-0692 • www.elagave.com

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.

Berta's Latin American Restaurant 3928 Twigg St., Old Town, 619-295-2343. The culinary pick hits of all the Americas including superb Chilean empanadas and *pastel de choclo* corn pudding, Peru's herbal *seco de cordero* meat stew, earthy Guatemalan *chilemal*. 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



Serving great burgers for 32 years!
3785 Ingraham St.
858-273-9140

The French Gourmet 960 Turquoise St., Pacific Beach, 858-488-1725. Classic French dishes — *pâté*, *ratatouille*, *calf's liver* — in a homey atmosphere. Start off with escargots or mussels and hope that the soup du jour is gingered cream of carrot. Fine dessert pastries and cheese plate. Moderate to expensive.

Great Moon Buffet 1840 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-273-6868. Classy Chinese all-you-can-eatarama offers great surf 'n' turf possibilities, like prime rib and jumbo shrimp or crab and roast duck. Or choose mayonnaise mussels or caramel-y Japanese charcoal-grilled eel (*unagi*) on rice. Inexpensive.

Kono's 704 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-483-1669. Chow down on a patio on the pier at this inside-outside café, the prototypical California surfer hangout. Tourists and locals alike flock here for generous breakfasts and burgers. Inexpensive.

World Famous 711 Pacific Beach Dr., Pacific Beach, 858-272-3100. Right on the boardwalk with sea view, the prime rib, surf 'n' turf, and tourne-

dos are fine. To beat the big prices, try the beach burger or seared ahi Caesar salad. Breakfast and lunch inexpensive; dinners moderate to expensive.

Zanzibar Café 976 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-272-4762. Also 707 G St., Downtown, 619-230-0125. Casual food until 11pm or later. The three-egg breakfast scramble is great. So are the avocado fontina cheese omelet and eggs Benedict with non-Canadian bacon, and the indulgent blueberry buttermilk pancakes. Inexpensive.

Point Loma

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 bistro salad with pancetta and egg or flawless duck confit that's France's answer to Peking duck. Expensive.

Tender Greens 2400 Historic Datur 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.

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

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.

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

Mille Fleurs 6009 Paseo Delicias, Rancho Santa Fe, 858-756-3085. The daily changing menu sports first-rate modern French/Euro cuisine by chef Martin Woesle. The menu's often most exciting on weeknights, when chefs have time to stretch, but more luxurious dishes appear on weekends. New "bistro menu" of casual French cuisine and weeknight three-course prix fixe offer some affordable choices. Otherwise expensive.

Santee

The Omelette Factory 7941 Mission Gorge Rd., Santee, 619-596-9686. You can't beat their omelets, all 19 of them, from the Just Say Cheese (with Swiss, Jack, cheddar, or American) to the Factory Omelette (a build-your-

own: up to four meats, veggies, or cheeses). Inexpensive.

Scripps Ranch


Chez Nous Gourmet Deli-Café 9821 Carroll Canyon Rd., Scripps Ranch, 858-566-4766. Their roast beef with ginger-garlic and Dijon sandwich, their spicy chicken melt, or the leg of lamb they roast each day to make a juicy lamb sandwich — all original. Inexpensive.

Solana Beach

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*

Free Lunch in East Village!

Buy one menu item and two drinks and receive second item of equal or lesser value free with ad. Expires 2/8/10.



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One coupon per customer.
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50% off pizza
Buy one pizza and get a second pizza for 50% off.

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866-264-0533

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Extreme Pizza



50% off frozen yogurt
Buy one frozen yogurt and get one of equal or lesser value 50% off. Toppings not included. No stamp cards.

5131 College Ave.
College Area
619-286-4200

5664 Mission Center Rd.
Mission Valley
619-295-9648

Expires 1.7.10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR



Himalayas Yogurt



Free entrée
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.

3492 Adams Ave.
San Diego
619-283-3153

Expires 1.7.10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR



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7947 Balboa Avenue
San Diego
858-565-4244

Expires 1.7.10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR



Honey's Cafe



Free entrée
With the purchase of one at regular menu price. Up to \$9.99 value. One coupon per table, per visit. Dine-in only. Not combined with any other offers or discounts. Alcohol and tax not included.

3186 Vista Way
Oceanside
760-433-4668

Expires 1.7.10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR



Hooters
of Oceanside



One free lunch
with purchase of another lunch item and two drinks.

1688 S. Melrose Dr.
Vista
760-727-2212

Expires 1.7.10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR



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

Expires 1.7.10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR



Cafe La Maze



Free entrée
With the purchase of an entrée of equal or greater value and two beverages.

391 N. Escondido Blvd.
Escondido
866-545-3736

Expires 1.7.10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR



Dominic's
ITALIAN STEAKHOUSE
Pasta • Pizza • Sandwiches



50% off any menu item
With purchase of an entrée and two beverages. Good for both dine-in and take-out. Excludes seafood, BBQ & specialties. Not valid with any other offer. One coupon per customer.

12378 Poway Road, Ste. C
Poway
858-679-7073

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Bua Thai
Authentic Thai Cuisine



\$5 off
Any purchase of \$20 or more. Excludes beverages.

9978 Scripps Ranch Blvd.
Scripps Ranch
858-695-8088

Expires 1.7.10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR

WATAMI SUSHI



50% off frozen yogurt
Buy one, get the second of equal or lesser value at 50% off.

16588 Bernardo Ctr. Dr., Ste. 130
Rancho Bernardo
858-673-4204

Expires 1.7.10 • Coupon code: G1FSDR



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Spicy Tuna \$2.49 Seaweed Salad \$1.99
Shrimp Tempura \$2.49 Industry Happy Hour
Spicy Scallop \$2.99 Daily 9pm-close

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Regular price \$19.95 Mon.-Thurs. 5-9 pm & Fri.-Sun. including holidays. Seniors \$17.95, Kids 6-9 yrs. \$9.95

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4690 Convoy Street #104
San Diego, CA 92111
858-292-4670 Open 11:30 am to 11 pm

All major sporting & pay-per-view events! Draft beer!
Go to JeongWonKoreanBBQ.com

(egg custard) soup. Mostly moderate; some delicacies expensive.

Pamplemousse Grille 514 Via de la Valle, Solana Beach, 858-792-9090. Favorites from an often-changing menu include white fish served any style, mushroom cappuccino soup, and tarte tatin. Dinners 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.

OPEN 7 am-9 pm 11 am-9 pm LUNCH/DINNER

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BREAKFAST ALL DAY
Pies • Ice Cream • Beer • Wine

3 EGGS
3 PANCAKES \$5.49
3 BACON OR SAUSAGE

\$2.00* OFF
Any Menu Entrée
*Valid on any entrée \$6 or more, limit 4 people, excludes holidays, dine-in only. Expires 1/14/10.

South Park

Vagabond 2310 30th St., South Park, 619-255-1035. Eclectic bistro fare, French-based but with ever-changing global menu. Don't miss the *moules-frites* or the deep-flavored Peruvian *seco de carne* meat stew. Noisy when full. Moderate.

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Elaine's Coffee Shoppe 1212 S. 43rd St., Southcrest, 619-264-6525. A bright, '70s-style breakfast-all-day spot where long-time owner Su Cha Yang also caters to vegetarian, Muslim, and Korean customers. Try the ham, bacon, mushroom "hunter" omelet, or fill up on the pork chop plate. Inexpensive.

University City

Café Japengo 8960 University Center Lane, University City, 858-450-3355. Chic scene where men with Bentleys and glam gals nibble above-average sushi and Asian fusion, especially on jam-packed Thursday nights. Best bet: graze on appetizers and creative party rolls. No reservations for sushi bar, so come early. Very expensive.

University Heights

Brians' American Eatery 1451 Washington St., University Heights, 619-296-8268. Open all night on weekends, and late night is a scene. But for many, breakfast is the thing: Charbroiled top sirloin with eggs and potatoes is a Saturday morning treat. Inexpensive.

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SAN DIEGO
Reader

Standouts

“I hereby dub thee broken-through.”

Greatest achievement of 2009: though double-teamed by a rotten economy and the swine flu scare, our theaters survived, though many by the slimmest of margins.

Many of 2009's finest productions were ensemble efforts: each actor an individual and part of a larger whole, with no weak links. Remove just one actor, and the show would be less effective.

At the beginning of Cygnet's *Noises Off*, a mute starter's gun went off, and the top-notch cast sprinted through Michael Frayn's backstage farce about a British touring company. Sean Fanning's two-level set complicated matters: the cast ran horizontally and vertically, up and down steep stairs for three acts, easily earning them the Aerobic Ensemble of the Year Award.

The Dresser at the North Coast Rep boasted standout performances by Jonathan McMurtry as the aging thespian “Sir” and Sean Sullivan as the officious title character who had served him, unappreciated, for 16 years. Their tandem work was special, but so was the supporting cast. Ditto the Old Globe's *Twelfth Night*. Director Paul Mullins's 21 actors (wearing Linda Cho's splendid costumes) created an entire landscape: the Italian Riviera of the 1950s. It's almost unfair to single someone out in such a fine collective effort, but Patrick Page's cross-gartered Malvolio and especially James Newcomb's sad, sage Feste were outstanding. Feste was so stripped of illusions, in another lifetime he could have been Qoheleth, author of Ecclesiastes.

The Old Globe's *Opus*, an ensemble show about a musical ensemble, boasted the year's finest technical achievement. As the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre (2009's best architectural achievement!) was under construction, the Globe staged shows at the San Diego Museum of Art's Copley Auditorium. Sound designer Lindsay Jones had to replicate a live string quartet in a

large room with, at best, only passable acoustics.

When the violinists and cellist played, Jones had the music emerge *from* the instruments. Even though the actors made no attempt at the fingerings for Beethoven's Opus 131, after a while you'd bet the ranch that, somehow, the strings generated that music.

When tea boiled offstage, the steam hissed exactly from where it should. Jones also handled the basics with ease: on a makeshift stage, every word was crystal clear. Most amazing of all, this wasn't an egocentric, ain't-I-somethin' design. The sounds were just that; they supported the story.

Sometimes critics declare that an actor's made a major breakthrough (i.e., “I hereby dub thee broken-through”). More likely: the actor had the chops all along and finally got the chance to cut loose. Case in point: Karson St. John, a relative unknown, in Diversionary's *The Little Dog Laughed*. She played Diane, a tough-talking Hollywood agent/wannabe producer. Diane knows the ropes — at one point she says: “A writer with final cut? I'd rather give firearms to small children” — but can't tie all the knots. Easily the year's funniest performance.

Jennifer Brawn Gittings decked St. John out in sleek contemporary fashions. Gittings's and Jeanne Reith's cavalcade of 18th-century finery for Lamb's Players' *Joyful Noise* rank among the year's best costume designs.

Oscar Wilde said, “I am not young enough to know everything.” In the North Coast Rep's *Over the Tavern*, 12-year-old Ian Brininstool played Rudy, in whom a gap grew between competing views: the Baltimore catechism says one thing; the world, another. Brininstool performed with such assurance it was easy to believe not only his character but also Wilde's claim.

There were so many fine supporting efforts, a short list can't include them all. But here goes:

THEATER REVIEW

JEFF SMITH



Grant Goodman, Patrick Page in *Cyrano*



Sunny Smith, Dana Hooley in *Frozen*

Armin Shimmerman's blind, blazing Richard, in the San Diego Rep's *Seafarer*; Leigh Scarritt's whacked-out Mrs. Peachum in the Rep's fine *Threepenny Opera*; Deanna Driscoll's gabby policewoman in Moxie's *Butcher of Baraboo*; Alan Mandell's Professor Williams, gadfly extraordinaire, in the La Jolla Playhouse's otherwise unengaging *Restoration*.

The year's top dramatic performances suggested depths beneath the depths. In Ion's *Frozen*, Dana Hooley played Nancy Shirley. A serial killer (Matt Scott terrific as a fierce, then fragile maniac) raped and murdered Nancy's daughter. Though caught in the cycle of violence, Nancy moves from unconditional vengeance to understanding, even forgiveness — a seemingly impossible arc to complete. How Hooley did it, I still don't know; the performance was seamless.

Darko Tresnjak's such an inventive director he can turn the familiar into something new and vital. Last summer he staged Edmund Rostand's *Cyrano*, the warhorse swashbuckler that oozes with sentiment, and mined it for fresh insights and emotions. One of local theater's greatest losses in 2009: for reasons still obscure, Tresnjak left the Globe last fall — because he dared to venture beyond the safe?

Instead of making the long-nosed lead a romantic icon, Patrick Page infiltrated *Cyrano*'s bravado with the consequences of his choices. By playing the courtly (i.e., celibate) lover, *Cyrano* sealed himself away from life. And though he

could slash through half an army — and even does so at one point, making him the Rambo of the épée — Page's *Cyrano* was at once a hero and his own worst enemy, true to his word and paying for it in full.

Both the Old Globe and the La Jolla Playhouse had far more misses than hits this year. It's unfair to compare theaters to each other. But it's fair game to compare a theater to its own body of work. Both fell far short of their norms in 2009.

The year's biggest treat: the Ira Aldridge Players' *Looking for an Echo*. Director Calvin Manson staged a tribute to the doo-wop a cappella singers of the '50s and '60s. Instead of casting people who could imitate the style, Manson assembled nine San Diegans who have performed the music for decades and, their motto goes, “We still ain't got a band.”

You could tell something was up as they single-filed onstage: heads down in silence, like athletes entering an arena rather than entertainers smiling and goofing and trying to endear themselves. The songs — among them Sam Cooke's “Chain Gang” and Gene Chandler's immortal “Duke of Earl!” — blended soloists with tight four-part harmonies.

In no time, you knew everyone in the cast and looked forward to Roger Varmer's bottom-line bass, Aaron Holland and Roosevelt Carter's leads, and Gary Martin's renditions of the Drifters' great Ben E. King. *Echo* had an authenticity and a rare

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SAN DIEGO MAGAZINE



Katie Sigismund, Mark H. Dold in *Opus*

spirit and offered one of theater's greatest gifts: you went home wide awake.

For one night only, Manson's reprising the musical revue at the Lyceum Theatre on January 8. In belt-tightening times like these, we must narrow our wishes, yadda yadda. That said, I wish this group had a semiregular gig — at the Lyceum? — where they perform until the crowds stop coming. That could be some while. ■

THEATER LISTINGS

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

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 THURSDAY, 1:45PM AND 8PM SATURDAY, 1:45PM SUNDAY, THROUGH JANUARY 3.

Hansel and Gretel

Lyric Opera San Diego presents Engelbert Humperdink'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 abandon 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.

The Last Days of Judas Iscariot

Triad Productions presents Stephen Adly Guirgis's modern interpretation of Purgatory, where Judas Iscariot stands on trial for his "alleged betrayal of Jesus." Stephen Schmitz directed.
TENTH AVENUE THEATRE, 930 TENTH AVE., EAST VILLAGE. 619-237-4510. 8PM SATURDAYS, 3PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH JANUARY 31.

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 THURSDAY, 8PM FRIDAY, 8PM SATURDAY, 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. 1:30PM THURSDAY.

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CAREGIVERS- LIVE-INS, 2, 3, 4 or 5 days/week, \$120/day (including sleep and meal periods). Weekends and hourly. Top pay, flexible shifts 24/7, 401(k), production bonus, rewards for good work. Requires valid driver's license, vehicle/insurance, registration, one year of paid elder caregiving experience, eligibility to work in the United States. \$150 hiring bonus for employees accepting North County live-in assignments (after 90 days of employment). Free seminar at our San Diego office: "What It Takes To Be A Comfort Keeper," January 4, 2010, at 5pm. Space is limited, call for a reservation. Comfort Keepers, San Diego: 619-795-6036. San Marcos: 760-598-3400.

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experience non-medical home care for seniors. Valid California Driver's License. Serving Santee/La Mesa/Del Cerro/San Carlos. Visiting Angels, 619-749-7525.

JOB COACHES. Community-oriented Center for Independent Achievement is seeking dependable individuals in East County. 1:4 group ratio maximum. \$8.50-\$9.50/ hour. Annual raises. Bonuses for exceptional performance. Benefits with full-time. picareer@yahoo.com. Fax: 619-592-4878. 619-592-4850.

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AccentCare is a national leader in providing home health care services. We offer full-time, part-time, per diem 1:1 private duty shift care (including school cases out statewide), competitive pay and excellent support system. Join our team and make a difference! Requires: Valid LVN license, at least one year actual LVN work experience, current CPR card, valid CA driver's license, reliable auto with proof of insurance and registration. Call 800-590-0030, fax 800-607-3307, or e-mail aaasuncion@accentcare.com. www.accentcare.com. EOE.

NON-RN NURSING. Certified Nursing Assistants and Healthcare Assistants (C.N.A. and EKG Certification required). Palomar Pomerado Health is hiring.

Apply online from any computer at: www.pph.org or in person, Monday- Friday, 7:30am-4:30pm: Human Resources Administrative Offices for Palomar Pomerado Health, 456 East Grand Avenue, Escondido, 92025; Pomerado Hospital: Applications available via computer kiosk in main hospital lobby, 1817 Avenida del Diablo, Escondido, 92029. All PPH campuses are smoke-free.

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Nurses. AccentCare is a national leader in providing home health care services. We offer full-time, part-time, per diem 1:1 private duty shift care (including school cases countywide), competitive pay and excellent support system. Join our team and make a difference! Requires: Valid LVN license, at least one year actual LVN work experience, current CPR card, valid CA driver's license, reliable auto with

proof of insurance and registration. Call 800-590-0030, fax 800-607-3307, or e-mail aaasuncion@accentcare.com. www.accentcare.com. EOE.

SOCIAL SERVICES. Promising Futures, Inc., is hiring reliable, caring individuals to work with the developmentally disabled in East County and Ramona. Part- and full-time positions. \$8-\$10/ hour plus benefits. Overtime opportunities available. picareer@yahoo.com. Fax resume: 619-592-4878. Call 619-592-4850.

SOCIAL SERVICES. Need reliable, responsible person. Work with developmentally disabled in North San Diego. Part-time: \$8.50- \$10.50/ hour, experience based. Call 760-258-6643. Fax resume: 760-258-9347.

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I AM A VOLUNTEER DRIVER seeking individuals who need help with errands, shopping, appointments, etc. Mileage reimbursement only. 619-276-3728.

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JOB WANTED. Offering housekeeping, childcare, disabled care or personal assistance. Trustworthy. Dependable. References. East County. Call Ginger, 619-444-7679.

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DO YOU HAVE TYPE 2 DIABETES? We are looking for men and women between 18 and 70 years of age who have been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes. If you have been on a stable treatment regimen for at least 3 months, taking only metformin for your type 2 diabetes, you may qualify to participate in a clinical research study to test an investigational new drug. Qualified participants will receive at no cost: study-related physical exams, study medication, study-related laboratory tests, compensation for time and travel. For more information, contact Periman Clinic, 858-554-1212 or 858-554-0808. Or e-mail carolina@perimanclic.com.

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INSURANCE. Sports & Entertainment Life Insurance & Annuities Agents. Unlimited money/incentives. Award vacations. Life-licensed agents or registered representatives only apply. Brooks Financial & Entertainment Consultants, 619-575-0242.

MARKETING. Pacific Home Remodeling beautifies home exteriors and provides eco-friendly products throughout San Diego. December and January are big months for us—business is booming! So we're looking for new team members to market our products and services. Training provided. Outdoor, team environment. Friendly atmosphere. Weekly pay. Rates A+ by BBB. Our guys and gals average \$1000 per week, and some don't do less than \$1400. Call today to schedule an interview with Bert: 858-866-0183. www.pacifichomeremodeling.com.

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BASIC INSTRUCTIONS

by Scott Meyer ©2009

BASIC INSTRUCTIONS How to Advise a Friend Who's Considering Proposing Marriage by Scott MEYER

Proposing marriage is one of the most nerve-wracking things a man will ever do. Most men seek out advice first.

The person asking might want your ideas, but more often they will want your opinion of ideas they already have.

I heard about a guy who set up a scavenger hunt for his girlfriend, and the last item was the ring.

Is that romantic?

Oh yeah! Scavenger hunts are the most romantic of the elementary school group activities.

If they do present an idea, express your opinions honestly, and give thought-out reasons why you approve or disapprove.

Once they have settled on a plan, try to help them expand on it to make it more unique and personal.

The more I think about it, the more I like the scavenger hunt idea.

I'm glad you approve.

Why ask her if she's willing to marry you when you can make her prove she's worthy of you with a test of her intelligence!

You could write a romantic word search puzzle and give it to her.

A romantic word search?

Yeah, make it heart-shaped or something.

You're just messing with me, aren't you?

You could write "marry me" on a Rubik's Cube, then scramble it!

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pass you by! Apply today, start tomorrow! 3 locations. Kearny Mesa: Allen, 619-674-7558. Sorrento Valley: 800-854-2830 x232. Oceanside: Aaron, 619-600-9922.

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- have knowledge of San Diego area streets
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We offer a comprehensive benefits package including 401(k), medical, dental, life insurance and more.

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RED MEAT

haplessly hurled humor hunks

from the secret files of
Max Cannon

Your delivery vehicle is an embarrassment, Dan. It's covered in filth. That thing looks more like a garbage truck than a milk truck.

Good. And one more thing, Dan...

Lose the "milk is an abomination" bumper sticker. It sends out the wrong message.

Sorry. I'll go and get it cleaned right away, sir.

Yes, boss?

No offense, sir...but have you ever tasted the stuff? It's like an unholy hybrid of pus soup and wallpaper paste. Bleaagh.

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TOWING

SALES/ CUSTOMER SERVICE. Western Towing is seeking a self-motivated, detail-oriented individual for full-time, entry-level outside sales/ customer service representative position. No experience necessary. Training provided. Ideal candidate should: Possess excellent communications skills, written and verbal. Be reliable, outgoing and positive. Be able to multitask. Possess exceptional organizational skills. Have a driver's license and clean DMV. Have knowledge of San Diego area streets. Spanish speaking a plus.

Comprehensive benefits package includes: 401(k), medical, dental, life insurance and more. Fax resume: 619-295-6892, Attn: Human Resources; or email resume to humanresources@western towing.com. Drug free, EOE.

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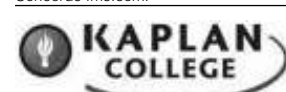
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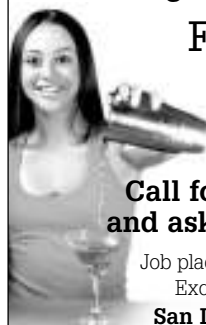
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1) Submit your completed puzzle to the *Reader* each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete and the results are posted online each week to sandiegoreader.com. But your submission will only be counted when 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 **619-231-0489** or **619-233-7907** or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803, or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy, or scanned and e-mailed to: puzzles@sdreader.com. Submissions by e-mail must be attached in JPG format, 800 by 800 pixels, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed.

5) 10 *Reader* T-shirts are awarded weekly to contenders chosen randomly!

And now for the really small print:
1) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
2) Late entries will not be considered.
3) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
4) Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.

Across

- Jules et Jim, e.g.
- Yearn (for)
- They might be chocolate
- 1998 Sarah McLachlan hit
- Pi followers
- Till bills
- "Keep in touch!"
- Stimulus check org.

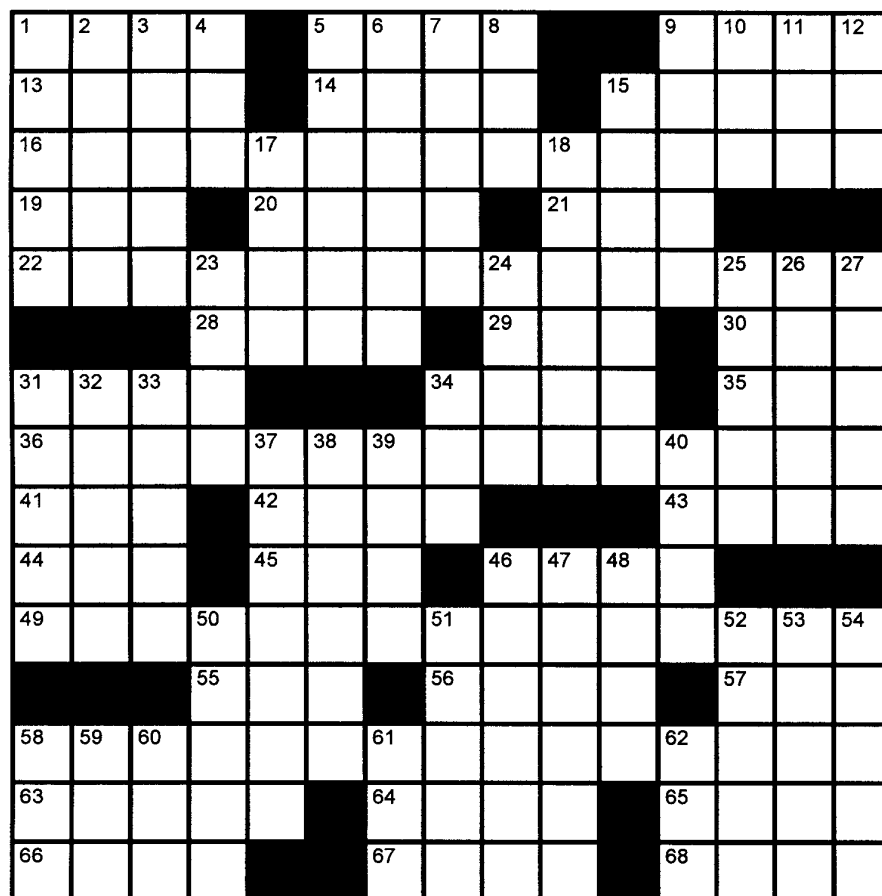
- Feminine ending
- Suffix with glob
- "I can't be bothered by that now"
- Faulkner hero
- Some ER cases
- Sony alternative
- Brainstormer's cries
- List of cred. card charges
- ____ Baba
- "Chill out!"
- Caterer's coffee holder
- Parishioner's "Yes!"
- Many urban homes: Abbr.
- Baton Rouge sch.
- Fleur-de-____
- "Project Runway Canada" host
- 1988 Taylor Dayne hit
- Two ____ kind
- Equestrian's "Stop!"
- Reclined
- They're out fighting in the U.S. armed forces (despite what's hidden at the starts of 16-, 22-, 36- and 49-Across)

- County ENE of London
- Ryan of "Boston Public"
- "For ____ be Queen o' the May": Tennyson
- Lubricates
- Fr. holy women
- Factory whistle time

Down

- Gymnast Comaneci
- Smells
- Capital of Belarus
- Used a stool
- Sports spots
- You can get it for a dollar

- Book after Daniel
- Repair shop fig.
- Top part of a form
- GPA part: Abbr.
- Garden worker
- Lith. or Ukr., once
- Becomes the responsibility of
- "It's ____ real!"
- "You Be Illin'" rap group
- It may be rigged
- Wee bit
- Vagrant
- Brilliant display
- Comes down
- Fully grown
- Arab, e.g.
- Cancel
- Six-yr.-term holder
- Home of Canada's main naval base
- "The Joy Luck Club" author
- Life ____
- Ebb
- Announcement upon arrival
- Excessive constriction of the pupils
- Skipper of fiction
- Diets successfully
- Newborn with big eyes
- Landmark originally known as the Mission San Antonio de Valero
- Greeted excitedly
- Cinematic Cicely
- Prefix with politics
- "____ was saying ..."
- Couture monogram
- CD players
- "Boy, am ____ trouble!"



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, 13. Thanks Reader for a great year!
Woody Anderson, Carmel Valley, 13. This healthcare legislation in the senate is making me sick!
Evelyn Bowser, Hillcrest, 13. Love to all
Joseph Ciprian, Little Italy, 13. Don't hit a man when he is down — kick him
Betsy Cory, Chula Vista, 13. Happy New Year, Mom. You'll be 100 in 2010!
William Cushing, Rancho Bernardo, 13. Happy birthday to Cari and Julie.
Ron Meyer, Santee, 13. Happy New Year Everyone! Hi Kiera! Hi Bodo!

Douglas Meyers, La Mesa, 13. This is my one chance, there ain't no second take
Michael Panther, Point Loma, 13. Might as well should be.
Janie Redmond, Cardiff, 13. What a day for a birthday.
Jerry Riccio, Rancho Bernardo, 13. Happy birthday, Pamela! Enjoy the Rose Parade. I love you
Thelma Strickland-Hicks, Del Mar, 13. My new year's resolution: read more, walk more
Glenn A. Walker, Pacific Beach, 13. Two years on top now. Friends still not "astounded"
Mary Arana, Encinitas, 12. Prospero año nuevo

Thomas Baggot, Carlsbad, 12. Chargers can beat the Titans!
Leslie Chase, Campo, 12. Happy New Year to All.
Craig Curtis, Escondido, 12. Happy New Year to all my friends and family! Love
D. Faulkner, University Heights, 12. New Years resolution: " Ride my bike daily"
Ron Hootman, Santee, 12. Hoot 101 Thank you and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Billy Horton, Santee, 12. Merry Christmas to all.
Sara Khwaja, Poway, 12. Happy New Year to all Reader puzzlers
Michael McGriffin, Bay Park, 12. Term limits for congress!
Susan Morfey, Little Italy, 12. Another year gone- I really am getting old and jaded

Lisa Overton, Spring Valley, 12. What a way to spend Christmas vacation!
P. Drew Papas, La Jolla, 12. Happy 2010 y'all!
John Pertle, Santee, 12. Receive new life for the new year- Believe in Jesus
Bill Pischke, Ramona, 12. Orange sauce is good on Christmas plum pudding
Eric Sandquist, Allied Gardens, 12. Here's to a better 2010!
Ted Scafidi, Hillcrest, 12. Happy New Year. Happy Birthday, Josie!
Tom Seaman, Alpine, 12. Come over to the dark side. We have cookies
Lucy Alderson, Chula Vista, 11. Peen Rocks: What a Christmas gift!
Eric Cash, Escondido, 11. Eavans four tooth smile was the best Christmas gift ever.

Dale Duffala, La Jolla, 11. Hey Carol! It'll Happen in '10!!
Harry Engel, La Jolla, 11. Happy New Year, Lisa. I love you.
Ben Espe, Mission Valley, 11. Happy New Year! Go Chargers go!
Iggie Guerrero, Bay Ho, 11. Happy New Year to all...
Richard Hutchings, Santee, 11. You only showed 85 winners not 125?
Thomas McVeagh, Lakeside, 11. Visualize whirled peas.
Marge Nelson, El Cajon, 11. Happy New Year!
Don Romero, La Mesa, 11. A brave new year Mei Ling, I love you.
Clinton Smith, La Mesa, 11. Happy New Year, everyone. Don't drink and drive.
Tom Somich, Clairemont, 11. Happy New Year to all!

Carly Stone, San Diego, 11. God wishes to punish us...he answers our prayers
Ron Akers, Sabre Springs, 10. Here's to 2010 Rock On!!
Dennis Beabout, Temecula, 10. Happy New Year!
John L. Drehner, North Park, 10. Frog Says: "Waiter there's NOT a fly in my soup."
George Elam, Vista, 10. Happy New Year to all. Go Chargers!
I.C. Garcia, Golden Hill, 10. Happy New Year from India Ink Papers
Rich Sewell, Ocean Beach, 10. The walls are crumbling down
Duane Tremaine, East Village, 10. ...And to the republic for which it stands...
Andrea Vollmer, Vista, 10. Beat Indy!

THIS WEEK'S CONTENDERS CONTINUED:

☛ indicates T-shirt winner.

Susan Williams, North Park, 10.

Happy New Year!

Thomas Diehl, Escondido, 9.

My Andrea's b-day Jan. One; Love ya my sugar bun!

☛ **Marty Ferullo, Pacific Beach,**

9. *Thanks Santa for all the gifts.*

Sean Holt, Ocean Beach, 9.

C'mon Dusty, can't we call a truce doll?

George Jackson, Oceanside, 9.

I wasn't sick until they reformed my health care

Steve Lundquist, San Diego, 9.

Hello 2010!

Emily Marie, North Park, 9.

Here's to an exciting New Year!

Michael Sheridan, San Diego, 9.

KCI PDF

Victor Correa, San Ysidro, 8.

Worm is the word

☛ **Norman Kenney, Carlsbad, 8.**

Happy New Year Everyone! Hi Kiera!

Hi Bodo!

James C. Nelson, El Cajon, 8.

Go Chargers

Burr Passenheim, Linda Vista, 8.

Happy New Year!

Claire Phillips, Clairemont, 8.

Happy New Year!

Norman Williams, San Diego, 8.

What da fuss??

☛ **Elenore Stephens, Potrero, 7.**

Happy New Year

Chad Griffith, Poway, 6.

Back to back we faced each other and did it!

☛ **Janet Kaye, Linda Vista, 6.**

Promise, no more falling down in 2010.

D. Schick, Oceanside, 6.

Happy New Year and Peace, to all!

Misty McDaniel, Lakeside, 5.

Happy b-day brother and Alex, we love you!

Pam Mecklenborg, Pacific Beach, 5.

Happy New Year to all my friends, see I'm famous

Stuart A. Young, San Diego, 5.

... to get what he cannot keep.

Robert Ott, Mira Mesa, 4.

Happy New Year 2010

Ron Pollack, Encinitas, 4.

Thanks for the shirt

Derek Anderson, San Diego, 3.

Thank you Reader for the free...

Katie Whelan, Coronado, 3.

Hi Kitty and Vern- have a great 2010!

Dianne Collinsgru, Escondido,

3. *Christmas won't be the same w/o you, mom*

Sarah Hyduke, Ocean Beach,

2. *I'll miss you team reg!!*

Greg Raelson, Little Italy, 2.

Please read Richard Dawkins' "The God Delusion" and watch "Religulous"!

Jolice Wiedenhoff, Carlsbad,

2. *This one is for you, crazy!*

☛ **Steven Crock, San Diego, 1.**

Thanks A.R.C. "What a Crock"

☛ **Esther Janowsky, Chapel Hill, 1.**

Happy New Year to All!

☛ **Tammy Lin, San Diego, 1.**

know you love me. Stop being selfish.

Francisco Mejia, San Diego, 1.

Happy New Year

Julia Santos, University City,

1. *Merry Christmas y'all*

Mary Spencer, Oceanside, 1.

Mary Christmas from L.A.

☛ **Laura Stanger, Santa Cruz,**

1. *UCSC linguist loves smooching San Diego musician*

Sean Yang, Sorrento Mesa, 1.

I did it!

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LOSE INCHES IN HOURS: Iono-Trim. Just in time for the holidays! 20% discount with mention of this ad. Sean Daneshmand, M.D., FACOG. Ageless & Beautiful Medical Spa. Call 888-281-7635.

LOSE WEIGHT NATURALLY! Start the new year right! Have more energy! Eat real food and still lose weight. No starving the body. No meal replacements or special foods to buy. No drugs or surgery. Ultra Lite, the professional weight loss system, developed by a Naturopath in Australia, is now available in the U.S. Learn how to eat and properly combine foods to keep the body burning fat! 858-279-7600. www.DrArmes.net, click on Ultra Lite.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA evaluations by a Board Certified physician. End-of-year special! Call for appointment: 619-294-HEMP.

NEW TAI CHI and Qi Gong classes begin Monday, January, 11, 2010. First class is free. Visitors welcome. Taoist Sanctuary, 4229 Park Boulevard, San Diego, 92103, 619-692-1155 or www.taoistsanctuary.org.

NON-SURGICAL FACELIFT! Holistic Skin Clinic. Tightens, hydrates, rejuvenates the skin. Micro-dermabrasion with tightening facial masque, regularly \$100, now \$75. First-time clients only; expires 12/31/09. Fanie botanical products. No synthetics, animal fats, waxes, glycolic acids, perfumes. Also facials and Body Contour Wraps, non-fluid inch loss for men and women. Karie Hayden & Associates, 858-581-3321. KarieHayden.net.

WHEELCHAIR. Pronto Electric, never used. Cost \$4400. New, sacrifice, \$3500/ best offer. All operating instructions. Too big for house. East County. Leave message, 619-561-2460.

WINNING THE WEIGHT BATTLE. Real solutions, permanently reduce weight gain, fatigue, sugar/ carbohydrate cravings. 1/17, 1:30-3:30, fee \$20. Seaside Center for Spiritual Living, 619-992-0182, perfecthealthforyou.com.

WEDDING & PARTY GUIDE

AZUL PRODUCTIONS. Creative services for your special occasion. Photography, videography, DJs and event coordinators for all occasions! We offer affordable, high quality services for every budget. Serving all of San Diego. www.azulproductions.com, 619-246-0915 or 760-224-8287.

BRIDAL BAZAAR. Sunday, January 31, 2010. San Diego Convention Center. 10am-4pm. Over 250 exhibitors with everything for your wedding. Info, coupons, www.bridalbazaar.com.

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STAGE NOTES

ABANDON YOUR ACTING FEARS! Actors' Workshop Studios. San Diego's #1 film/ TV studio! Professional 3-camera set. Weekly in-house auditions with Hollywood/ local casting directors, producers, agents. www.actorsworkshopstudios.com; 858-587-6666.

ABILITY THROUGH TRAINING. The Robert Wald Actor's Studio focuses on moment-to-moment reality training. These classes unlock the actor's ability to work spontaneously and with the realism and intensity advocated by the industry's creative legends. Beginners welcome. Thursday evening class available, 6:30pm-10:30pm, or Saturday mornings. Call for information. 619-542-1216.

MODELS. Amateur models needed for photo, video, web work. Ages 18-60. All types. No experience necessary. Cash paid. Professional setting. Call Jenn, 619-379-4964.

OPEN CASTING CALL for Poseidon! All major/ supporting roles/ crew. Bring head shots/ resume. Be ready to dance. Character listing on show's Facebook. 619-674-6320. blakbox@live.com.

TALENT WANTED. New San Diego pilot station television network needs director, camera men, television host/ models, web developer, bookkeeper, singers. 323-329-1331, email resume and pictures to spaceboxtv@yahoo.com.

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.

COUNSELING & SUPPORT GROUPS

NOTICE TO READERS: The advertisers in this section include licensed mental health providers, unlicensed counselors, and support groups.

ADDICTIONS/ STRESS PROBLEMS: Couples, individual therapy. Depression, anxiety, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, support groups. Intervention. Samuel Newman MFT and Associates. License #MFC25066. Sliding scale. 619-944-1346.

ARE YOU MAD? Learn how to manage your anger constructively. Gain power, control, reduce conflict and improve your relationships. Classes begin soon. Mission Valley. Jay Schneider. LCSW. Lic-9573. www.manageangerdaily.com. 858-538-5587.

ARE YOU STUCK? STRESSED? Experiencing crisis? Relationship issues? Career problems? Family conflicts? Grief? Past trauma? Take back your power. Trish Deignan, LCSW21861. Free consultation: 619-723-9244.

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PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSULTANT. Unsure you need/want therapy? We walk, you talk. Someone to process with, vent. 25+ years' experience. 30-minute complimentary initial visit. 619-808-5218.

VISION BOARD — Treasure Mapping. Make sure your resolutions and intentions take you beyond thought and into action for 2010. Create a poster board from guided visualization by Sharon and Glenn Goodlove. Saturday afternoon, January 9. Click on website flyer: DREAM BIG. www.goodlove-online.com.

NOTICES

ACTIVE/RETIRED FEDERAL employees: hear how NARFE protects earned benefits. Third Wednesday monthly, 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. Sesión 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 6pm. Grupo Bonita Hispano, 3450 Bonita Road #207. 619-280-7224.

CANNABIS PATIENT ACT. (Association Cannabis Therapeutics). Nonprofit. Seeks caregiver/ patient interns with questions about cooperatives, clones, medicine, growing guidelines. Proposition 215 guidelines. Meth kills. 619-528-0907.

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 recipes, too. Thanks. Claudia. 858-693-3939.

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 reservación.

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.

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.

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.

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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@sreader.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:

			2				6
7	6	1		3	5		
3				9		7	8
		5		7			6 1
2		9	5		6	8	7
6	8			9		2	
8	9		7				2
		3	2			7	9 5
5				1			

MEDIUM:

8				2	4		
			3	6		5	9
9	7			4			8
	8					3	
	9		8	1			5
		2					6
	6		9				2 5
	3	1		8	6		
		9	5				6

HARD:

		3	5			7	
6	8						
				4	3	6	1
	3		6	5	4		
		6				4	
			2	9	1		3
9		7	1	3			
							4 7
		2			9	1	

EVIL:

				5				3
	8			6				
1		6	9					5
	9	4		2				
		8		3		5		
				6		4	2	
	3				7	2		9
					6		7	
7				8				

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:

9	6	1	8	5	3	7	4	2
2	7	3	1	9	4	5	8	6
4	8	5	7	2	6	1	3	9
8	1	4	2	3	7	6	9	5
5	3	6	9	4	1	2	7	8
7	9	2	6	8	5	3	1	4
1	4	7	5	6	8	9	2	3
6	2	8	3	1	9	4	5	7
3	5	9	4	7	2	8	6	1

MEDIUM:

6	4	1	3	2	8	7	5	9
9	5	7	1	6	4	2	8	3
3	8	2	9	7	5	1	6	4
1	3	5	6	8	2	4	9	7
8	7	9	4	1	3	5	2	6
4	2	6	7	5	9	3	1	8
7	9	8	5	4	1	6	3	2
2	1	4	8	3	6	9	7	5
5	6	3	2	9	7	8	4	1

HARD:

4	5	9	2	3	8	1	6	7
1	3	7	9	6	4	2	8	5
8	6	2	5	1	7	3	4	9
3	8	5	4	2	1	9	7	6
7	1	6	8	5	9	4	2	3
9	2	4	6	7	3	8	5	1
6	4	8	3	9	5	7	1	2
2	7	3	1	4	6	5	9	8
5	9	1	7	8	2	6	3	4

EVIL:

4	7	8	5	6	9	2	1	3
9	5	6	1	2	3	8	4	7
1	3	2	7	8	4	6	5	9
3	9	7	8	5	6	1	2	4
8	4	5	3	1	2	9	7	6
2	6	1	4	9	7	5	3	8
7	2	9	6	4	1	3	8	5
5	1	4	9	3	8	7	6	2
6	8	3	2	7	5	4	9	1

SEE YOUR RANKING ONLINE!

Now you can go online to check your ranking and communicate with each other! Simply visit: www.SDReader.com/puzzle. The new ranking is posted each Wednesday. To use the "comments" feature, you must be a registered site member.

THIS WEEK'S CONTENDERS:

☛ indicates T-shirt winner.

EASY:

Aaron Abramson, Williamstown, 13. Hello to S. Cali
Cherie Calvo, San Diego, 13. Happy New Year!
John Pertle, Santee, 13. Jesus will never ever reject anyone that believes in him
Terry Thomas, Chula Vista, 13. Realists who are optimistic are "positive thinkers" Happy 2010
Glenn Walker, Pacific Beach, 13. Propitious winds gather for the new year
Don Bowman, Santee, 12. Opening gifts... now the bills. Happy New Years 2010
Ed Rull, San Diego, 11. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Pauline O'Malley, Point Loma, 8. Have a great Happy New Year
Misty McDaniel, Lakeside, 6. May the new year bring everything that everyone deserves!

Erin Nogle, Ocean Beach, 6. Happy New Year. Bring on 2010. Twenty-ten
Yadira Rodriguez, Linda Vista, 3. Tiny I hope all your New Year wishes come true

MEDIUM:

Skully, San Diego, 13. All I wanted for Christmas was Monkeyboy...maybe next year
Betty Archer, La Jolla, 13. Happy New Year to all
Roy Bartolome, San Diego, 12. May God bless you this upcoming year
Henry Chung, San Diego, 12. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year's
Kathleen Allegri, Pacific Beach, 8. Maggie May- you are my heart... love you always
David Tomasin, San Diego, 8. Change is constant

Jeffrey Ross, Chula Vista, 6. HAPPY NEW YEAR! Party and drive safe
☛ **Hans Butikofer, Mission Beach, 4.** Next time I'll try hard
Bill Calderwood, Clairmont, 4. Down with stoplight cameras!
Dennis Jardim, Oceanside, 4. Thought I was blackballed from getting a t-shirt
Tristan Meyers, El Cajon, 4. I passed hooterology with C's and D's
Josie Ranches, San Diego, 4. Happy Holidays
Kelly Sakoi, Rancho Peñasquitos, 3. Go Chargers!
Duane D Tremaine, E Village, 3. One nation... indivisible with liberty and justice for all
☛ **Jose Rodriguez, San Diego, 2.** Go Chargers Yadira teamo!
Mary Perhacs, Fallbrook, 1. I love my Bo-bo lo!

HARD:

Amada Garcia, Chula Vista, 13. Hi Ms Rivals see you next year!
Bruce C. Mengler, Solana Beach, 13. Happy New Year!

Douglas Meyers, La Mesa, 13. I shall not quit 'til I take the throne
Glenn R. Walker, La Jolla, 13. Chargers in the Super Bowl!
Lark Herrick, Alpine, 12. May 2010 be the best year ever
George Elam, Vista, 4. Love each other while you can
Saad Ghulam, Escondido, 3. Hard was easy! Happy New Year!
☛ **Howard Donnelly, Mission Valley, 2.** Charlie Brown time again?
☛ **Mike Golden, San Diego, 2.** Isn't XXXtra lrg normal
Josh Boss, Tierrasanta, 1. Good Luck to Presidential Limousine employees finding new jobs

EVIL:

Joe Arbusto, Rancho Peñasquitos, 13. Hm... Barack-DEMS were 4 PUBLIC-OPTION be-4 they were against it?
Paul Brugger, Downtown, 13. Would sudoku streak survive? With Jan's help its still alive

☛ **Joseph Ciprian, Little Italy, 13.** Don't interrupt - it's very rude
Roger Doughman, San Diego, 13. You are the salt of the earth. MT 5:13
Lily Gonzalez, Logan Heights, 13. 5, 4, 3, 2, ..1... Happy New Year!!
Dan Holslin, San Diego, 13. Best wishes for the New Year!
Zdenek Hostomsky, La Jolla, 13. It's almost time for another t-shirt, statiscally speaking
Ralph Levy, La Jolla, 13. Happy New Year to all
Mike Maniss, Lakeside, 13. Happy New Year Tortoise
Michael McGriffin, Bay Park, 13. Term Limits for US Congress!
P.J. Mole, Point Loma, 13. Left-overs forever... help
Bruce Ness, Mira Mesa, 13. Does Mary Bentley still play dominoes??? Please call
Lisa Overton, Spring Valley, 13. Days are getting longer
Michael Panther, Point Loma, 13. The Chargers shall now don my vest

Rich Sewell, Ocean Beach, 13. May the new decade bring up a championship!
Harry R. Walker, La Jolla, 13. Glenn and Donna, Happy New Year!
Mark Xitco, San Diego, 13. Happy New Year!
Bliss Beedle, Encinitas, 12. My gift is my song and this one's for you
Linda J. Hall, La Mesa, 12. Xmas Shopping is over. I'm back in the game
Jacqueline Jordan, San Diego, 12. Peace!!
Gary Lorenc, Encinitas, 12. OK, everyone, that's it. See you all again next year!
Roy Respress, Carlsbad, 12. Happy New Year with more evil; to do Aaaa
Joe Steinbach, Clairemont, 12. Take a hike - see Calendar / local /outdoors
Susan Williams, North Park, 12. Happy New Year
Jane Flammang, Encinitas, 11. Happy New Year

THIS WEEK'S CONTENDERS CONTINUED:

☛ indicates T-shirt winner.

☛ **Belmont Hope, Vista, 11.**
Happy New Year!

Loren Boyer, El Cajon, 10.
MANdonna for A Rod? Good one Kate!

Lynnette Lampton, La Mesa, 10.
Happy New Year! Welcome, 2010

Junito Gerardo, Mira Mesa, 9.
If healthcare bill is good, why is bribing lawmakers needed?

Stuart Hesketh, Escondido, 9.
Took week off. Happy New Year and Peace to all

Christine Hennes, San Diego, 8.
Peace, love and happiness

☛ **Norman Kenney, Carlsbad, 8.**
Ring out the old! Ring in the new! Kieral Bodo!

Linda Kokel, Tierrasanta, 8. A
Healthy and happy New Year my precious ones

Charles Reader, Del Mar Heights, 7.
Make them harder in the new year

Joi Taylor, Mission Valley, 7.
Ring size 8

Mandy Smith, Boulevard, 4.
Hurting God's earth a sin lets do right in 2010

Butch Hays, La Mesa, 3.
Happy New Year!

☛ **Ted Jerm, Roseville, 3.**
Hi ho, Hi ho

Tom Norris, Santee, 3. Yes, *Carlos, there is a Santa Claus!*
John Strauch, Point Loma, 2. Beat *Alzheimer's at Adventures in Bridge*

Greg Boss, San Diego, 2.
Presidential Limousine out of business. Good going John and Fred

Stan Alexander, Ocean Beach, 1.
For pac

Dennis Beabout, Temecula, 1.
Happy New Year!

Al Claiborn, Encanto, 1.
I rushed it

Ester Hays, La Mesa, 1. Looking forward to a **SUPER NEW YEAR!!!**

Johnny Gata, Lecadi, 1. Party like it's the end of the decade.
Happy New Year

Frank Mazaneg, Encinitas, 1.
Clean energy for all

Lynn Morrow, Alamogordo, 1.
Happy New Year

CUPID'S CASTLE B&B. Fall special \$50 off with ad. Fairytale castle near Harrah's Casino. Jacuzzi, balconies, TVs, bathtubs, breakfast, snacks. Voted most romantic getaway. Near wineries. Wedding facility. Cupid's Castle B&B. www.adreamcastle.com. 760-742-3306.

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Typo Patrol Results

Issue of December 24, 2009

Sheep and Goats

p.131 he *should* be He

Gian Ghio (Chula Vista) \$10

Events listings

p.60 "wearable mobiles" *should* be 'wearable mobiles'

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).

COLLEGE AREA. Sober living, nicest in town. Separate men's and women's houses. Children accepted. Single and shared rooms. Starting \$430/month, no deposit. Kent, 619-414-9694.

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LA JOLLA. \$970. Furnished room, own bathroom. Internet/ utilities included. Shared kitchen, washer/ dryer. Central—shopping, beaches, UCSD, freeways, transportation. No smoking/ pets.

LA JOLLA/ UTC. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Air conditioning, laundry, pool, Jacuzzi, fitness center, tennis courts. Master bedroom available immediately. \$750/month, including utilities. 858-366-2905.

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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. 2-bedroom suite, private bath in spacious home. Summer pool, nice kitchen, street parking. Golfing, lake, Cowles Mountain in neighborhood. No pets. \$1100. 858-772-0005.

LA MESA/ LAKE MURRAY. \$685. Room with own bath. Utilities included with 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. Purrr welcome. 619-517-7119.

LAKESIDE. Furnished room. Use of the home as well as cooking privileges. \$800. Female to live with elderly female. Available now. All utilities included. 619-443-4736.

MIRA MESA. \$535. Including utilities. Large home. Cable, Internet. Pool. Security. Near bus, I-15, lake, shops, college. Male. No smokers, drugs, pets. 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,

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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.

OCEANSIDE. Share beautiful 3- bedroom 2- story home. 1/4 acre, cul-de-sac, quiet neighborhood. New appliances. Own room/ bathroom/ office. Garage, storage. No pets. \$800. 760-703-2457.

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.

POWAY. \$500. 1 room, share bath with one. Close to I-15, shopping and bus line. No pets, drugs, drinking. Call 858-679-9459.

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.

SPRING VALLEY. Sober living. \$450 plus \$50 deposit. Christmas special: Move in before January, pay no rent for December. Males only. Furnished. Shared utilities. Near bus and shops. 2 homes available. 619-303-2030; 619-303-1301.

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.

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RENTALS COMMERCIAL

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EL CAJON COMMERCIAL/ retail space, \$725. 1st month free! Great location! Busy intersection of 2nd Street and Broadway. 1333 Broadway Street. 619-384-9219.



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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. TPPM, 858-454-4200 x115. www.torreyepinespm.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.

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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. \$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.

CITY HEIGHTS. Sweet little 3 bedroom. Renovated with new kitchen and bath, wood floors. Fenced yard with large hobby room. \$1300. Pet friendly. 619-987-0001.

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. \$1950. \$500 deposit. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Pet OK. Gardener, furnished. Recently renovated. Air, 2- car garage. 858-278-2774.

CLAIREMONT. Immaculate 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 2- car garage. Newer hardwood floor, carpet, and granite. All appliances. Gardener. Year lease. \$2000 deposit. \$2250/ month. 858-229-0866.

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.stevenleerproperties.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. \$2250. 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. \$1200. 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.

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.

FLETCHER HILLS. \$1875. Large 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath. All wood floors, kitchen with all appliances, washer/ dryer, 2- car garage, fenced backyard, and patio. Pets negotiable. 935 Hacienda Drive. 619-384-9219.

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.

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. 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. All amenities, front and backyard. Parking. Very quiet. Great location, cul-de-sac, \$1175. Available January 15. Call 619-246-7715.

LA MESA. Welcoming 2 bedroom, 2 bath home. Driveway, wood floors, carpet. 1000 estimated square feet. Refrigerator, dishwasher, stove/ oven, microwave, washer/ dryer. Guest home. \$1700/ month. 7240 Vassar Avenue. Agent, 619-471-2201.

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! \$200/month after 6-month special. 619-697-5811.

NORMAL HEIGHTS/ KENSINGTON. Sweet 1 bedroom garden cottage. Newly renovated. Sunny and bright in quiet neighborhood. \$840. Pet friendly. 619-987-0001.

NORTH PARK. Theatre District loft. Huge, 1600 square feet, unusual open plan. Vaulted beamed ceilings, wood floors, delicious kitchen and bathroom. Pet friendly. \$1350. 619-987-0001.

NORTH PARK. 1 bedroom Spanish- style home, \$995. Hardwood floors, bay window, yard area, and garage. Near shops and bus. No pets. Agent, 619-296-3189.

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.

NORTH PARK. Move-in special: 1/2 off first month's rent! 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$695. Senior or disabled citizens apartments. On-site laundry, parking. 4122-4126 39th Street. Agent, 858-560-1178.

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.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1650. 2 bedroom, 1 bath house with bonus room! Garage! Large front porch! Parking and laundry. Large backyard. Blocks to the beach! No pets. 4925 Saratoga Ave. Call 619-222-4836 x14. www.liveatthebeachnow.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. Large 1 bedroom house in exclusive Crown Point. Easy bike, walk to beach. Fireplace, new carpet. Off- street parking. \$1265. Call 858-274-6699.

PACIFIC BEACH. 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath house, hardwood floors, washer/dryer,

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John Mamba
Management
La Jolla

I was traveling from France to America, and I had Cuban cigars and meat in my suitcase. I brought meats that you can't find here, like curried duck liver and pâtés and foie gras. I've smuggled alcohol into the country. They let you bring one or two bottles per person. I've brought six and seven. You just have to pack them really tight, rolling them up and making a dense suitcase.



Lou Becerra
Mortgage Broker
Downtown

I've brought Cuban cigars from Mexico. I just take the labels off them, and they can't prove what kind they are. In 2003, I was stationed in the Middle East. I brought back...a kind of Iranian saffron. I bought a few hundred dollars' worth. I put half of it in the freezer so it wouldn't go bad, and I'm still using it today. Apparently, Iran is the biggest producer of it, and it's very expensive. I got it for way below market value. I guess it's labor intensive producing it. An article recently said it's one of the most healthy spices. When I was declaring what I was bringing back, I said it was Spanish saffron on the form. They never searched my luggage, and the customs officer didn't press the issue. I didn't say I had anything to declare at the airport.



Chuck Erickson
Dog Groomer
Downtown

Yeah, I smuggled my dog from Mexico. Well, I didn't. Right at the trolley stop downtown, a guy in a wheelchair got off. This was about three years ago. He was just a puppy. He was apparently roaming the streets of Tijuana. Technically, the dogs need to get certification and things before they come here. I took him to the vet the next day.



David Hargrove
Post-production
Los Angeles

This isn't the most exciting thing, but my friend and I snuck beer into a movie theater. He wore his drinking pants, which were loose jeans that he could store four beers into. It was for *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, which we saw at the Mann Theatre in Westwood. That's the theater that had the first-run showings of *Godfather* and *Exorcist*. And in the movie *Zodiac*, they have a scene that takes place there. It's near UCLA, and it seats three or four hundred people. This was back in 1999 one afternoon, and the place was almost empty.



Shawn Donnelly
Military
Rancho Bernardo

I smuggled a katana sword from Japan. It cost me \$340, and I bought it on the way to the Gulf. I had it there for six months and hid it under my mattress. When we came back into port in San Diego, they said if we had any expensive gifts for our family, we better make sure they were secure. It was a wink-wink type of thing to warn us. I put it in my seabag and packed things all around it so it wouldn't be detected. But in Dubai, I got caught trying to bring this rare butterfly in from Iran. It cost me \$600, and walking onto the carrier, I couldn't hide it anywhere.



S. Gonzales
Construction
Santee

I tried bringing back Cuban cigars from Mexico. I said that they weren't really Cuban, but the guy pointed out the labels. What happened was, I had been to Mexico so many times and was never checked. That same day, I had two switchblades I tried to bring across. They had the metal detector going. I had them in my pants pocket and just played dumb. I said they were my friend's and he forgot about them. They wrote up a report, but nothing happened to me.

refrigerator, patio, front deck/ yard, off-street parking. \$2100. 1855 Missouri. Available now. 619-997-8862.

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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.

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BALBOA PARK. \$825. 1 bedroom apartment in quiet, picturesque building. Beautiful street! Assigned parking, laundry, patio. No pets. 2449 A Street. 619-549-9542; 858-278-6135.

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.

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.

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BANKER'S HILL. \$700-\$800 studios, \$825-\$900 1 bedrooms. Cozy, affordable

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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.

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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.

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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.torreyppm.com.

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CITY HEIGHTS. \$775. 1 bedroom. Credit check \$25 fee. Move-in incentives. Gated community. Secured assigned parking. On-site laundry. Pool. New carpet, new appliances. Clean and excellent. Convenient location, close to shops and dining, buses/transits. Nearby Fay Elementary School and Colina Del Sol Park. No pets. Contact Art at 619-283-9993.

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CITY HEIGHTS. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment, \$650. Assigned parking, tile floors, upstairs, water/ sewer/ trash included, Section 8 OK. 4366 51st Street #7. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. peoplehelpingothers.com.

CITY HEIGHTS. 1/2 off 1st month! 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartments, \$795/ month. Water/ sewer/ trash included, on-site laundry. 4361 and 4361-1/2 49th Street. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. peoplehelpingothers.com.

CITY HEIGHTS. 1 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs apartment, \$700. Water/ sewer/ trash included. 1 parking space, coin laundry, 650 square feet. 1/2 off first month with 1- year lease! 4358 51st Street #4. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. peoplehelpingothers.com.

CITY HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment, \$850. Water/ sewer/ trash included. Assigned parking, tile floors, A/C, community laundry. 4316 52nd Street #5. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. peoplehelpingothers.com.

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COLLEGE AREA. \$895. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. New paint! On-site parking. Clean, quiet, secure. 7240 El Cajon Boulevard. If you can find one better, rent it! Call Lynette, 619-602-0959, or Rachael, 619-804-1044.

COLLEGE AREA/ TALMADGE. \$900 rent, \$800 deposit OAC. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath, laundry, parking, newer carpet, no pets, at 4423 Menlo Avenue #9. Agent, 619-299-8515 or 619-990-5021.

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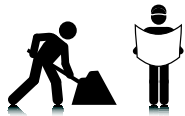
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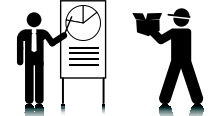
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DOWNTOWN. Gaslamp area. \$425-\$550. Community kitchen, shared bath, on-site laundry, vending machines, no pets. Star Hotel, 522 7th Avenue. Hughes Management, Lic#955724, 619-235-6068. HughesManagement.net.



DOWNTOWN. Outstanding furnished rooms, \$450-\$500. Heart of Gaslamp. Shared bathrooms. Community kitchen. Free cable. No pets. Windsor Hotel, 843 4th Avenue. Hughes Management, Lic#955724, 619-239-3808. www.HughesManagement.net.



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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

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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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GREAT DANE/ PITBULL MIX. Loving, sweet 4-year-old to right home. 80 pounds, loves long walks/ swimming/ snuggling/ fetching. Experienced owner/ big yard. 619-804-3104.

ITALIAN MASTIFF PUPPIES for sale! Champion lines! Rare blue brindle Italian Mastiff (Cane Corso) puppies. \$1500 each. Call 858-583-2646.

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/

ENCINITAS. \$1185. 1 bedroom with patio. Small complex. Assigned parking, laundry. New paint. Bright, airy. Garden setting. 1 block to beach. Close to shopping, freeway, Coaster. No pets/ smoking. 760-929-1950.

ENCINITAS/ LUCADIA. \$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.torreyepinespm.com.

FASHION VALLEY. \$975. 1 bedroom, \$1100. 2 bedrooms. Large apartments. Huge walk-in closets. Dishwashers. On-site parking. Balcony. Pets considered. 5720 Gaines Street. 619-299-3477.

FASHION VALLEY. 5919 Mildred Street. 1 bedroom, \$1000. 3 bedroom, \$2100. 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. \$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/ 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 x14, www.liveatthebeachnow.com.

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 11/109. 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.

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, defleaing, more. Photos/ locations: www.rescuehouse.org.

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Events Calendar

Better Balance: Free From Falls. Thursdays, 1/14/10-2/18/10, 11:30am-12:30pm. This 6-session balance class is designed for beginner to intermediate exercisers with no prior balance training experience. Exercises will be simple, safe and require no expensive equipment. Russell Rowe, M.S. Exercise Physiology, certified personal trainer. \$36 includes handouts. Oasis at Robinsons-May Mission Valley, 1702 Camino del Rio North, 3rd floor, www.oasisnet.org, 619-574-0674.

Wacky Science Sundays. Sundays at 12:15pm. Explore wild and wacky worlds of mysterious creatures, fascinating habitats, and phenomenal science with Ms. Frizzle and the Magic School Bus. Included in regular museum admission. Admission free-\$13. San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado, San Diego 92101. 619-232-3821 x110.

Nature Walk with Views. Saturday, January 2, 8-9:30am. Ranger-led walk along 1.5-mile Wooten Loop-Riparian Trail with views of Stelzer Ridge and Wildcat Canyon, returning through shaded oak- and sycamore-lined trail along Stelzer Creek. Expect easy to moderate hike on unpaved, maintained trail. Admission free. Parking: \$3. Louis Steltzer County Park, 11470 Wildcat Canyon Road, Lakeside 92040. 619-787-2810.

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.

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. Well Within Traditional Healing Arts, 522 2nd Street, Encinitas 92024. 619-825-9921.

Yoga in a Chair. Mondays 1/11/10-3/1/10. Yoga poses modified to use in your office chair, on a plane and at home. Full breathing 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.

Clean Heart, Clear Mind. Wednesday, January 6, 6pm. These are among "seven essentials to reaching your God-given potential" according to pastor Charles Stanley, author, *How to Reach Your Full Potential for God*. Family Christian Stores, 1356 West Valley Parkway, Escondido 92029, 760-737-0225.

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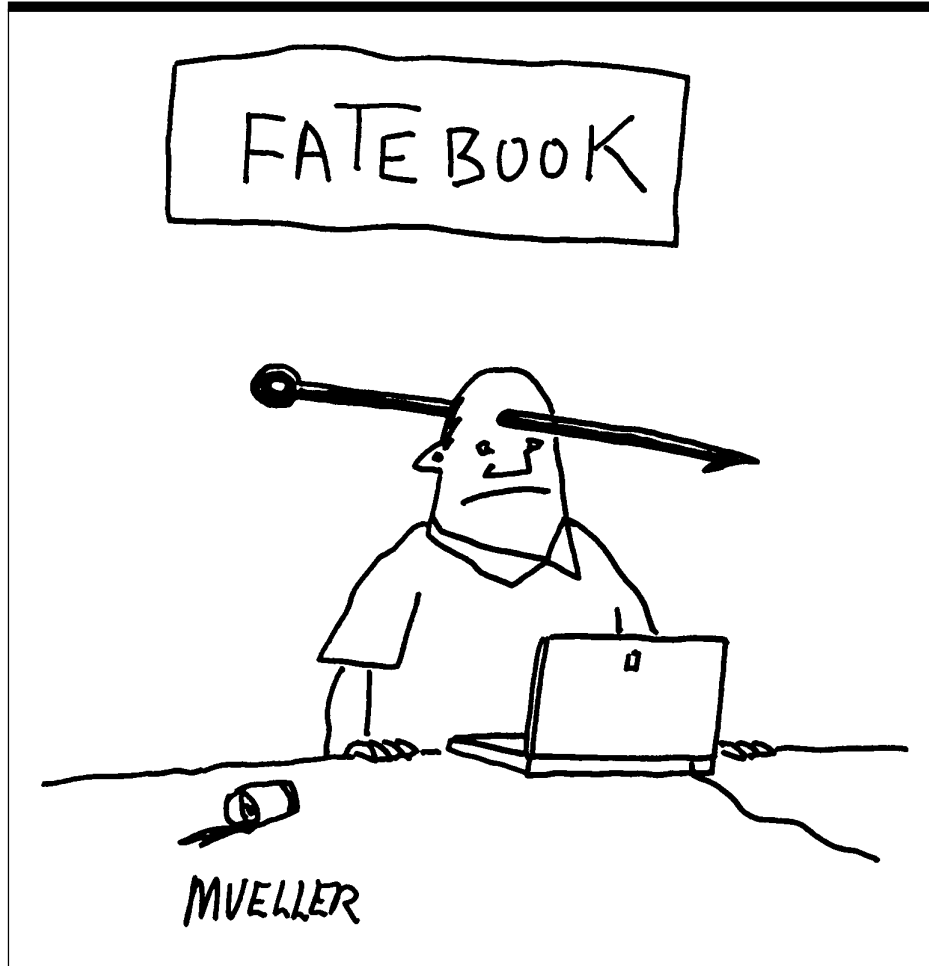
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GOLDEN HILL. Charming 1 bedroom, 1 bath. \$850/ month. Hardwood floors. Great neighborhood, on-site laundry. No dogs. Available now. 2412 E Street. 619-857-3706.

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GOLDEN HILL. 1/2 off first month OAC. 1 bedrooms from \$725. New carpet, paint. Private patio. Near Balboa Park, freeways. Parking, laundry. Agent, 619-358-9678.

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. \$850. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. \$1150. 2 master bedrooms, 2 baths. 2 weeks free— 2nd month. Appliances,

elevator, laundry, parking. Small pet OK. 1010 33rd Street. 760-724-0558.

GOLDEN HILL/ DOWNTOWN. \$695. 1 bedroom with view to downtown. All utilities paid. New carpet, paint, remodeled Victorian, upstairs. Section 8 accepted. 619-713-1044 or Rachael, 619-804-1044.

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. \$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. \$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. 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. 1 bedroom, \$980. Gated, parking, on-site laundry. Small pet OK.

1033 Robinson. Call 619-295-1210, 858-490-1600.

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.

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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.

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HILLCREST. Pets OK! Bright, remodeled 2 bedroom. Hardwood. Washer/ dryer. Large deck/ patio overlooking canyon. 1 block Balboa Park. 1518 Myrtle. \$1495. 619-787-7434, 619-325-1470 x303.

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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.

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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.

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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. \$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. \$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. 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. Off-season pricing: One and two bedrooms starting at \$1150. Pool, laundry and location. 1/2 block to sunsets, surf, beach and bliss. 858-536-1900.

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. Ocean Front. \$3200. Spectacular 2 bedroom, 2 bath corner unit with incredible ocean and coastline views in quiet four-plex. Fireplace, ocean-front balcony, extra storage and single garage included. 214 Rosemont Street. TPPM, 858-699-3851. www.torreypinespm.com.

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 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 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 JOLLA/ WINDANSEA. \$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 Windansea Beach. Cat OK with extra deposit. Available 1/21/10. 6236 Dowling. Del Sol Property Management, Broker, www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

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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. 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. \$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.

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LA MESA. 1 month free! Extra large 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$825. BBQ, A/C, appliances, new carpet and paint; laundry parking. Near all. Section 8 OK. 4325 Lowell Street. 619-460-1074.

LA MESA. 1 month free! Extra large 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$825. BBQ, A/C, on-site laundry, off-street parking. Near trolley and Downtown La Mesa. 619-466-6450.

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LA MESA. 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom nice upstairs unit with parking. Laundry on site. With pool. \$1175/ month. Call Rick 619-254-5378. Available January 1, 2010.

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LA MESA. 1 free month with one-year lease! 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$925/ month with \$450 deposit. Storage. No pets. \$25 credit. 5435 Morengo Avenue. Call 619-698-7926. www.villaknollsapts.com.

LA MESA. Studio, \$780/ month with \$350 deposit. 1 free month with one-year lease! Storage. No pets. \$25 credit. 5435 Morengo Avenue. Call 619-698-7926. www.villaknollsapts.com.

LA MESA/ MOUNT HELIX. 1 bedrooms, \$945-\$995. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1145-\$1195. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1395-\$1445. Air/ heat. Huge patios/ balconies. Gated access, parking. Small pets OK. Elegant, sculptured courtyards with flower gardens, fountains, gas lamps, park benches. Charming New Orleans ambiance. 3903 Conrad Drive. 866-894-6343; 619-462-1212. www.sreader.com/news/rent/1017.

LAKESIDE. Move-in special, 1st month 1/2 off! 1 bedroom, \$685. Off-street parking. On-site laundry. 12560 Laurel Street. northcuttproperties.com. Agent, 858-505-1300.

LAKESIDE. Move-in special: 1/2 off first month! Great value! 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$800. On-site laundry. Freshly painted. Assigned parking. 12346 Parkside Street. northcuttproperties.com. Agent, 858-505-1300.

LEMONGROVE. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Washer/ dryer. 3 parking spaces. Rent: \$1225. 7130 Central. Call Myra, 619-697-8458.

LEMONGROVE. \$1250. 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath. Garage, on-site laundry. 7138 Central Avenue. Call Myra, 619-697-8458.

LEMONGROVE. 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.sdaprotokers.com.

LEMONGROVE. \$1300. 3 bedroom, 2 bath with A/C. On-site parking and laundry. New paint, carpet, countertop in kitchen. 3262 Buena Vista Avenue. If you can find one better, rent it! Hurry, won't last! Call Rachael, 619-804-1044, or Jeff, 619-713-1044.

LEUCADIA. \$1180 plus utilities. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Washer/ dryer. Off-street parking, patio area, good location. 1105 N. Vulcan. Leasing Unlimited, 760-436-7273.

LINDA VISTA. 2/1 townhomes for \$981 and \$1081 and bungalows for \$1031 and \$1131 for 6 months! Plus a **Secret Special.** 619-249-9585. Office at 7025 Eastman St. For more info and pictures go to www.sdvillageapts.com.

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LINDA VISTA. \$650-\$1250 rent, \$400-\$800 deposit! No pets. Call for move-in special! Studios (utilities included), 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms. 2249 Ulric Street. 858-565-6400.

LINDA VISTA. 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo, \$1750. 1-car garage, washer/ dryer, water/ sewer/ trash included, community pool/ playground. Dogs (2) OK. 1221 Square Feet. 8283 Caminito Luisito. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. peoplehelpingothers.com.

LINDA VISTA. 3 bedroom, 1 bath townhome. Rent \$1095. Deposit \$695. Space upgraded. Available to move in now. 918 square feet. 6534 Kelly Street. 619-220-4840; v@sdcpm.net.

LINDA VISTA. Move-in special! \$1404 plus \$350 deposit. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Close to schools and convenient locations. Section 8 welcome. No pets. For details, call 858-715-1770!

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MIRA MESA. 2 bedroom, 1 bath from \$1150. Near schools, shopping and freeways. New appliances, cabinets and carpet. Section 8 welcome. Sorry, no pets. Call today! 858-271-0191.

MIRA MESA. Spacious 1 and 2 bedrooms, new appliances, cabinets, carpet, pool, A/C; minutes to all shops, schools, freeways & Miramar. Section 8 OK. 858-271-0191.

MIRA MESA. 1 bedroom, upper unit. \$1200 per month. First, last, security, and one-year lease required. No pets or smoking. Call for details. 619-846-3965.

MISSION BEACH. 1 bedroom upstairs in South Mission. Parking. 1-year lease. \$1200/ month. 733 Ensenada Court #C. Available 1/5. More Property Management. 858-514-8201.

MISSION BEACH. 1 bedroom upstairs. Quiet bay side. Parking. \$1375/ month. 1-year lease. No smoking, no pets. 809 Venice Court. More Property Management. 858-514-8201.

MISSION BEACH. \$1695. Stunning 2 bedroom with view of ocean! Parking, all appliances, laundry on site, balcony. 712 Santa Rita Place #A. 858-272-9547.

MISSION BEACH. \$1050. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, downstairs, ceramic tile floors! Block to beach! Large patio. No pets. 3950 Mission Blvd. 619-222-4836 x14, www.liveatthebeachnow.com.

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MISSION BEACH/ SOUTH. \$2495. Large 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath townhome. Bay view. 2-car garage. Laundry hookups. 822 San Gabriel Place. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

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MISSION HILLS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. On-site laundry, 1 parking space. Rent: \$1150. 803 Torrance Street. Call Mike, 858-490-1600.

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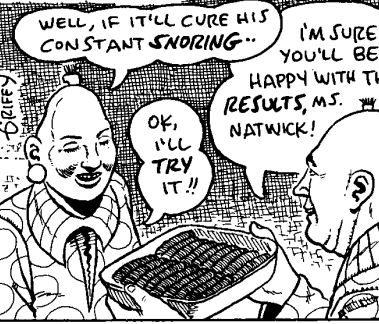
MISSION HILLS. \$750. Spacious upstairs studio. Hardwood, Murphy beds, intercom entry. Some utilities included. No pets. 630 Washington. 619-298-7724.

MISSION HILLS. Ask about our New Year's Special! 1 bedrooms from \$900. Patios, pool, laundry room, storage and more. Cat OK. 3505 Reynard Way. 619-683-9239. aspenpark.rasnyder.com.

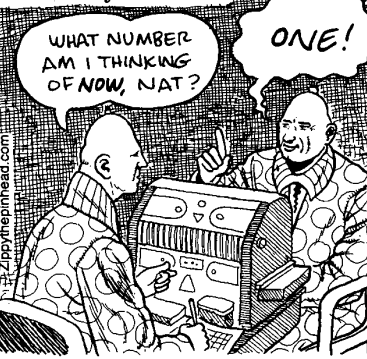
MISSION HILLS/ HILLCREST. 1 bedroom, \$950. Recently remodeled. Pool, barbecue, dishwasher, on-site

ZIPPY

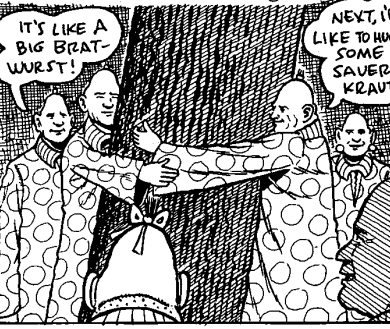
Dinah Natwick was advised by her doctor to feed her husband only skinless franks for the next three months.



After 90 days of an all-hot dog diet, Nat Natwick submitted to a battery of tests.



Unfortunately, on the 91st day of his unusual diet, Nat joined a cult of bratwurst-eating tree-huggers & was never heard of again!



laundry, covered parking. No pets. EOH. Call 619-299-8746.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1599. 2 bedroom, 2 bath upper unit with view. 1150 sqft. Washer/ dryer, fireplace. Covered parking, small pets OK. Amenities included. Available NOW. 619-559-7016.

MISSION VALLEY. \$1100. Large 1 bedroom condo. No pets. Parking. Carpet/ paint. Dishwasher. Balcony. Clean, nice. Pool, gym. 1621 Hotel Circle South, #E215. 619-275-3455.

MISSION VALLEY/TALMADGE/ Kensington. 1/2 off first month! Call for details. Free credit application. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths at \$1250. \$100 military discount! Gated community. Pool, spa. Free Wi-Fi access. Outdoor billiards, barbecue lounge. Fitness center. Computer lab with printer. Laundry center with flat screen TVs! Parking. Pet friendly! Mission Pacific Apartments, 4454 44th Street. Ask about our military special! 1-800-372-9146. missionapacific.pacificliving@crossfiremail.com. www.pacificliving.com. www.sreader.com/news/rent/1010.

MISSION VALLEY/ USD. 2 master bedrooms, \$1600 (includes water). New appliances. Remodel, washer/ dryer in unit, panoramic views, 2 parking, hardwoods, private patio. Pets OK. Available now. \$300 off first month! 858-353-6878.

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NATIONAL CITY. Off 805 and Sweetwater Road. Small trailer in large, private yard. Secure, quiet and clean. \$550. All utilities included. 858-254-4469.

NATIONAL CITY. Move in by 1/31 and save 1/2 off first month's rent! 1 bedroom apartment, \$825/ month. Newly renovated. Gated community. Laundry on site. Available now. No pets. Hilltop Villas, 315 East 30th Street. Call 619-477-7442. www.melroyproperties.com.

NATIONAL CITY. \$775. 1/2 off first! Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath, new paint, carpet, appliances. Laundry. 2-car parking. Shared yard. Pet negotiable. 316 Willie James Jones #1. 619-804-3325.

NATIONAL CITY. \$775/ month. 1 bedroom, fully furnished. Low \$150 deposit. No SDG&E deposit or hookup is required. 624 East 24th Street. Office open daily. Call 619-474-3787.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 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. \$925. Nice, clean, quiet 2 bedroom, 1 bath. New paint, carpet. Well maintained. Refrigerator. Laundry on premises. No pets. Nonsmoking. Conveniently located. 619-563-0779.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. Move-in specials! \$795, 1 bedroom at 4670 Cherokee. \$950, 2 bedrooms at 4133 37th. On-site laundry. No pets. Drive by, call 760-672-0425.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. Studio apartment. Newly remodeled. 400 square feet. Available mid-October. Rent: \$720. 3235 Collier Avenue. Call Mike: 619-640-8834 or 858-490-1600.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom. Upstairs unit with new carpet, laundry and parking, \$1000 rent. 4640 Wilson Avenue #3. Available 1/10/10. Call 858-514-8201.

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. 1/2 off 1st! 3 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1250. Remodeled, new kitchen, appliances, new flooring, paint and windows, laundry. No pets. 4587 33rd Street. 619-384-9219.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 1/2 off 1st! Extra large 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, \$1025. Large kitchen, walk-in closet, stove, refrigerator, laundry, parking. Pets OK. Section 8 OK. 4609 Bancroft #2. 619-804-3325.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1110. Beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bath in charming complex. All appliances, A/C, laundry, off-street parking, storage, built-in bookshelves. Pet negotiable. 4469 Kansas Street #3. 619-804-3325.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1075. 1/2 off first! 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Completely remodeled. New appliances, paint, carpet, windows,

blinds and more. Laundry, off-street parking. Near all. 4583-1/2 33rd Street. 619-384-9219.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. Move-in special: 1/2 off first month's rent! 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$720. Upstairs unit, gated complex, assigned parking. 4563 38th Street #8. Agent, 858-560-1178.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. \$1060. 1/2 off first month's rent. 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, new paint, carpet, 2 parking spots, upstairs unit. Swimming pool, gated community. 3535 Monroe Avenue. 619-582-4119.

NORMAL HEIGHTS. 4558 40th Street, #1. \$950, 1/2 off 1st month! 2 bedroom. Laundry. Parking. Downstairs. No pets. 858-692-6601 or www.bkbinc.com.

NORTH PARK. Move-in special, \$625 off first month's rent/ year's lease. We are nearing completion on this beautifully remodeled 2 bedroom apartment. Italian ceramic tile floors with granite accents. Refinished cabinets with solid-surface countertops and stainless steel sink. New appliances including dishwasher and microhood. Crown moldings throughout. Wall air conditioning unit. All new baseboards, new 2-panel decorative interior doors. New vanity top and sink, all new bathroom fixtures. New light fixtures and ceiling fans. New faux wood blinds. Mirrored closet doors. Unit is painted in designer colors. Plush carpeting in the living room and bedroom. Building is gated with an intercom and has on-site laundry. \$500 security deposit. Will consider small dog under 15 pounds. Seeking qualified applicant with excellent credit and references. Available January 1, 2010. 3685 Arnold Avenue. Contact Scott, 619-846-6615; email scott@hendershawandassociates.com.

NORTH PARK. Available now! 2 and 3 bedroom townhomes. 1120 square feet. \$1366 + \$700 deposit. 4343 38th Street #3. Section 8 welcome. No pets. Call 858-715-1770.

NORTH PARK. 2 bedroom, 1 bath townhome. \$1102 plus \$600 deposit. Central location. Close to schools and freeways. 4758 35th Street. Section 8 welcome. No pets. Call 858-715-1770.

NORTH PARK. \$895. 1 bedroom downstairs condo in canyon at end of Robinson near Florida. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave. Shared Jacuzzi and deck, air conditioning, parking. Available 1/10/10. 2044 Robinson. Pacific Isle Property Management. 858-270-2071.

NORTH PARK. \$850. Upstairs, 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Walk-in closet. Quiet area. Gated building. No pets. 3944 Bancroft Street, San Diego, CA. 92104. 619-284-3324.

NORTH PARK. \$825. Reduced move-in. Apartment downstairs, laundry on site, off-street parking, gated complex. 3113 30th Street #1. www.sdforrent.com. 619-640-7530.

NORTH PARK. \$900 rent, \$800 deposit OAC. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry, parking, no pets, at 4222 Alabama Street #12. Agent, 619-299-8515.

NORTH PARK. Move-in special, \$500 off first month's rent/ year's lease. Available for your consideration is this recently remodeled 1 bedroom apartment. Italian ceramic tile floors. Tiled countertops, new appliances including dishwasher and microhood. New wall air conditioning unit, crown molding throughout. All new baseboards, new 2-panel decorative interior doors, all new bathroom fixtures and vanity top. New light fixtures and ceiling fan. New faux wood blinds. Unit is painted in designer colors. New plush carpeting in the living room and bedroom. Building is gated with an intercom and has on-site laundry. \$500 security deposit. Will consider small dog under 15 pounds. Seeking qualified applicant with excellent credit and references. 3745 Pershing Avenue. Contact Scott, 619-846-6615; scott@hendershawandassociates.com.

NORTH PARK. \$995 rent, \$800 deposit OAC. 2 bedroom, 2 bath triplex, laundry, no pets, at 3640 Bancroft Street #101. Agent, 619-299-8515.

NORTH PARK. \$1025 rent, \$800 deposit OAC. 2 bedroom, 2 bath duplex townhouse, attached garage, no pets, at 3643 32nd Street #A. Agent, 619-299-8515.

SERVICES

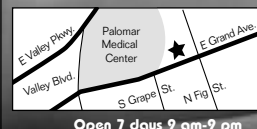
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Rental Communities Directory

	Property Name	Phone	Starting rate	Bedrooms	Short-term/Corporate	W/D in unit	Laundry Facility	Balcony/Patio	Pets	Pool	Covered Parking	Fitness Center
1	Gables Point Loma	619-223-6577	\$1260	1, 2	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
2	Bay Pointe	888-451-8713	\$795	S, 1, 2	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
3	Trilogy	619-231-1505 ext. 12	CALL	S, 1, 2	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
4	The Club Torrey Pines	866-354-2096	CALL	1, 2, 3	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
5	Parkside Apartments	877-280-5568	\$778	S, 1, 2, 3	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
6	Albert's College	800-760-5518	\$969	S, 1, 2, 3	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
7	California Suites Hotel	888-475-7147	\$1195	S	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
8	Studio 15	888-813-9461	\$631	S	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

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NORTH PARK. Extra large 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1250. Gated, private balcony, underground parking, A/C, all appliances, new paint and flooring. 3928 Illinois. 619-843-0796.

NORTH PARK. 1/2 off 1st! Upper 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$750. Gated, appliances, built-ins, parking, laundry. Pet negotiable. 4275 35th Street. 619-804-3325.

NORTH PARK. 1/2 off 1st! Completely remodeled 1 bedroom, 1 bath lower unit, \$825. New appliances, cabinets, wood floors, paint and blinds. Laundry, off-street parking! Section 8 OK. 4213 Kansas Street #3. 619-804-3325.

NORTH PARK. 1/2 off first! Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath in charming complex,

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NORTH PARK. \$950. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. 1 parking spot. Coin-operated laundry. Available now. Section 8 OK. 4123-1/2 Kansas Street. www.stevenleproperties.com. 619-295-1161.

NORTH PARK. Spacious 1 bedroom, 1 bath with great built-in bookshelves and closet space. Laundry on site. \$925. 4613 Alabama Street, #9. Call 619-296-6699. www.centrecity.net.

NORTH PARK. \$950. 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom apartment. 1 parking, coin laundry, wall air conditioning. No pets. 4328 Louisiana Street #4. 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

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NORTH PARK. \$725. Spacious downstairs 1 bedroom, 1 bath with patio. Newly remodeled. New kitchen cabinets, tile, dishwasher, stove. Gated community. Parking. No pets. 619-298-7724.

NORTH PARK. \$750. Remodeled, large studio apartment. Parking. No pets. Gated. Appliances. New carpet/paint. Balcony. Walk-in closet. Laundry. 3909 Florida Street, #112. 619-275-3455.

NORTH PARK. Move-in special! 1/2 off first month's rent! 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$700. Upper and lower units, senior or disabled citizens complex, gated. \$300 deposit. 4086 Swift Avenue. Agent, 619-501-7790.

NORTH PARK. \$795. Upgraded, cozy 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Assigned parking, large yard. Cat OK. Near all 4687 Hamilton Street. Agent, 858-560-1178.

NORTH PARK. 4334 Texas Street. Utilities included! 2 bedroom, \$1050, 1/2 off 1st month! Laundry. No pets. 858-692-6601 or www.bkbinc.com.

OCEAN BEACH. Beautiful beachfront view! Studio, \$995. 1 bedroom, \$1100-\$1350. 2 bedroom, \$1500-\$1700. Some with great ocean views! Serene, security, garden buildings. Hardwood floors, ceramic tile, laundry. Garages available. Pets considered. For address and availability, call 619-224-1748. For applications, call 619-501-5553.

OCEAN BEACH. \$300 off 1st month's rent! No application fee. Blocks to the beach! 1 bedroom, \$950. Clean. Parking. Laundry. No pets. Includes water/trash. Seacoast Apartments, 5030 Lotus. Call Doris, 619-204-1651. 619-224-0759.

OCEAN BEACH. \$995. 1 bedroom, near beach, small building, roomy, clean, quiet, no pets. Nonsmoking. Nice home. 5050 Santa Monica Avenue. Manager, #14. Call 9-5pm. 619-222-3897.

OCEAN BEACH. \$950—bargain! Large, very nice 1 bedroom. Near beach, bus, pier and shopping. Off-street parking, coin-operated laundry. No pets. 619-269-7624.

OCEAN BEACH. \$725. Studio, mile from beach in quiet tropical setting. Laundry. Available immediately. 4166-68 Udall St #2. 619-222-9308.

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. \$1495. 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath downstairs 2-story unit. Garage! Washer/dryer hookups. Huge deck off bedroom. No pets. 4831 Muir Ave. Apt. B. Call 619-222-4836 x14, www.liveatthebeachnow.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$925. 1 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs apartment. Block to beach! Parking and laundry! No pets. 2243 Abbott St. Apt. B. Call 619-222-4836 x14, www.liveatthebeachnow.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$895. 1 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs unit available. Minutes to the beach! With laundry on site! No pets.

4154 Udall Street #4. Call 619-222-4836 x14, www.liveatthebeachnow.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$975. 1 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs attached cottage! Block to the beach! No pets. 5065-1/2 Cape May Avenue. Call 619-222-4836 x14, www.liveatthebeachnow.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1075. 1 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs attached cottage! Block to beach! On-site laundry! Pet on approval! 5067 Brighton Ave. Call 619-222-4836 x14, www.liveatthebeachnow.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$925-\$1250. 1 bedroom, 1 bath or 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Large downstairs units near Robb Field! On-site laundry! Parking! No pets. 4918 W. Point Loma Blvd. Apts. C and D. Call 619-222-4836 x14, www.liveatthebeachnow.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$975. 1 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs attached cottages on beach! On-site parking and laundry! No pets. 5113-1/2 and 5115 Saratoga Ave. Call 619-222-4836 x14, www.liveatthebeachnow.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$995. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs, 3 blocks to beach! On-site laundry! No pets. 4852 Santa Cruz Ave #6. Call 619-222-4836 x14, www.liveatthebeachnow.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$725. Downstairs studio, includes all utilities! Block to beach! No pets. 2188-1/2 Abbott St. Call 619-222-4836 x14, www.liveatthebeachnow.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$975. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Upstairs and downstairs available! Hardwood floors! Block to beach! No pets. 5020-1/2 and 5022-1/2 Cape May Ave. Call 619-222-4836 x14, www.liveatthebeachnow.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$995. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, upstairs, hardwood floors! Block to Beach! No pets. 2186 Abbott St. Call 619-222-4836 x14, www.liveatthebeachnow.com.

OCEAN BEACH. 2 bedroom from \$1150*. Enjoy comfortable year-round living at Ocean Breeze. Spacious apartments now available. This small, friendly complex is an ideal place to call home. Only 2 blocks from the beach. Sorry, no pets! 619-223-8186. *Based on 1 occupant.

OCEAN BEACH. Large 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$985 rent. One block to beach. All amenities. Pool, laundry, fireplace, parking. 4825 Del Mar Avenue. 619-758-9565.

OCEAN BEACH. Large 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1375 rent. One block to beach. All amenities. Pool, laundry, fireplace, parking. 4825 Del Mar Avenue. 619-758-9565.

OCEAN BEACH. 5035 Brighton Avenue #6. \$400 off 1st month! \$950. 1 bedroom. Close to beach. Downstairs, parking. No pets. 619-200-1657 or www.bkbinc.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1900. View! Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. 2 balconies. Near park. Nonsmoking. No pets. Street parking. Available January 1. Agent, 619-226-1270.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1775. Spectacular 2 bedroom, 2 bath corner unit with ocean-view wraparound deck. Two blocks to ocean, one block to Newport Avenue, two parking spaces with controlled access, and washer/dryer. **Open Saturday 10:00-11:00.** 1863 Cable Street and 4898 Niagara Street. TPPM, 858-699-3851, www.torreyinnespm.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1550. 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath townhouse. View on park. Coin

laundry. Dishwasher, parking. Nonsmoking. Pet? 4676 West Point Loma Blvd. #4. By appointment. 619-221-9047.

OCEAN BEACH. \$750. Great studio with eat-in kitchen two blocks to beach and one block to Newport Avenue. Laundry. No pets. 4960 Santa Monica Avenue. TPPM, 619-224-2110. www.torreyinnespm.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$950. 1 bedroom in well-maintained, small, gated complex. Parking, laundry. No pets. 4649 Voltaire Street. TPPM, 619-225-2304. www.torreyinnespm.com.

OCEAN BEACH. \$1175. 2 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs unit in garden four-plex. Close to Ocean Beach and YMCA. Newly updated with new flooring, designer paint colors and new appliances. Pet friendly and 2 off-street parking spaces. 4447-1/2 Mentone Street. TPPM 858-699-3851, www.torreyinnespm.com.

OCEAN BEACH. 4455 Mentone Street #6. \$925. 1/2-off 1st month! 1 bedroom. Upstairs. Laundry. Parking. No pets. 619-200-1657 or www.bkbinc.com.

OCEAN BEACH/WEST POINT LOMA. \$925. Beautiful 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment in great building with views. Gated entrance and parking. On-site laundry. Convenient location near Robb Field, YMCA, Barnes Tennis Center, MTS bus route 35 and beach. Pets under 25 pounds OK. 4457 Temecula at West Point Loma Boulevard. TPPM, 619-770-1959. www.torreyinnespm.com.

OCEANSIDE. Large 2 bedrooms, \$1200/month, west of Interstate 5, just 8 blocks to beach, in vibrant downtown village. Beautiful, remodeled units. 508 North Nevada Street. See photos at www.wextfordliving.com. Call 760-433-8810.

OCEANSIDE. Studios-\$850. 1 bedroom - \$950. Upgrade, d spacious, quiet, pool, laundry, gated parking. Indoor cat OK. Close to shops, transportation, and beaches. www.westwoodvillageapartments.com, 760-722-6421.

OCEANSIDE. \$1095. Move-in special! 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Granite countertops, wood floors, private balcony. Pool, spa, laundry, gated parking. Cat OK. www.casavistaapartments.com. 760-439-5728.

OCEANSIDE/SOUTH. \$975. Spacious 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 1/2 off first month with 12-month lease. Chrome fixtures, Berber carpet. Gated community. 1/2 block to beach. No pets. Garage available. \$700 deposit. Please call Al, 760-722-8924.

OLD TOWN. San Diego Avenue. 1 bedroom apartment (unfurnished). Parking. Stove, refrigerator. No pets. Available now. 619-234-0780 or 619-295-4729.

OLD TOWN/UPTOWN. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. On-site laundry, roof-top deck, view of airport. Rent: \$1500. 1040 Redwood. Call Mike, 858-490-1600.

OTAY MESA. \$1450. 1/2 off first! Secluded 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhome. All appliances, washer/dryer hookups, granite countertops, fenced patio, pool. 2 parking spaces. Near all. Pet negotiable. 3560 Arey Drive #9. 619-674-4863.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1500 plus HOA fees. 2 bedroom. 2 bath. Beautiful, spacious,

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- Check electrical fuses
- Lube front end
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cozy condo available. Fireplace, washer/dryer, 2 parking spaces. Available 1/1/10. \$1000 security deposit. Augustine, 619-861-7506.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1200. 1- bedroom, 1-bath luxury condo at The Plaza. Second floor. Carpet/ paint. Lushly landscaped. Laundry. Microwave. Dishwasher. Pools. 2 Parking. Tennis. Billiards. Health club. Sauna. 24-hour security. Available now. No pets. 1801 Diamond Street. 619-888-6604.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1090. Clean 1 bedroom, 1 bath, second story, 1 parking spot. Bay view. Walking distance to shopping area. Close to the beach. 858-774-0762.

PACIFIC BEACH. Studio, \$750/ month, 1846 Oliver Avenue. Near Mission Bay, 1st-floor unit, no pets, off-street parking, laundry facility, approximately 500 square feet, month-to-month rental. Photos on our website: <http://www.freewebs.com/lefrontenac/> Contact "on-site manager": lefrontenac@inbox.com or 858-272-2825.

PACIFIC BEACH. Great values. Nice, clean, convenient apartments in multiple Pacific Beach locations. Studios from \$785. 1 bedrooms from \$965. 2 bedrooms from \$1355. Parking, laundry. Some buildings with gated entry, pool and/ or deck. No pets. 858-483-3796.

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PACIFIC BEACH. \$1425. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Large kitchen. Newer carpet. Upper unit. Laundry. 2 parking spots. Cat OK. 1624-C Missouri Street (behind house). 858-576-8292.

PACIFIC BEACH. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, downstairs corner unit. \$829. 1 month free on approved credit with lease (must move in by 1/7/09 to qualify). Sorry, no pets allowed. Call Elaine, 760-402-8325.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1125. 1 bedroom, large, upstairs, remodeled. Stove, refrigerator, microwave, dishwasher, elevator, coin laundry. Pool. Cat OK with extra deposit. Available now. 1433 Oliver. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH. 1 bedroom. \$1050 rent. \$550 deposit. 5 blocks to beach/ bay. Gated garden building. Bright, spacious, upper unit. No pets. No cosigners. 4445 Faunel Street. 858-483-3221.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1185. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Private laundry, covered parking, storage, dishwasher, new hardwood floors, appliances, enclosed patio, easy freeway access. 208-682-2962.

PACIFIC BEACH. 1 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs/ 1 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs. On-site laundry, 1 parking space/ 1 shared garage. \$1000. 2128 Thomas Avenue. 858-490-1600.

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.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$805. Studio, 1 bath apartment. Upstairs, hardwood floors, walk-in closet, 1 parking. No pets. 4121 Kendall Street #2. 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$810. Studio bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Gated community. Spacious studio. Walk-in closet. No pets. 1845 Hornblend Street #1. www.cal-prop.com. 858-483-3534.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1195. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Great value for size and upgrades. Large living room with built-in bookshelves. No pets. 1468 Missouri Street #1. 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$980. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. 1 parking space. Convenient to Mission Bay/ Pacific Beach shopping, beaches, nightlife. No pets. 2112 Balboa Avenue #8. 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1575. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. 3 short blocks to beach. Remodeled kitchen, walk-in closet. No pets. 1044 Sapphire Street #8. 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2225. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath condo. All new and modern. Stylish granite counters, stainless steel appliances, air conditioning, private patios, washer/ dryer. 3509 Del Rey Street #203. www.cal-prop.com. 858-483-3534.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1845. Large townhouse. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. 2 parking, 2 blocks to beach, private patio, 915 Diamond Street #D. 858-483-3534. www.cal-prop.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. Cozy 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Private balcony. 1645 Emerald #1S. \$1395, \$500 security. 6-month lease. Showing daily. Call for appointment: 619-957-7755.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2150. 3 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Off-street parking. Laundry on site. No pets. 4451 Haines Street. Call Chris, 858-270-4492 x203.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1600. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartments. Upper or lower. Off-street parking. Laundry on site. No pets. 4451 Haines Street. Call Chris, 858-270-4492 x203.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2600. Clean, light, airy 3- bedroom, 3- bath townhouse. 2- car garage. Cathedral ceilings. Fireplace. Washer and dryer, patio, deck, no pets. 1523 Hornblend. Call Chris, 858-270-4492 x203.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1100. 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Upper level. Off-street parking. Laundry on site. No pets. 4451 Haines Street. Call Chris, 858-270-4492 x203.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2500. 3 bedroom, 3 bath townhouse. 3- car garage. Fireplace, washer/ dryer, patio, deck. Clean, fresh paint. No pets. Available now. 1851 Grand Avenue. Call Chris, 858-270-4492 x203.

PACIFIC BEACH. 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. \$1100 rent, \$800 deposit. Close to all. Laundry, parking, no pets. 4109-1/2 Ingraham Street. 858-270-4674.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2195. Extra large 3 bedroom, 2 bath in small complex, completely remodeled, washer/ dryer hookups, private yard, ceramic tile. Near bay! 2054 Thomas Avenue. 619-804-3325.

PACIFIC BEACH. 1/2 first month! Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1395. Near ocean and shopping. Spacious kitchen, ceiling fans, plenty of space! Pets negotiable. 4406 Dawes Street. 619-804-3325.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1200, huge 2 bedroom, 2 bath. \$950, huge 1 bedroom. Guaranteed parking. 1/4 block to stores. Close to beach and highway. Laundry on site. No pets. Only \$500 deposit. 858-270-5914.

site. No pets. Only \$500 deposit. 858-270-5914.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2750. Large 3 bedroom, 3 bath townhouse in Crown Point area. 2- car garage plus large storage room. Fireplace. Washer, dryer. No pets. Call Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1675. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath. All new tile floors, carpet, fresh paint. New refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, built-in microwave. 2 private parking spaces. 1- car garage available, \$100 more. 2 miles from beach. Must see! Excellent freeway access. On-site coin-operated laundry. Available 1/1. 2734 Hornblend. 619-997-9383.

PACIFIC BEACH. 1 bedroom, \$1095. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1595. 1/2 off first month and no application fee! Short lease available! Located in the North Pacific Beach neighborhood with beach-front access only minutes away. Short distance to Downtown La Jolla shopping and dining. Our quaint apartment homes include on-site laundry facility, extra storage and a quiet location. Cat and small dog friendly. Call our rental office today! 858-272-7464. www.pacificliving.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. Premier location. \$99 moves you in! Free credit application! Fabulous 1 bedroom, \$995; and 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1095. Across from Mission Bay. Gated community. Trails to bay, beach. Adjacent amenities: Pool, spa, sundeck, barbecue lounge. Equipment and free weight room. Cardio fitness center. Computer lab with printer. TV lounge. On-site laundry. Cats and small dogs OK. 1-800-490-6372. www.pacificliving.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1345. Private 2 bedroom, 1 bath corner unit with vaulted ceilings and large private balcony in four-level Great central location with parking. **Open Saturday 2:30-3:30.** 1661 Thomas Avenue #4. TPPM, 858-699-3851. www.torreypinespm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. Best value! \$1095. 2 bedroom, 1 bath upstairs, pet friendly with additional deposit, unit with easy access to bay and freeway. 2614 Figueroa Boulevard. TPPM, 858-699-3851. www.torreypinespm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$995. Newly remodeled 700-square-foot 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Quiet. Ceiling fans, microwave,

dishwasher, laundry, reserved parking. Building well maintained. No pets. Available now. 619-279-0031.

PACIFIC BEACH. Call for end-of-year special! Well-maintained 1 bedroom from \$875. Clean, quiet, parking, laundry, ceiling fans, pool. No pets. Available now. 619-279-0031.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1275. Excellent 2-bedroom third-floor corner unit with custom colors, pool, barbecue. Great value and location, steps to Vons Shopping Center. 1930 Emerald Street. TPPM, 619-206-8578. www.torreypinespm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1025. 1 bedroom located in quaint complex, 4 blocks from Sail Bay, close to Grand and Garnet Avenue. Bright living room and large bedroom closet. 1 assigned parking space. 1811 Pacific Beach Drive. TPPM, 858-699-3851. www.torreypinespm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$925. 1 bedroom in perfect central location across from Henry's Market and Garnet shopping. Short walk to beach. No pets. 1236 Felspar Street. TPPM, 858-699-3851. www.torreypinespm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1295. 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. 4 blocks to bay. Very clean. Dishwasher. Garage/ storage. Laundry facilities. 2121 Reed Avenue. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

PACIFIC BEACH. Call about move-in special! 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Close to beach. Washer/ dryer, fireplace. Patio. Sorry, no pets. 1420 Reed Avenue. Call Agent, 619-582-4119.

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PACIFIC BEACH. 4418 Bond Street #1. 2 bedroom. \$1195. Downstairs. Parking, laundry. No pets. 858-692-6601 or www.bkbinc.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1495. 2 bedroom, 1 bath downstairs unit. Designer paint and new carpet. Centrally located, close to shopping and all Pacific Beach has to offer. 1938 Felspar Street. TPPM, 858-699-3851. www.torreyepinespm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1195. 2 bedroom in attractive garden courtyard and great central location. Parking, laundry. **Open Saturday 1:00-2:00.** No pets. 1461 Missouri Street. TPPM, 858-699-3851. www.torreyepinespm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$2150. 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse recently remodeled with fireplace, granite countertops, nice appliances and private back patio. Walk to Vons Shopping Center. 1852 Diamond Street #3. TPPM, 858-699-3851. www.torreyepinespm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. Starting at \$875. 1 bedroom. Garden setting, easy access location. Pool, recreation room, no pets. 2710 Grand Avenue. TPPM, 858-273-8657. www.torreyepinespm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH. \$1095. Perfect 1 bedroom in immaculate property in the heart of Pacific Beach close to Crown Point. Laundry, parking, no pets. 1656 Reed Ave. TPPM 858-581-6415 www.torreyepinespm.com.

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LEAD STORY

— The first line of “defense” at the 400 Iraqi police checkpoints in Baghdad are small wands with antennas that supposedly detect explosives, but which U.S. officials say are about as useful as Ouija boards. The Iraqi official in charge, Maj. Gen. Jihad al-Jabiri, is so enamored of the devices (according to a November *New York Times* dispatch) that when American experts repeatedly showed the rods’ failures in test after test, he blamed the results on testers’ lack of “training.” The Iraqi government has purchased 1500 of the ADE 651s from its manufacturer, ATSC Ltd. of the U.K., at prices ranging from \$16,000 to \$60,000 each. The suicide bombers who killed 155 in downtown Baghdad on Oct. 25 passed two tons of explosives through at least one ADE-651-equipped checkpoint.

Cultural Diversity

— Many mixed-race (“coloured”) teenage boys in Cape Town, South Africa, secure their ethnic identity by having several upper front teeth removed, according to an October dispatch in London’s *Daily Telegraph*. A University of Cape Town professor said fashion and peer pressure were primary motives for creating the tooth-

gap, and not the popular myth among outsiders that “coloureds” do it to facilitate oral sex. (The ritual includes fitting dentures for the gap just in case, to give the boys flexibility.)

— Charles Wesley Mumbere, 56, was a long-time nurse’s aide at a nursing home in Harrisburg, Pa., until July, when the Ugandan government recognized the separatist Rwenzururu territory founded in 1962 by Mumbere’s late father. In October, Mumbere returned to his native country as king of the region’s 300,000 subjects.

— Jigme Wangchuk, 11, was a student at St. Peter’s School in Boston when he was enthroned in November by a Buddhist sect in India’s Darjeeling district as its high priest, covering territory extending to neighboring Nepal and Bhutan. He will live in seclusion in his monastery, except for contact with Facebook friends he made while in Boston.

Latest Religious Messages

— “Bonnet books” are a “booming new subcategory of the romance genre,” reported the *Wall Street Journal* in September, describing “G-rated” Amish love stories that sell well among outside readers but have found an even more avid audience among Amish women themselves. The

typical best-seller is by a non-Amish writer, perhaps involving a woman inside the community who falls in love with an outsider. In one book described by the *Journal*, the lovers “actually kiss a couple of times in 326 pages.”

— The radical Islamist group Al Shabaab in Somalia recently began accosting and beating robbed women whose bras made their breasts (even though covered) look too provocative. One mother told Reuters in October that police told her that any “firm[ness]” must be natural and not bra-enhanced.

— In September, prominent Egyptian scholar Abdul Mouti Bayoumi of al-Azhar University urged the death penalty for people selling virginity-faking devices that make women appear to bleed on their wedding nights. One such gadget, made in China, was openly for sale in Syria for the equivalent of about \$15, according to a September BBC News report.

Questionable Judgments

— “Ultrarunning” (whose signature event is the 100-mile marathon) takes such a degree of commitment that 5 to 10 percent of participants are said even to have permanently removed their toenails in order to eliminate one of the potential

sources of runners’ discomfort. A sports podiatrist told the *New York Times* in October that many “ultras” consider their toenails “useless appendages, remnants of claws from evolutionary times,” but on the other hand, said one ultrarunner, “You know any sport has gone off the rails when you have to remove body parts to do it.”

— After her two kids, ages 5 and 3, died in a house fire in Rialto, Calif., in May, Viviana Delgado, 27, worked her way through the stages of grief until deciding in October on a tribute. She turned the vacant, charred dwelling into a haunted house for Halloween. To the average visitor, it was just a spookily decorated house, but neighbors knew what the two tombstones in the front yard represented.

Least Competent People

— Daredevil Scottish stunt bicyclist Danny MacAskill, whose electrifying feats are featured on popular YouTube videos, suffered a broken collarbone in October when he tripped on a curb while out for a walk in downtown Edinburgh.

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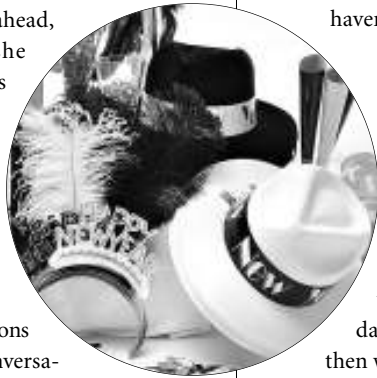
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"I'm not looking back — I'm looking forward," Nancy proclaimed. "I try not to think of the resolutions that I have broken. My main problem is I make a resolution and then there is a long weekend of parties and before you know it, it's three weeks into January and I'm just remembering... But, looking ahead, looking ahead," she reminded herself, "this year I am resolving to be less critical. And to get up earlier each day, to shower and dress and start my day by 7:00 a.m."



New Year's resolutions were the topic of conversation as the party waned into the evening. Eve took note. The Kelly family could use some resolutions for 2010.

Shawn knew immediately which New Year's resolution she has kept the longest. "Recycling. That is the one I have kept up with. And the shortest, overeating. When you like

"Frank said the other day that he is tired of feeling like a tub of goo."

to cook, it is hard not to overeat."

"I don't make a New Year's resolution," offered Meg, "I ease into the New Year. For me, it's always to give up smoking. But, January First comes, I'm trying to get over a hangover from last night's party, and I have to not smoke? I don't think so. How is that going to work? So, I wait until Lent. And then I don't start on Ash Wednesday, either," she added with a laugh. "I can't fast and not smoke. As you can see, I haven't succeeded in this resolution."

"I hate to set myself up for failure, so the only kinds of resolutions I make are positive ones," replied Teresa. "I never attempt the impossible, like giving up coffee, or the vague, like losing weight. I keep it simple. And only do one per year. I try to plan out the logistics specifically. I specify the time and day each new habit is to be done. I then write it on my calendar and schedule in the new activity, however small. Some of my successful resolutions were to read something inspirational daily at noon, to read to my little ones at least three times a week, to get four loads of laundry done by 4:00 o'clock, to bring my kids to the library on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. Some years I post a reminder on my

fridge."

Cathy's resolution remains the same, year after year. "Sometime during the first week of the new year, I look through my family calendar," she offered. "And as I read through all the events of the past year, the joy and the pain, I resolve to be a better mom, to love my husband and my kids even more. Something about the good and bad memories of the past year help me to recommit to being a better person."

"I have never done a diet for a New Year's resolution, but this year hubby and I will," offered Bernice. "It's not so much the extra weight but just feeling better. Frank said the other day that he is tired of feeling like a tub of goo. So, I'm going to read a few diet books and pull the principles that the books share, like eating six small meals a day rather than three big meals. The reading will also help me understand the principles of the diet itself and why it works. And the key to this diet resolution is doing it with my husband. It's really hard to do it alone, to make your own meals or to not have that glass of wine when others are imbibing."

"I find that if my resolution is to give something up," stated Sarah, "if I replace it with some-

thing healthier or better, I am able to keep to the resolution. So, if I'm giving up television, it makes it easier to do if I get into a delicious book. And if I am trying to eat well, when the weekend rolls around,



I won't go hog wild, but I will treat myself to a little something."

"Resolutions for me are often to be healthier," offered Christine. "To exercise more, to eat healthy... And it always helps when there is an important event later in the year, which I use as motivation, and I work toward that event. This year, though, when the ball drops in Times Square, my resolution will be to love people more and to assume the best of everyone. I'm such a glass-is-half-empty person, but I want to be that glass-is-overflowing person. To see the good in everyone, even the grumpy neighbor. To love all those I come across each day. I hope this resolution lasts until the 2011 Times Square party."

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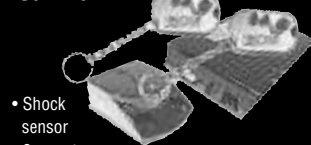
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Address: 1500 East Lexington Avenue, El Cajon, 619-440-4452

Founded locally: early 1900s

Senior pastor: Steve Forsyth

Congregation size: 400

Staff size: 11

Sunday school enrollment: 50

Weekly giving: n/a

Annual budget: n/a

Singles program: yes

Dress: casual to semi-formal

Diversity: Caucasian, some Hispanic

Sunday worship: 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

Length of reviewed service: 1 hour, 5 minutes

Website: ecwesleyan.com

Sunday was assistant pastor Dave Holmquist's last at El Cajon Wesleyan. After the opening worship — a singer/guitarist and a bongo player alone on the vast, spotlit, blue-green stage — he took his place down front for the announcements. "This morning, we're going to be talking about how important it is for parents to put family first," he said. "That's the theme for today."

A woman snagged the mic for a playful interruption, explaining, "John Rosemond is a parenting expert; he is a Christian; he is a won-

derful speaker; and he's going to be at Mt. Carmel High School on January 30. Everything he believes in, he bases it on the Bible." (The bulletin insert provided Rosemond's tagline: "Take Control of your Child, Take Control of your Family!")

Later, a family sat down at the couch-and-chairs combo set up on stage right. Dad read the passage from Luke's Gospel recounting Christ's presentation at the Temple. Mom and the kids sat on the couch. Then pastor Steve Forsyth asked Dad, "What are you anticipating in the year to come?"

Dad answered, "Most importantly, through some of the trials that my entire family has been going through — job loss and losing our home — God showed to us, and to me personally, that we just need to trust Him and continue in obedience, walking with Him."

"Praise God," replied Forsyth. "And we know that any spiritual journey doesn't come without bumps in the road, right?"

The family left the stage,

and Forsyth moved down front. "We think that the thing that is greatest for us is that we want to see our child grow up with a sense of God," he said. Forsyth noted that the Bible was largely silent about Christ's youth. "But we hear about these significant moments," including His dedication. "We want to make sure that these moments are something we don't take lightly."

He called a young mother, Jessica, to bring her daughter onto the stage. "Today, we're going to dedicate Kennedy Daye to the Lord. We don't put a lot of emphasis on baptizing babies. It's more on dedicating them because we believe that dedication is about the parent — we're saying, 'There is going to come a time when Kennedy is going to make her own decisions about faith in Christ,' and this dedication is saying, 'God, we want Your divine favor upon Kennedy and upon this family'.... By this act, you testify, Jessica, that you have made your act of faith in Christ, and to your desire to raise Kennedy in the church as a

Christian. Will you endeavor to do this?"

"I will," she replied.

Forsyth dipped a rose into a bowl of water and touched it to Kennedy's forehead. "I dedicate you now in the name of the Father..." (dip, touch), "and the Son..." (dip, touch), "and the Holy Spirit. We're saying, Jessica, that we know you're going to do your very best to lead her into a personal experience of Jesus Christ, and God's divine favor will be upon her, and He will help you and give you strength as a parent."

The singer came on for a heavy-synth version of "Mary, Did You Know?" which led Forsyth to a consideration of what was meant by "divine favor." "Can you imagine what went through Mary's mind when she was told by the angel Gabriel that she had found favor with God? You would think that would be encouraging, but then she starts remembering her ancestors." Noah, Moses, Jeremiah — all were favored, and all suffered for it.

"We have the same trou-



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Music	
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bles as non-Christians," continued Forsyth. "We know things are out of our control, but we have that kind of confidence that God controls the future. We ask God to help us work through it. A lot of people think, 'I'm a Christian, and now everything is going to be better.' No, you're just going to

have divine favor to get you through the bumpy roads....

"God, we want Your divine favor," concluded Forsyth in prayer. "What do we need to do to make sure we're under the umbrella of Your divine favor? Father, in the name of Jesus, we give 2010 to You, but more than that, we ask you to intrude — into every family, every marriage, every circumstance. Help us to be willing to take the steps necessary to allow You to do what You need to do in our lives."

What happens when we die?

"If you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, you go to heaven," said Forsyth. "If not, you go to hell. But that's a loaded question — if people haven't heard of Christ, then I believe that God finds a way to engage with them. And they have a responsibility to respond to that."

— Matthew Lickona

Videos of this church and others featured in this column are available at sandiegoreader.com.

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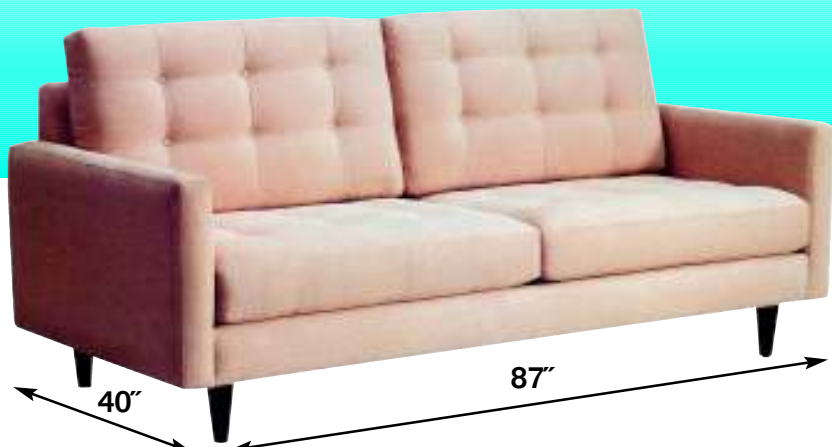
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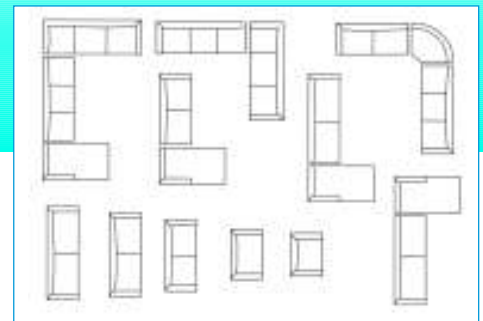
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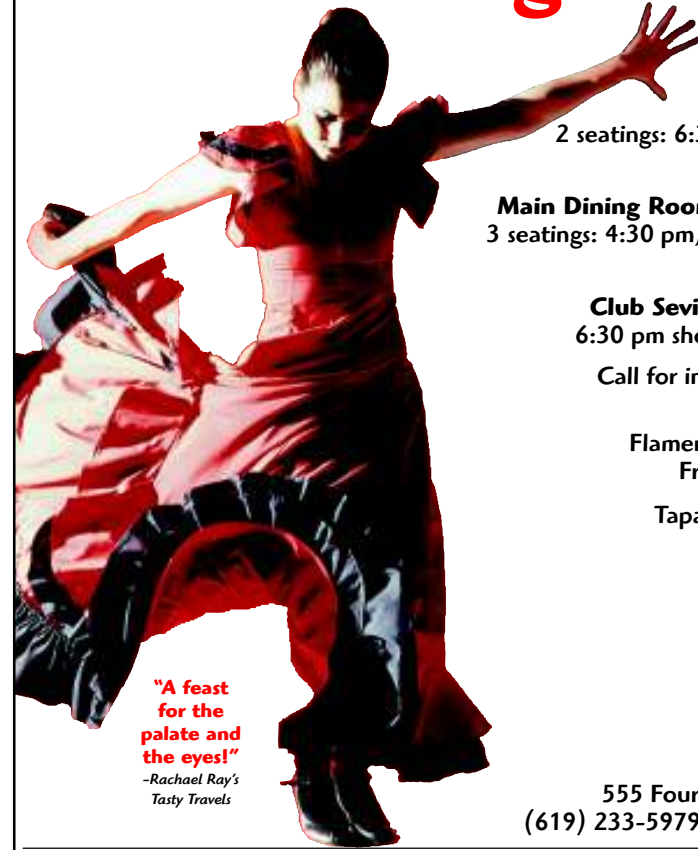


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