

SAN DIEGO

VOLUME 40 / NUMBER 50
DECEMBER 15, 2011

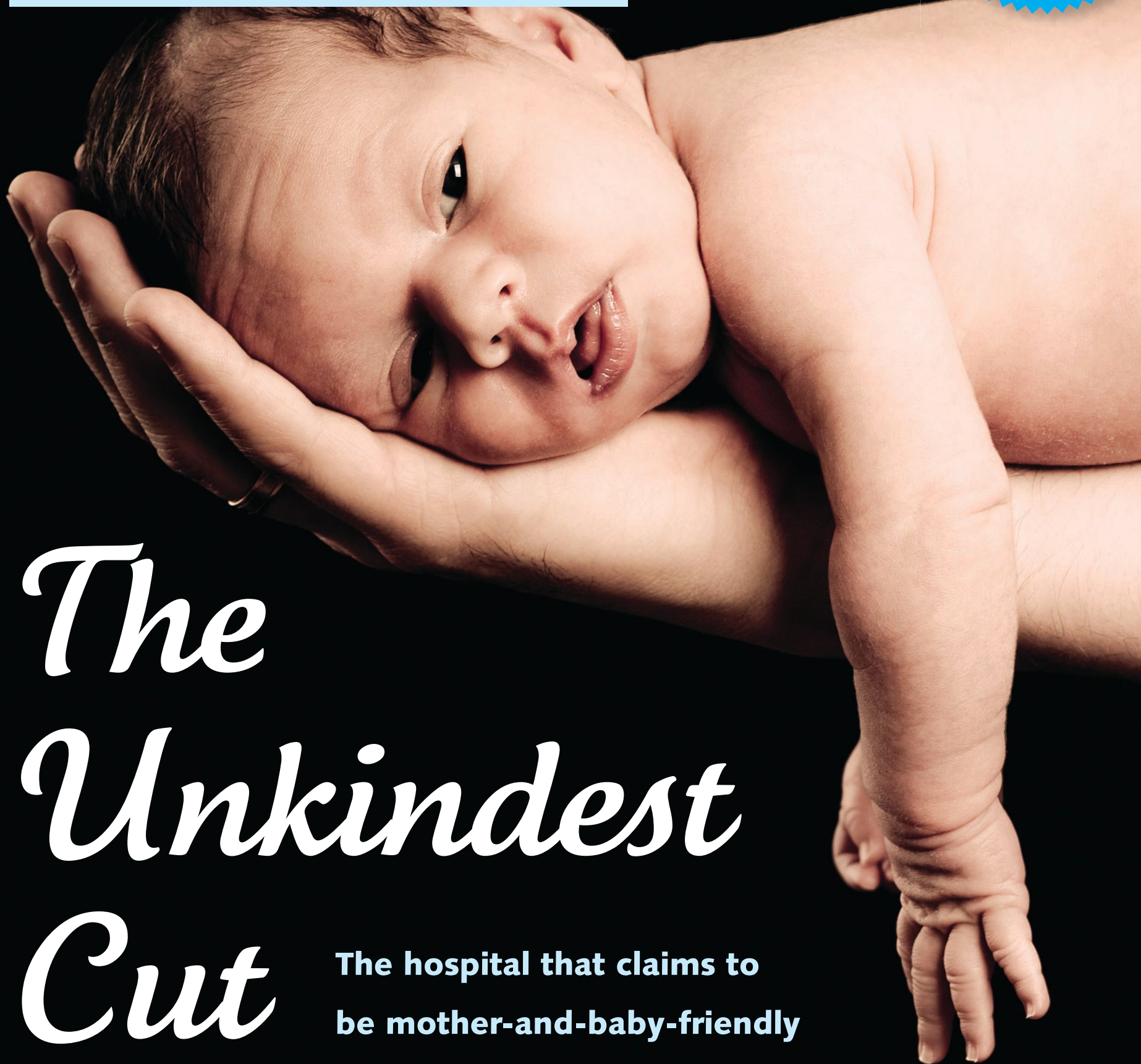
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The convention center liars – see page 2

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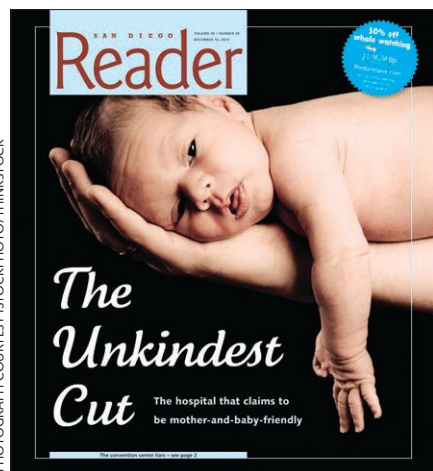


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UNDER THE RADAR

One of 1 percent Molecular biologist **Suresh Subramani**, appointed earlier this year as senior vice chancellor for academic affairs at UCSD, is pulling down a cool \$350,000 a year, plus car allowance of \$8916. Besides

that, the longtime biology professor has also been picking up a little money on the side. According to Subramani's statement of economic interests, filed with the state in March, he is a member of the scientific advisory board of GangaGen, Inc., a Bay Area-based biotechnology firm that has a research lab in Bangalore, India. He was paid between \$1001 and \$10,000 during 2010. The disclosure also reveals that Subramani has received between \$10,001 and \$100,000 of "pre-IPO

shares" in GangaGen. Another UC veteran, Dr. **Janakiraman Ramachandran**, the company's chairman and chief executive, has been on the faculty at UC San Francisco for 16 years, according to *BioSpectrum*. Subramani's other holdings included shares in pharmacy service provider Caremark Corp.; Market Vectors Indonesia, Inc.; toolmaker Snap-on, Inc.; World Fuel Services Corp.; Caterpillar, Inc.; DDI Corp.; Lowe's Companies; MeadWestvaco Corp.; U.S. Bancorp; Standard Motor Products; Aetna, Inc.; and GameStop Corp. His interest in each of those companies was reported to be between \$10,001 and \$100,000. Another

reported source of income was a "royalty for antibodies" paid by Carlsbad's Invitrogen, said to be worth between \$500 and \$1000.

Deficit dollar art The U.S. government may be laden with debt, but that hasn't kept the feds from looking for an artist to help ornament the soon-to-be completed Broadway courthouse downtown. "In addition to a new courthouse, the project master plan integrates new and existing federal buildings with gardens, plazas, a water feature and pedestrian paths that engage and support the downtown urban design goals," according to a notice on the website of the government's General Services Administration. It goes on to say that the project's art budget is currently estimated to be

\$200,000. "One or more artists will be awarded a fixed-price contract for a commission." The submissions deadline was November. Applicants are to be evaluated based on "media, materials, content, style, and scope of the artist's past work, along with the artist's past performance and experience with commissions

or projects similar to the one described in this synopsis."...U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement recently released a list of deaths of people in its custody during the eight years between October 2003 and October of this year. Of 126 reported mortalities, 4 happened in San Diego, the report says.

Ignacio Sarabia-Vallasenor died of cardiac arrest in January 2005 at the agency's Otay Detention Facility. That December, **Roberto Ledesman-Guerreo** died of cardiopulmonary arrest at Sharp Chula Vista hospital. In June 2006, **Yusif Osman** suc-

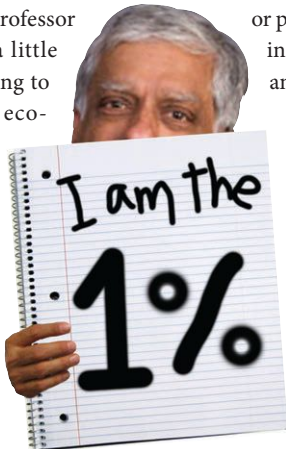
cumbed to coronary artery vasculitis at the Otay facility. And in January 2009, **Julio Martinez** died of complications of end-stage hepatic cirrhosis at Alvarado Hospital.

Porn and politicians Downtown's F Street X-rated bookstore has vacated its longtime premises in the Gaslamp Quarter on Fourth Avenue. The business got its start just around

the corner on F Street in the 1970s, in a narrow shop that was subsequently demolished to make way for the Horton Plaza parking garage...

As holiday fund-raising continues for local politicians, the latest elected officials to warm the season with parties for dollars include Republican San Diego city attorney **Jan Goldsmith**, whose December 13 event was set for a residence in Goldsmith's former hometown of Coronado, hosted by **Doug Metz**, **Anna Paul**, and **Mike Giorgino**. The same night, GOP assemblyman and mayoral candidate **Nathan Fletcher** scheduled a fund-raiser at downtown's Hard Rock Hotel. The night after that it was an invitation to holiday wine and cheese with **Bob Filner** at the Mission Bay Hilton...Brown Field International Business Park LLP has hired the firm of Stoel Rives to lobby the City of San Diego about a development

continued on page 48



Who says there's no money in education? UCSD's Suresh Subramani makes \$350,000 plus perks.



F Street vacated its longtime storefront in the Gaslamp Quarter.

CONVENTION CENTER'S DUBIOUS STATISTICS

Convention	Room numbers forecast	Room numbers reported	Attendance forecast	Actual attendance
(1) Direct Marketers	23,100	23,100	16,000	6800
(2) Math Teachers	23,760	23,760	18,000	9500
(3) School Boards	37,400	37,400	16,500	9446

(1) Direct Marketing Association 2009 (2) National Council of Teachers of Mathematics 2010 (3) National School Boards Association 2009
Sources: Heywood Sanders; San Diego Convention Center annual forecasts and annual reports; AECOM

Creative math? Note that hotel rooms forecasted and reported are identical, though actual attendance was well below the forecasts.

The Convention Center Liars

By Don Bauder

Even in the face of the current economic downturn, the San Diego Convention Center continues to deliver

significant benefits to the greater San Diego region," boasted the center in its 2010 annual report.

Do not swallow this assertion whole. The statement is based on false statistics the center has been disseminating for several years.

Now the center and downtown boosters are using the same bogus statistics to generate public support for a \$550 million expansion of the existing center, \$750 million if a hotel is included.

Here's how the ruse works: each year, the center publishes a four-page forecast edition. On page 2 is a chart showing "Top Five Economic Generators." It predicts the attendance, hotel room nights, direct spending, tax revenues, and economic impact of five upcoming center events — say, the convention of the American Diabetes Association.

However, often there are fewer attendees than predicted. If you look hard enough, you may see some revised attendance figures in the center's year-end annual report. The consulting firm

AECOM, which was hired to make recommendations on a center expansion, used the actual attendance numbers — not the ones that had been forecast — in its November 15, 2010 report to the San Diego Convention Center.

Heywood Sanders, the ranking national expert on convention centers, discovered vast discrepancies in San Diego Convention Center numbers. Basically, what Sanders found was that in many cases when actual attendance declined from the forecast, the number of room nights cited in the report stayed the same. This means that the center has been systematically overstating hotel room nights, and therefore overstating hotel tax receipts, attendee spending, and the center's impact on the overall San Diego economy.

In January 2009, the center predicted that 16,500 attendees at the convention of the National School Boards Association would generate 37,400 hotel room nights. However, as the AECOM data revealed, only 9446 people showed up —

a whopping 42.75 percent fewer than forecast. But the consultant reported the same room nights figure as was forecast: 37,400. "It doesn't make sense that the number of attendees would be so much less than forecast and the hotel room nights would be exactly the same," says Sanders. "It strains credulity. In my judgment, it explains why the center looks so good. It looks so good because the numbers aren't right."

Sanders, a professor of public administration at the University of Texas at San Antonio, is the author of a seminal study on convention center overbuilding published by the Brookings Institution in 2005. He has published several other papers for prestigious think tanks.

There are other examples. In January 2009, the center predicted that the convention of the Direct Marketing Association would attract 16,000 attendees who would generate 23,100 room nights. Actually, 6800 showed up — 57.5 percent below forecast, but the room nights number reported by AECOM remained 23,100. In April 2010, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics attracted 47.22 percent fewer attendees than forecast, but in the final report the room nights remained the same.

In 2008 and 2009, the conventions of the National School Boards Association, American Public Trans-

continued on page 48

Watch Your Step

By Elizabeth Salaam

Last Sunday, while jogging up Wightman Street through City Heights, I had to avoid five piles of dog crap, seven fecal smears, and one brown lumpy puddle — all on city sidewalks. These numbers do not include the piles and Chihuahua-sized nuggets that littered the grassy areas beside the sidewalks, areas where I forbid my child to walk because there the fecal matter is less visible.

A year or so ago, I wrote a story about City Heights in which I mentioned, in passing, the dog poo on the sidewalks. One reader wrote in with a complaint that I was mistaken, that he lived in the neighborhood and had

never seen such a thing. My husband and I had a good laugh over that one.

Early one Wednesday evening, I find teens Mercedes, Gustavo, and Robert hanging around out-



Some City Heights residents would like to see poop pickup bags like these.



Professional dog walker Roxanne Stuber says City Heights "isn't a very pleasant place to be walking" because of poop-covered sidewalks.

side a City Heights apartment building. When I ask whether they've noticed an inordinate amount of dog feces on neighborhood sidewalks, Gustavo points behind me and says, "Yeah, there's actually some right there."

And, sure enough, there is. I take two steps to my right.

"It smells," Mercedes says, "and it makes the neighborhood look dirty."

Neither of the two boys

has a dog, but Mercedes does. She makes sure it defecates in her yard before she takes it out for a walk. But she also carries plastic bags — just in case.

"I've seen some neighborhoods that have little bag things wrapped around palm trees or something," Gustavo says.

Mercedes agrees. "Yeah, that would help a lot because some people don't think their dogs are gonna go, so they don't bring a bag. But if people could just grab one and then..." She pauses and adds, "We should also have trash cans."

If you've ever walked through Little Italy, you may have noticed an abundance of little green metal boxes attached to light posts and stop signs. These are Dogi-pot pet stations. Inside the green metal boxes are bright blue bags. Some of the boxes have diagrams and written instructions on how to use the bags to pick up poop. And near the boxes stand trash cans. This setup makes it convenient for dog owners to pick up after their pets.

According to Chris Gomez, district manager of the Little Italy Association, the 60-plus pet stations in 48 square blocks cost \$8000 per year to maintain. This

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NEWS TICKER

Sunshine Use Charge

Petition to Stop SDG&E Rate Increase

San Diego — As representatives from SDG&E make their rounds defending a proposal to raise rates on solar users, environmental activists and residents are petitioning the state's energy commission to deny the rate hike.

The proposal, if approved, will allow SDG&E to restructure their current billing scheme and begin charging a monthly "network use charge" to help pay for maintenance of the grid. The rate increase would amount to approximately \$22 per month for residential solar users, and thousands per month for school districts and water plants that have converted to solar.

"These unjust fee hikes, if approved, would set an extremely damaging, nationwide precedent for other utility companies to follow that would have a huge, adverse effect on this country's transition to solar energy," reads the online petition.

By Dorian Hargrove
Thursday, December 8

Retro-Fudged Reports

School Inspectors' False Filings

San Diego — A report released today by California state auditor Elaine M. Howle concludes that inspections of school construction projects for earthquake safety by the state architect's office have been severely deficient, jeopardizing student and teacher safety.

The problem has been especially bad in San Diego, says the report, where "according to the San Diego field team supervisor, inspectors have falsified reports, been absent from job sites, been unable to comprehend construction plans, and failed to communicate with the regional office about their

projects."

The inspections, mandated by the state's Field Act, are crucial to maintaining the structural integrity of school buildings, the auditor says.

By Matt Potter
Thursday, December 8

Too Tall

Planning Commission Rejects Height Ordinance

Uptown — Residents encountered a setback on Thursday when planning commissioners rejected a proposal to extend the interim height ordinance, which limits buildings in areas of Uptown to under 65 feet.

Residents believe the ordinance is needed to preserve the character of Uptown. "The community doesn't want tall buildings on the top of our hill. Most people like Hillcrest just the way it is," said longtime resident Ann Garwood.

After hearing testimony from residents both in opposition to and in support of the height ordinance, planning commissioners decided against renewing the ordinance, saying the community should consider projects on a case-by-case basis.

"A large-scale, six-to-seven-story box that fills a site is definitely not the vision you have for Hillcrest. We'd be here arguing how to stop that next," said planning chair Eric Naslund.

The issue now moves forward to the city council for approval.

By Dorian Hargrove
Thursday, December 8

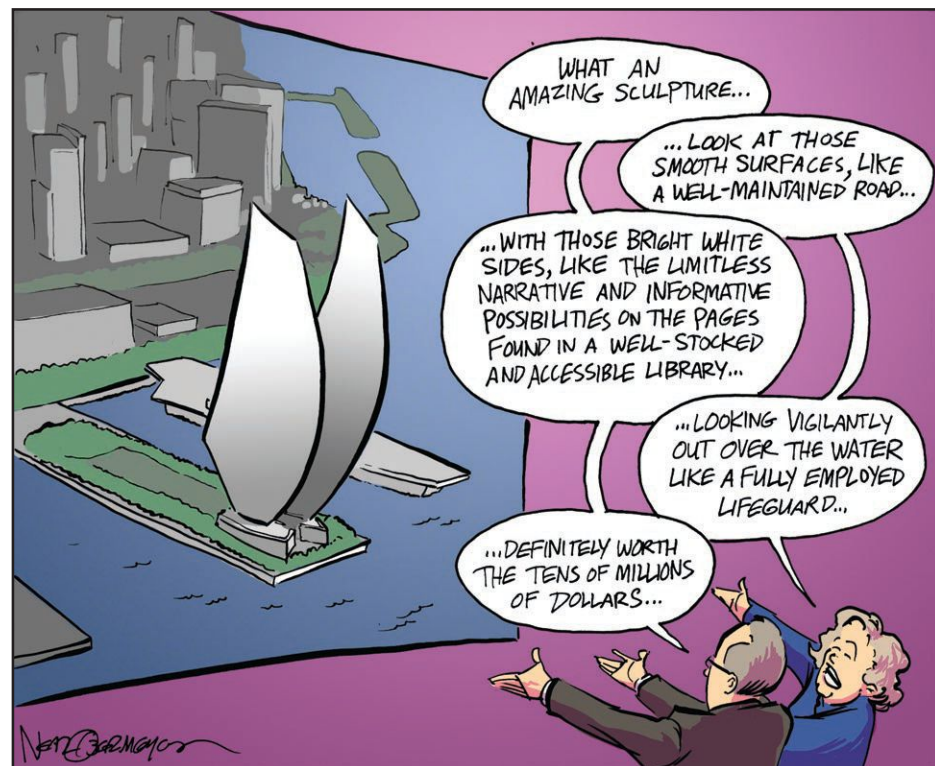
Scratch and Win

UCSD's Fresco Drilling Is Marketing Ploy

La Jolla — A furor over whether UCSD's Center of Interdisciplinary Science for Art, Architecture and Archaeology should be boring holes in a priceless Giorgio Vasari fresco in search of a Leonardo Da Vinci masterpiece thought by some to be underneath is shaking the Florentine art world and has

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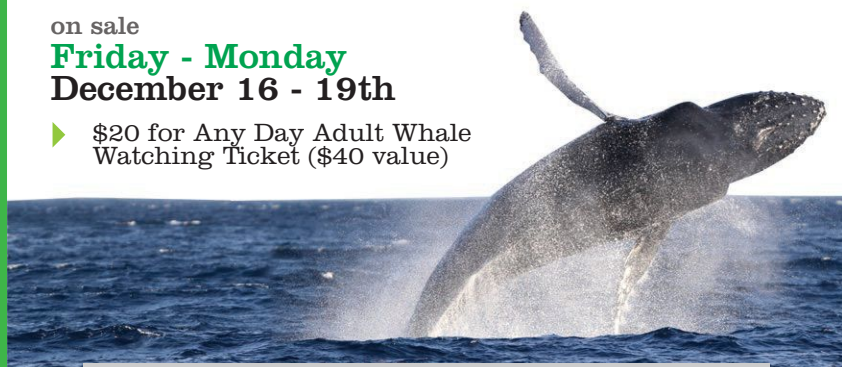


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A Great Green Read

What a joy it was to read Bill Manson's piece "Wild" (Cover Story, December 8). Having interviewed Phil Unitt many years ago while working on a piece about the ecological destruction that road development was visiting upon our county, I was happy to see how things haven't necessarily become worse and worse. Humans can change directions, and the general awareness that seems to be rising and allowing for such a diversity of fauna to coexist with humanity here is heartening. Certainly, the rising tide of urbanization is a good thing; the high-water mark of constant far-flung development seems to have been reached as we now recede toward something more stable and sustaining. Perhaps someday the San Diego River will gain its proper place in the city's consciousness. This city, by all rights and history, should be one of geraniums, not smokestacks. That is a direction all cities must consider taking in the carbon-drunk future, and it seems to me that we have a good start if not a leg up on many of our peers.

Don Bauder's piece was equally telling, Freudian analogies notwithstanding. This city has always had something of "an edifice complex," no doubt brought about by the factual reality of being something of a cul-de-sac. Blame the Laguna Mountains. When Kate Field, one of the most famous women in America at the time, visited San Diego

in 1888, she found our city "so lovely and so lazy." Upon leaving she remarked, "You have given yourselves and received from others more treacle than is good for you. Your digestion is out of order in consequence." I would suggest modestly that bad digestion can lead to other dysfunctions. The hubris it takes to self-name your metropolis "America's Finest City" is of a magnitude similar to the one it takes to propose 900-foot titanium wings along the waterfront.

Bauder has mostly been a delight since leaving the *Union-Tribune*, and since the recent implosions have rendered what was never a great newspaper tattered beyond salvation, his voice will be sorely needed to counter the 1-percenter attempts to shove a stadium up the downtown's collective arse. The antidote for giving away too much to the too rich would seem to be to, uh, not do that.

Pro-active scientists and recognition of our opportune forgetfulness make for a nice issue. Thanks!

Allan Peterson
via email

Sail On, Fools

Re Don Bauder's "Head Case" ("City Lights," December 8).

Right on, Don. As the old saying goes, " 'Em wotz got...gitz!" Maybe we should refer to San Diego as the Ship of Fools.

Ted Rodosovich
University City

Victims Of The Elected

Another interesting article by Don Bauder — "Head Case" ("City Lights," December 8). I've lived in San Diego for many years, and I've always been amused by our apparent feelings of inferiority. In spite of the population growth, it seems San Diego has more claim to "biggest little city" than Reno. We may be large in area and number of residents, but we remain small in terms of attitude, leadership, and politics.

Our slogan of "America's Finest City" seems laughable,

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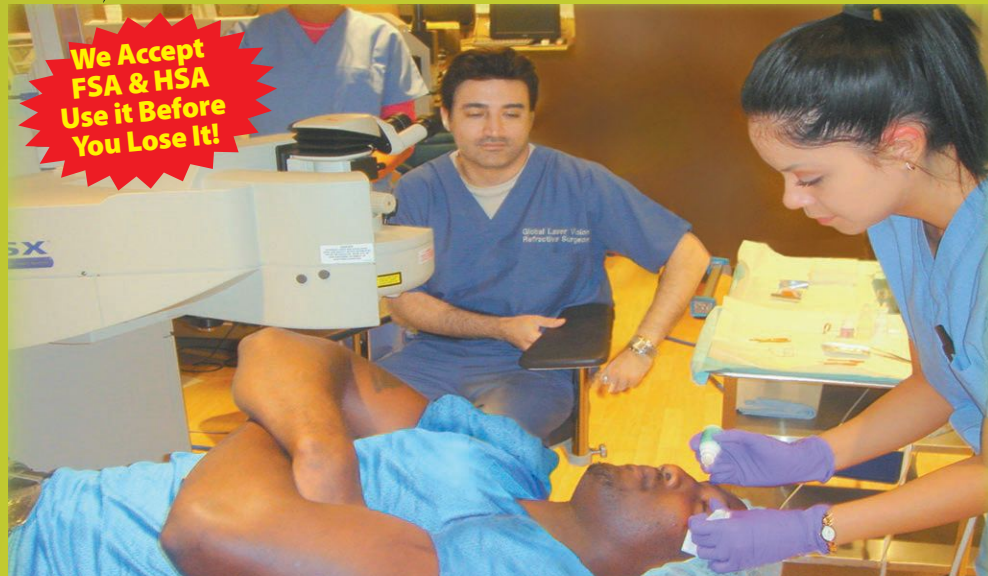
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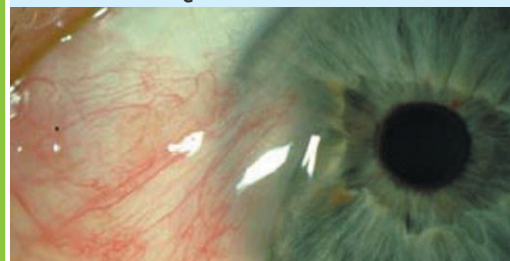
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by Barbarella

The Cat Card

David and I rarely argue. Bicker, sure, everyone bickers — a cranky huff, a misunderstanding that leads to irritation — we are human, after all. But argue? As in fundamentally disagree and dig our respective heels into opposite stances? We'd always prioritized getting along over winning. But one issue has been working its way into our dinner conversations with ever-increasing frequency, resulting in discontent: I'm ready to get a dog, and David is not.

I've always enjoyed looking at other people's pets. "Isn't it cute," I'd say, keeping my hands to myself — "I'm allergic" was my excuse, though it wasn't that. Allergy shots and time have cleared up most of my issues. It was more about the mess: hairs

falling loose from a coat of fur, the potential for filth that might get on my clothes...or worse, on my skin. I would look but not touch. In the past few months, however, something changed.

A pet was never an option when we lived in a corner penthouse — whenever it came time for Fido to empty his bladder, it'd be a long elevator ride and a giant lobby to the nearest bush. Just imagining the hassle was enough to quell my desire to adopt.

But then we moved. Now we're in an apartment with easy access to

the outside, and most of our surrounding neighbors have dogs. Big dogs: golden retrievers, a chocolate Lab, a Rottweiler. In our new place, the dogs all seemed touchable. Lacy (my personal favorite) is a two-year-old retriever/Dalmatian mix, a beautiful golden package of uncontrollable happy energy. The first time she jumped up at me, she tripped a critical switch in my machinery. I dropped to my knees and patted her, from soft ears to violently wagging tail; I never wanted to stop.

I'd always thought that whole "biological clock" thing was a myth, but, clearly, mine had gone off. This fierce urge to nurture was foreign and uncontrollable. During our excursion to the Chilifest in South Park (where it seemed every other person had a leash in hand), my friend Carole pointed out that I had stopped to pet every

dog we'd passed. "You need to get a dog, Barb. You're looking at these dogs the way women who really want to have a baby look at babies," she said. After a horrified silence, I slowly nodded and acknowledged her observation.

I'd been steadily bringing up the subject of getting a pet with David over the past few years. After humoring me and talking about the kind of dog he'd like "someday," David would tire of it and resort to his failsafe tactic to quash

the subject: "Are you willing to clean up its shit?" I

surprised myself as much as him when, a few weeks ago, I answered, "Yes. For some reason, the idea doesn't bother me the way it used to."

I noted the flicker of alarm in David's eyes and started talking about something else.

"You told me when we got together that you wanted a dog someday." We were seated at the dining table, with Trader Joe's stuffed peppers, Steamfresh broccoli, and a bottle of something red. David sighed and gave me a look that indicated I was ruining his appetite. "You didn't want cats," I continued. "I



was fine with that — I got rid of my cats. You didn't want

kids, and that was cool, because neither did I. But when I asked if you wanted a dog, you said yes, that you would someday. It's been nine years. Someday's getting closer for me, and I want you to start thinking about it."

David let out an indignant huff. "You're pulling the cat card?"

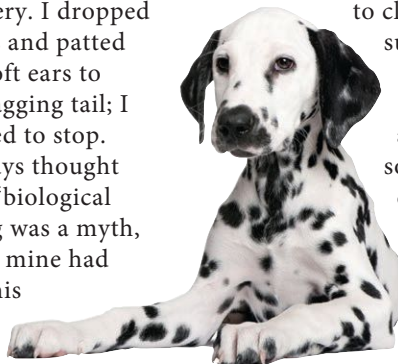
"It's not a card, it's a fact," I said. "And it was a decision I made, based on information you gave me, and I'm starting to think that you weren't being entirely honest."

"We have all the time in the world to get a dog. Remember? We talked about getting one when we have a place with a yard."

"Yeah, but that's just it," I countered. "Look at us. We went from a contemporary condo to a contemporary apartment. We didn't like any of the houses we looked at; we're not house people! It's only recently occurred to me that we might never have a yard, so you can't say you want a dog 'when we get a yard,' because that just means you never really want one." I was getting angry. A look at David's flushed face told me I wasn't alone. ■

Find more stories by Barbarella at SDReader.com/barbarella

"You need to get a dog, Barb. You're looking at these dogs the way women who really want to have a baby look at babies," she said. After a horrified silence, I nodded.



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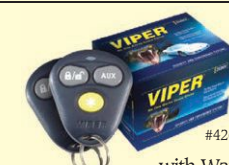
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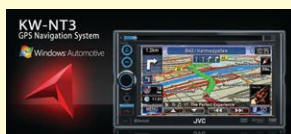
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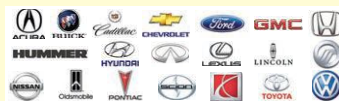
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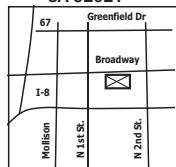
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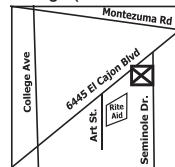
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STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP

BY MATTHEW ALICE

Hey Matt:

My teenager always seems to be doing ten things at once. I can barely manage one or two. Is there something special about the teenage brain that makes them good multitaskers?

— Mom Nancy, San Diego

Everybody knows teens have “different” brains, sometimes no brains. And that’s been proven scientifically. It’s generally accepted from years of research into the subject that teens’ brains are undeveloped and won’t reach “adulthood” until age 25 or 30. Scary, scary thought. Worse yet is the fact that the lagging lobe is the frontal, responsible mainly for judgment, long-term planning, and impulse control. So, yes, right off the bat, teens’ brains are different. But does this difference make them better multitaskers?

If my brain’s still working well, I think we handled multitasking in general several months ago. Can people actually multitask? No, no, science says. Two tasks, okay. Three or more, and things start to fall apart. Nothing much gets done accurately or in a timely way. We didn’t spend much if any time talking about teens in particular. But lately the science guys have pounced on the younger set for lots of investigation. Must be a ton of grant money out there for this type of thing. The issue of big concern is what happens to teens’ brains when they’re bombarded with so much media all at once and they multitask their way through the evening, and what this means for the brains of the future. Will we end up with a dazed population of ADD-afflicted adults who can’t concentrate on anything? Apparently that’s the grown-ups’ fear. And considering that the Kaiser Family Foundation says the average young person spends seven and a half hours a day with media of all types (up one hour a day from six years ago), maybe the concern is real.

So, Nancy, you say you can barely manage one or two things at once while your kids are like whirling dust devils. Right you are. People who did not grow up with media bombardment are pitiful multitaskers, science says.

One of the best known teen studiers is neuroscientist Jay Giedd of the National Institute of Mental Health. Since 1991 he’s been running the same teens through a functional MRI, which reveals in real time what segments of the brain are engaged in the task at hand. There’s about another decade to go on the study; by

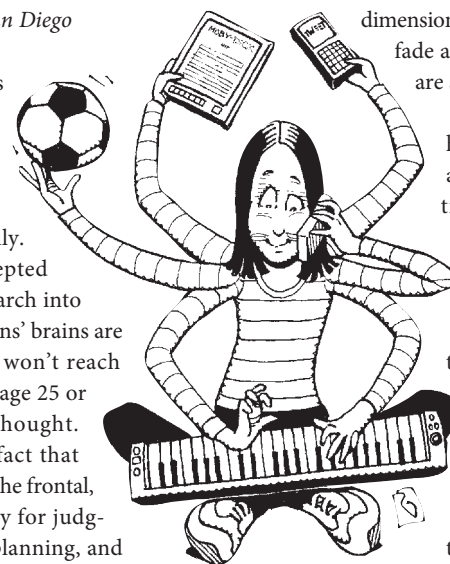
then he hopes to see a picture of exactly how the media onslaught changes the brain’s wiring over time. Past age five or six, the only brain changes that occur are in the neural pathways and connections, not the brain’s physical dimensions. Old, useless connections fade and beneficial connections are strengthened.

Giedd says today’s teens have a near-addictive attachment to their electronic buddies; they have trouble ignoring them. A signal for an incoming text will hijack their attention from other things. But it is the brain’s plasticity that offers big hopes for the future. Anyone raised in this media-rich atmosphere develops a brain adapted to that environment. Unlike

Mom’s and Dad’s brains that could maybe read a comic book and watch *Starsky and Hutch* at the same time, today’s teens are adapting to a phone call while surfing the web while IMing a pal while perusing Facebook and doing Spanish homework. They can’t do any one of those things real well, but their brain circuits are adapting to that world. There aren’t any big signs that kids are headed for lifelong ADD. In fact, there are some aspects of the electronic world that scientists have found actually work to a teen’s benefit.

Parents will probably hate this, but studies done at the University of Rochester (NY) and elsewhere indicate that video games have plenty of potential benefits. Assuming you’re an average player, not a round-the-clock addict, video games can improve certain aspects of vision, cognition, concentration, visual short-term memory, “pure-brain multitasking,” and the generation of new ideas. The mental agility you need to play a game might spill over into your day-to-day life.

The more optimistic researchers suggest today’s kids might get the best of both worlds — an improved ability to multitask and the ability to zero in on a subject when the situation calls for it. Of course, the teen has to think a task is particularly important for him/her to make an effort to concentrate on it. That would determine how a smack-down between algebra homework and a tweet would end. But if a kid’s fairly well rounded, it’s likely s/he eventually will be able to pick out the cashews from the peanuts. Of course, the research is fairly new and some of it incomplete, so nobody’s making any grand predictions yet. Like teens themselves, it’s all a work in progress.

Find more Matthew Alice online at SDReader.com/hip

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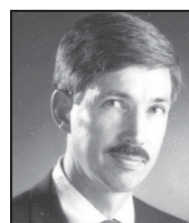


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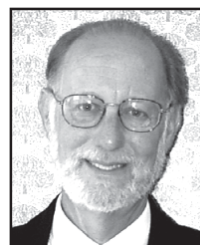
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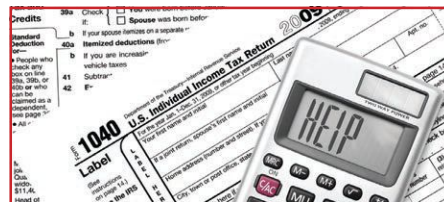
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SD ON THE QT

Almost factual news

Economic Indicator Report: Housing Starts Down, Tunnel Construction Up

According to figures released recently, San Diego's home-building market is continuing its nightmarish decline since the glory days of the mid-aughts: housing starts were down 47% in October from the same month in 2005. But as recent discoveries have indicated, there is at least one bright spot for the local construction industry: tunnels.

"It's an exciting time to be in the tunnel business," says Arturo Ramos, owner of Mole Man Contractors in Otay Mesa. "Demand has never been higher, and when people see that, they want to be a part of it. We're attract-

sophisticated ever found" by both Mexican and U.S. authorities. "The elevators, the electric rail system, the support structure — all of it was the result of the brilliant team we've put together here at Mole Man. Nobody thought we'd be able to get all the necessary systems into such a small space. But I said, 'If Apple can put 1000 songs on an iPod, we can put ventilation into this cramped crawl-space under the border. We just have to think different.' And I promise that our next one will be even better — and harder to find."

Ramos also pointed to an ancillary boom brought

on by his recent successes: luxury tunnels for private homes. "Often, the well-to-do want to be able to come and go without having to be seen by the everyday people walking around on the earth's surface. These tunnels make that possible. They can also be used to receive deliveries of materials that might otherwise attract unwanted attention. Rich people need to

get high, too, you know." And, of course, money people are not satisfied with a simple concrete tube. "We've been able to bring in elements that are not only beautiful, but functional. The pillars you see here? Every one of them is load-bearing. The stone floor conducts radiant heat. At Mole Man, we really are building the tunnel of tomorrow."



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Ramos notes with pride that his company's recently discovered drug tunnel has been called "the most

City Council Passes Ruling Mandating That San Diego Transplants Who Claim to "Miss the Seasons" Be Forced to Paint Local Fall Foliage in 40-Degree Weather While Wearing Only a Bathing Suit

"Still miss those seasons, Grandpa?"



PUTTING ON A SWEATER, OAK PARK — "It was the recent cold snap that gave me the idea," says city councilman Tony Young of Council Resolution #315, which is aimed at curtailing whiny complaints about the region's alleged lack of seasonal variation. "I had to go outside to get some possums out of my trash around 3 a.m. last Saturday morning, and all I could think was, *Damn, it's cold*. The next day, I

was raking sycamore leaves out of my front yard, and I realized that this is the same weather-related nonsense that people have to deal with in Vermont. You know, the stuff that gets sentimentalized when those same Vermonters eventually move to our city and start complaining about being warm all the time. So I decided to give them something to complain about, and the rest of the council wholeheartedly supported my efforts."

Kelvin Acea: Fire Turner Now

Longtime Chargers Reporter for the Spoonrun-Spitoon Says Victory Over Jacksonville Shows That Coach-Provocateur "No Longer Has the Heart for Truly Experimental Football"

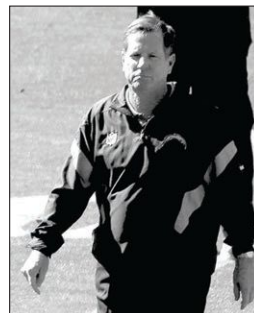
"When you start listening to the critics, it's time to go."

TOP FLOOR OF THE HOLLOW SHELL THAT ONCE HOUSED A MIGHTY DAILY — Let's get one thing clear at the outset: Kelvin Acea does not hate Norv Turner. "I believe that [he] will one day be remembered as one of the boldest, most progressive coaches in NFL history," said the *Spittoon's* longtime Charger analyst as he polished his most recent sports journalism trophy. "It's true that he never did anything as bold as [Ohio State Buckeye coach Jim] Tressell when he exposed the hypocrisy at the heart of so-called 'amateur' athletics in 2010 through the fleshy eloquence of the tattoo. And he certainly never attempted anything as transgressive as [Penn State defensive coordinator Jerry] Sandusky's exploration of the connection between violent sport and arrested develop-

ment, sexual and otherwise. But it must be remembered that both of those men were working in the comparatively free-wheeling realm of collegiate athletics, where you can get away with things like payola and the wishbone offense. For Turner to have mounted the kinds of dramatic seasonal arcs that he has, all while operating under the business constraints faced by any professional sports franchise, is nothing short of remarkable. Imagine Bresson or Godard making movies at a studio like 20th Century Fox — that's the kind of situation I'm talking about."

But, said Acea, last night's blowout victory over Jackson-

ville is a clear indication that Turner has lost his artistic nerve. "It seemed pretty clear what he was up to this season. As the Chargers readied themselves to entertain offers from their suitors [San Diego and Los Angeles, chief among them], Turner was cratering the team as a kind of test — 'How much do you really want me? Is it really



me you want, or just my great big winning record? Will you still want me when I'm clearly not at my best?' Imagine a woman putting on 40 pounds right before her wedding, just to see if her man was ready for the inevitable hard times to come. That's what Turner was up to. A bold move, but an important

one. Everybody wants a winner, but no team can win every year. Turner wanted to make sure that whoever got the Chargers would love the Chargers for better or for worse."

Acea turned and spat a long, thin stream of tobacco juice into one of the many brass spittoons that both give his paper its famous name and also dot the interior of its headquarters. "But this," he said, wiping a trace of brownish spittle from his chin, "this clumsy, lopsided victory over a hapless team in the midst of its own transitions... To say that I'm disappointed is too mild. The only way I can make sense of it is to declare that Turner is tired. Fire him now. I suspect it's what he wants. Bring someone in who can give this team what it needs: a truly disastrous finish to what has been, up to now, a merely disappointing season."



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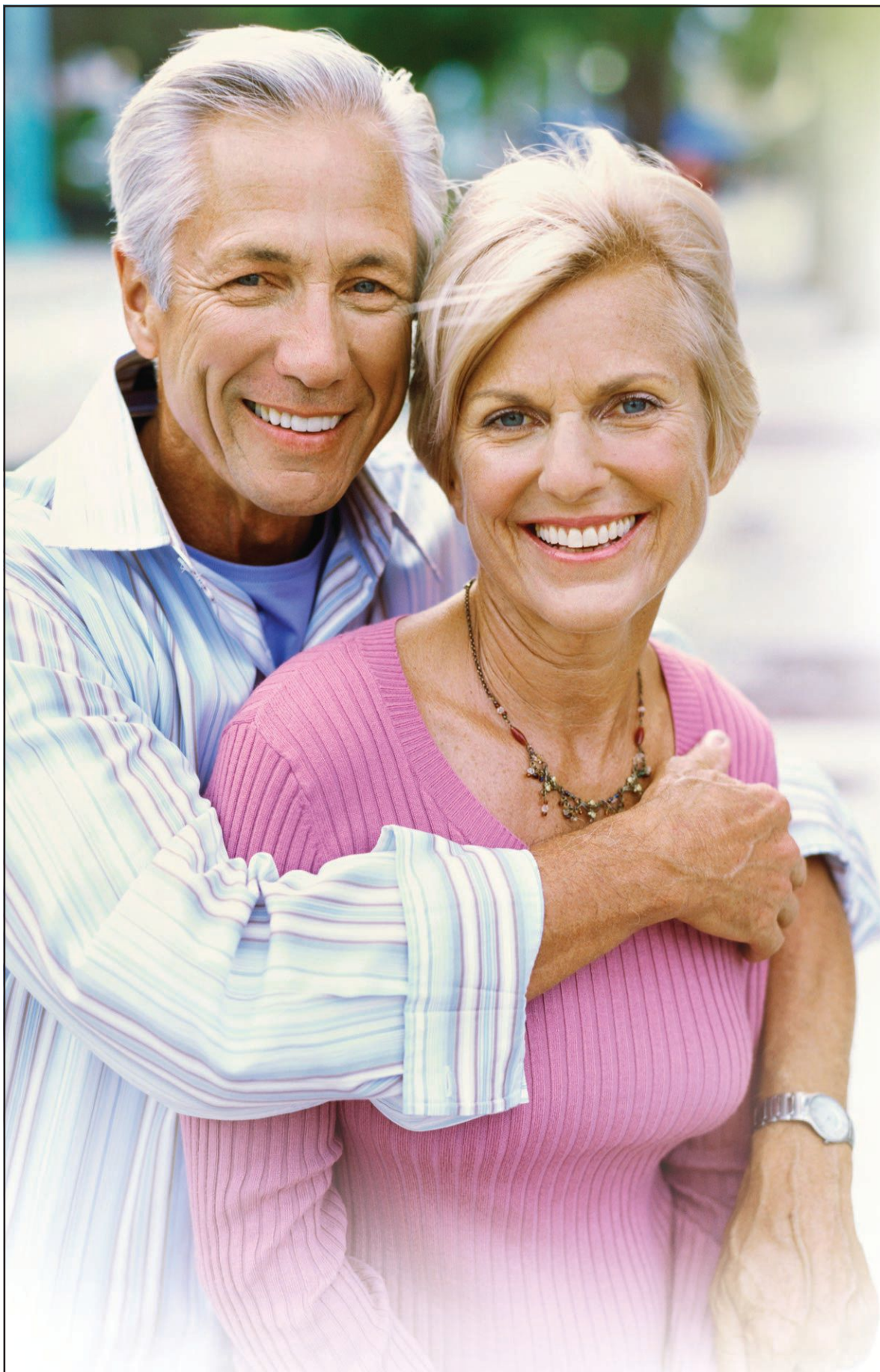
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BLOG

DIEGO

TITLE: **DrMindBodyIsIN** | ADDRESS: **drmindbodyisin.com**
AUTHOR: **Howard Koseff, M.D.** | FROM: **Carlsbad** | BLOGGING SINCE: **September 2011**

TITLE: **"A" is for Arsenic, not Apple.**

DATE: **December 6, 2011**

In what looks like a fairly comprehensive study, *Consumer Reports* details arsenic levels in the juices that we and our children are drinking. Basically, what is emerging is that the apple concentrate used in juices is purchased in China, where pesticides contain inorganic arsenic. The levels in some juices are higher than those permitted in tap water and the concern is that children ingesting these drinks over a long period of time are at risk for chronic arsenic exposure... Unfortunately, our food supply chains have become so far removed from us that we are at the whim of a mass production industry which worries more about the financial bottom line than your or my health. Pay attention to what you put into your body!



TITLE: **Social Un-Networking**

DATE: **November 25, 2011**

Slowing down is perhaps one of the most crucial things we can all do... Ever get the feeling that life is racing by? Try a few days of no TV, less radio and no newsprint. Try cutting your texting and email time in half. See how you feel!

DATE: **Thanks and Gratitude**

DATE: **November 23, 2011**

One of the secrets of the happiest people I know is gratitude. They tend to be happy with the simple things in their lives, and they are thankful for what they have. They tend to take joy in simplicity. They tend to live within their means, without cravings, and they don't envy what others have.

TITLE: **Crazy for Curry**

DATE: **November 18, 2011**

What gives a traditional Indian curry its yellow color? *Curcuma longa*, commonly known as turmeric. This root, formerly known as Indian saffron, has a tough brown skin and dark yellow orange flesh, and is native to southern India and Indonesia, where it has been harvested for thousands of years.

Turmeric's active ingredient is curcumin, which has been shown to possess antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. The dried

root of turmeric normally contains from 3% to 5% curcumin. In animal studies, it has been shown to slow the spread of some cancers; and in the laboratory, it has inhibited cancer cells.

For hundreds upon hundreds of years, turmeric has been used in Asian culture as a textile dye, and in traditional medicine for wound

infections, colds, conjunctivitis, parasite infections, diarrheal illnesses, arthritis, and kidney problems.

Lately, it is being promoted as a natural cholesterol lowering agent and as a preventative supplement for cancer.

Turmeric has been used for thousands of years to both color and flavor food,

and any Asian food lover will attest to turmeric's taste-enhancing powers. For me, as with garlic, turmeric is best consumed with food. Two meals a week with a couple of teaspoons of turmeric should give your immune system a good antioxidant boost and your taste buds a real treat.

TITLE: **Be in the Moment?**

DATE: **November 17, 2011**

David Eagleman, in his book *Incognito: The Secret Lives of the Brain*, describes an experiment in which he gets test subjects to fall from dizzying heights and records their experiences.

Wanting to test the theory of why time seems to slow in near fatal accidents, he outfitted his students with a perceptual chronometer to see if, in the panic of falling 150 feet, his subjects' brains would be able to see very fast flashing numbers that we usually can't.

What did he find? When you're falling, you don't actually see in slow motion, but when you perceive a serious threat, your memory becomes super acute, and you pay attention to thousands of details that you normally wouldn't register, details that may very well save your life. We perceive the slowness because our brains are trying to compute so much data.

What really strikes me here is that it usually takes an impending accident or life-threatening event to get us to pay attention. A heart attack, the diagnosis of cancer or severe pain will bring us to the present. But being in the moment during routine daily life is usually more difficult.

SportingBox

BY PATRICK DAUGHERTY

Good Luck. Bad Luck.



Young Mr. Luck missed the Heisman again this year, but he'll still go number 1 or 2 in this year's NFL draft.

Six weeks ago I wrote a column about the Indianapolis Colts deliberately losing their games in order to guarantee owning the number 1 pick in April's NFL draft. Said pick to be used to acquire Stanford's once-in-a-generation quarterback Andrew Luck.

Things were strange six weeks ago, and that's not counting Peyton Manning's absence. I wrote, "But, it's hard to believe the loss of one man, even a four-time MVP, causes a team that has made it to the playoffs every year for the past nine years in a row, a team that has been to the Super Bowl twice in the past five years...hard to believe the loss of that one man means that same team goes 0-8..."

The Colts were 0-8 then, now they're 0-13, and it's obvious they're tanking. To replace Manning, the Colts ignored their backup quarterback, Curtis Painter (who was good enough to be on their roster for the past three seasons), and selected a retired 16-year veteran, Kerry Collins. Mr. Collins lasted three games. Then, Curtis Painter was dusted off and dubbed starter. As insurance, the Colts wisely signed not-a-household-name Dan Orlovsky, previously a second- and/or third-string quarterback for Detroit and Houston. Orlovsky was in between jobs.

This was going on while David Garrad, Carson Palmer, and Brett Favre were available. Any one of those quarterbacks will win games.

After Sunday's 24-10 loss to Baltimore, in which, after three quarters, the Colts gained 53 yards in total offense, scored their lone touchdown on the final play of the game, head coach Jim Caldwell, using his deer-caught-in-headlights persona, said, "We just have to find a way to get our team better so we can get a victory."

There are some positives coming out of that contest. Caldwell still has a job. Dan Orlovsky is quarterback. Detroit is the only team in NFL history to go 0-16, which was accomplished in 2008. Now, not only can Indianapolis match that low, but Orlovsky is just three losses away from being the only quarterback in NFL history to lead two, count 'em, two 0-16 teams.

Of course, if you play as badly as Indianapolis has, heads will roll. Larry Coyer, the defensive coordinator, was fired and replaced with Mike Murphy, 67, who, somehow, had been overlooked during his previous 14 years with the Colts. Defensive coordinator Murphy will continue his duties as linebackers coach. There's a cost savings right off the top. Head coach Coyer said the change was made "to improve communication and production." To complete this massive overhaul, Painter was demoted and backup QB Dan Orlovsky was named starting quarterback.

The Colts' ownership is unusual in that Jim Irsay controls 100 percent of the team. He came into his own the old-fashioned way: the lad inherited an ancestral gold mine from his father. He was 37 years old at the time.

So, one guy has it all, answers to no one. And one guy has made the franchise relevant — Peyton Manning. Here's the problem: Manning has had three neck operations, the last one on September 8. The man would be crazy to play football again. Can you say *paralyzed* in French? Okay, say he is crazy and wants to play again. You're the owner of the Colts, you have to decide, just around the time Peyton turns 36, March of 2012, whether to hand over a bonus check for \$28 million payable to three-neck-operations Peyton Manning in order to kick-in the last four years of his contract.

Let's see...36 years old, three neck operations, a \$28 million check due in March... You'd have to be crazy to sign Peyton Manning. You'd have to be double crazy to sign him when you have Andrew Luck waiting in the wings. What you'd do is trade Manning for as much as you can get and go with Luck.

Given a choice, people usually choose to do what has worked for them in the past. The Colts were a top franchise on the back of Peyton Manning. What could be more natural than to try it again with Andrew Luck?

The beauty of this is you only need a conspiracy of one. As supreme leader, just see to it that your quarterbacks are below marginal and the rest will follow. Players will catch on that you're not trying. As will coaches. You might not lose every game, but you'll likely lose enough to come in last.

The bet is Andrew Luck will be Peyton Manning 2. But, Luck hasn't been looking that great lately. He missed the Heisman trophy again this year. He wouldn't be the first number 1 or 2 draft pick to go bust.

Remember Ryan Leaf?

Find Sporting Box online at SDReader.com



Christian head coach Matt Oliver hoists the Division V championship plaque in the midst of celebrating Patriots players.



Poway students celebrate the Titans' first Division I crown since 2007.

Final Red Zone Top 10

Division record in parentheses

- 1. Helix (12-1)** Highlanders undoubtedly the best team in section
- 2. Poway (12-0-1)** Blitzed Vista in record-setting Division I title game
- 3. Cathedral Catholic (12-1)** Five in a row now longest active run
- 4. Oceanside (9-3-1)** Section title streak snapped at seven straight
- 5. Valley Center (12-1)** Jaguars return to top of Division IV
- 6. La Costa Canyon (9-3)** Season came to crashing end in semifinals
- 7. Madison (10-1-1)** Reached 10-win mark for fourth straight year
- 8. Mission Hills (7-4-1)** Played Helix closest down the stretch
- 9. St. Augustine (9-2)** Shocked by Mar Vista in Division III quarters
- 10. Santana (11-2)** Capped season with first section finals trip

Helix Invited to CIF State Bowl

La Mesa's Helix High School will be the sole representative from the San Diego section in the California Interscholastic Federation's State Bowl games, which match the best of Northern California against the best of Southern California.

The Highlanders will contend for the Division II title against Del Oro, which hails from

Loomis, a Gold Country town 25 miles northeast of Sacramento. The game will be played Saturday, December 16, 4:00 p.m., at the Home Depot Center in Carson.



Cathedral Catholic players swarm head coach Sean Doyle after the Dons captured their fifth straight Division III title.

2011 CIF State Football Championship Pairings

All games played Dec. 16-17 at Home Depot Center in Carson.

North team listed first, South second

Open Division Saturday 8 p.m.

De La Salle (Concord) (12-1) vs. Westlake Village (Westlake) (14-0)

Division I Friday 8 p.m.

Bellarmino (San Jose) (12-1) vs. Santa Margarita

(Rancho Santa Margarita) (12-2)

Division II Saturday 4 p.m.

Del Oro (Loomis) (13-1) vs.

Helix (La Mesa) (12-1)

Division III Saturday noon

Campolindo (Moraga) (14-0)

vs. Washington Union (Fresno)

(13-0)



Valley Center running back Garrett Fiehler carries the ball outside against Santana in the Division IV finals.

Division IV Friday 4 p.m.

Le Grand (12-0) vs. Sierra Canyon (Chatsworth) (14-0)

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T.G.I.F.

BY JOHN BRIZZOLARA

It took me years to learn that the books I had sent home were unread and gathering dust.

Associations with December: too many. I will economize on my reflections. My birthday is in December, as is that of my good friend, writer and elementary school teacher Elizabeth Cullen, as well as historical and hysterical compadre José Sinatra. In all our cases, it may be one of those birthdays one wishes ignored, unacknowledged — certainly when someone tosses an innocent “Happy Birthday” in your direction or sends you a gag card about erectile dysfunction. In that case, the temptation to test your right hook is fought down with a constipated grin and a good-natured chuck on your amigo’s arm, which will inevitably (unintentionally, of course) fall too harshly on your riotous buddy.

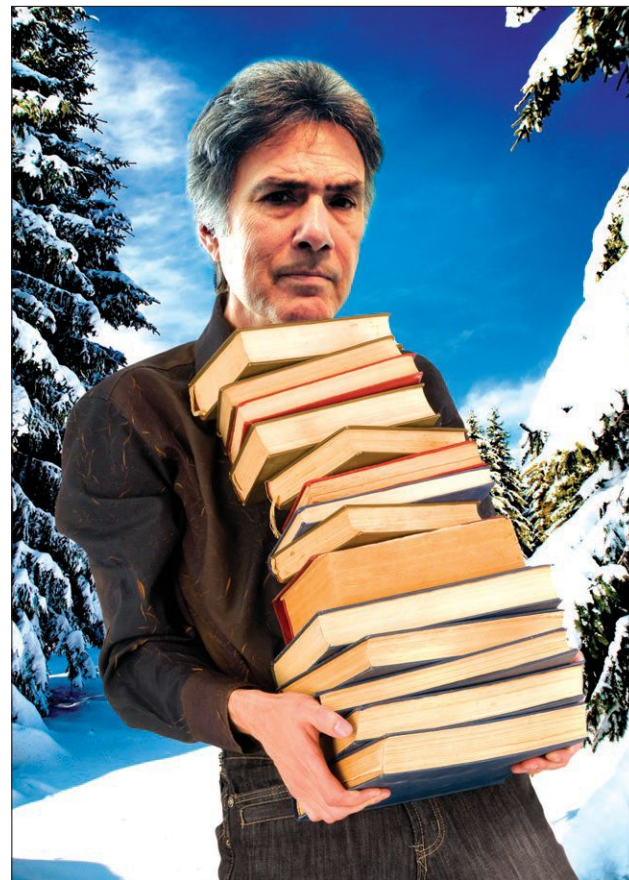
Oddly, one of my first thoughts concerning this month gravitates toward Robert Frost. Cornball, if you like, but to avoid him in the pantheon of poets would be a grievous error. I am chagrined to say that I have no work of his at hand from which to quote (in storage, surely it must be there), but I recall something he wrote: “A poem must be like a cake of ice on a stove, riding on its own melting.” This, to me, is the essence of December, a celebratory time but subject to pool into the muck of January.

Ah, Ms. Cullen just called with the quote from Frost I was thinking of. Familiar, no doubt, it reads, “Whose woods these are I think I know.... He will not see me stopping here. To watch his woods fill up with snow.”

Why this passage is so closely associated in my mind with December is a simple matter, but I cannot identify it any more than I can identify why I associate Miles Davis with other planets.

To T.S. Elliott, April was and is the cruelest month. I know what he meant, but his words — maybe minus the second line (I am no gardener and have no knowledge of lilacs other than the ones that blossomed outside my grandmother’s window — in winter, too, as I recall. Maybe not.) Tom Elliott wrote that, “April is the cruellest month, breeding lilacs out of the dead land, mixing memory and desire, stirring dull roots with spring rain.”

I do have Elliott, Richard Hugo, Robinson Jeffers, and Stephen Dobyns; but as I leaf through the works of these poets, I find myself distracted and discover that 45 minutes have gone by before I again focus on the work at hand. But there it is: one undeniable association with December and Christmas gifts. I come from a large family, and many of my siblings have their birthdays this month, so I combine birthday gifts with Christmas. Historically, with books. Books were easy — I worked in bookstores and I received a 40 percent discount. It took me years to learn that the books I had sent home were unread and gathering dust, spines uncracked. Poetry went over like the gift of a brand new Catholic school garment, a bow tie, or a Chia Pet.



Between Thanksgiving, birthdays, Christmas, and New Year’s, one can become a hopeless sentimentalist, a bitter cynic, or a career alcoholic. Which brings to mind another line from another poet (you may argue this), a line neither profound nor astounding in any way, in fact, supremely mundane: “Gotta get through January, Gotta get through February....” It is from the song “Fire in the Belly,” from Van Morrison’s *Healing Game* album. Those words have resonated with me for almost 15 years. They replay, recur, reprise like a mantra starting about this time of year. I would like to say that December is a poetic month for me in the same way that many people compare the “Merry, merry month of May” to walking in the park, optimism, and joy. But I’d be lying.

Find more stories by John Brizzolara at SDReader.com/brizzolara

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Posted Dec. 7, 8:25 a.m. by Dave Rice



SDG&E Defends Solar Rate Hike
At County Hearing

Posted Dec. 6, 4:18 p.m. by Dorian Hargrove



Occupy San Diego Protester Joins
Hunger Strike in Response to
Alleged Police Brutality

Posted Dec. 6, 3:27 p.m. by Chad Deal

JAM SESSION



Daniel Rosenboom : Fallen
Angeles

Posted Dec. 6, 7:18 p.m. by Robert Bush

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BestBuys

—EVE KELLY

‘Mulling is when you infuse your cider with other flavors and aromas,” said Kathy. “You can use spices, herbs, fruits, or even sugars.” She pulled a pile of saucepans from under her stovetop. “Shall we start heating things up?”

First came the Aspen Mulling Cider Spices (\$2.99 for 5.65 oz. at Cost Plus World Market). “This says it’s good for cider, wine, tea, or even brandy,” I read as Kathy heated the apple juice. “Looks like sugar and ground-up spices to me. You use two tea-spoons per cup of liquid.”

“It smells like cin-namon,” said Donna. Kathy agreed, “All I get is sugar, apples, and cinnamon.” Michelle added, “It’s thick on the tongue. Cloying.”

Martinelli’s Mull-ing Spice (\$4.99 for 2.38 oz. at Ralphs) came in a pack of 25 individual bags. “How convenient!” I marveled. “Instead of tea, you have cinnamon, orange peel, cloves, and allspice, but other than that it’s the same. Pour a cup of water over the bag, and let it steep.”

“It’s not worth the saved effort,” grum-bled Kathy. “It tastes a lot like hot apple juice. If you really give a good snort, you can sort of smell some cinnamon, but other than that it’s pretty flat.” Nobody disagreed.

We moved on to the loose-pack mulling spices, starting with Trader Joe’s house brand (\$3.99 for 5.5 oz.). Again, the lineup was cinnamon, orange peel, allspice, and cloves — two teaspoons per quart of apple juice, simmered for 20 minutes. We were quickly disappointed. “Waaay too much cinnamon,” ex-claimed Donna. “I can taste a little orange, but, yeah, the cinnamon assaults your tongue and leaves a bitter taste.”

The Winter Sippers New England Mulling Spices (\$4.99 for 4.5 oz. at Vons; \$1.99 for 1.2 oz. at Sprouts) managed better results with the same lineup of ingredients. “The elements are balanced,” I said. “I can taste the citrus, and the apple of the juice, and also the cinnamon.” “Maybe even a hint of the clove,” agreed Kathy. “It’s pretty good.” But I winced at the thought of a “pretty good” Christmas memory.

I turned to the bag of chunky Cost Plus World Market Mulling Spice (\$5.99 for 6 oz.). The bold bits inside — whole star anise, a half-inch cinnamon stick — gave me hope. And no other cider spice mix had included

“I think it’s wonderful to make your own mulling mix; that way, you really get to know the spices.”

cardamom seeds. As with the Trader Joe’s, we had to simmer it for 20 minutes. Unlike the Trader Joe’s, we had to add a whopping half-cup of spices per 750-ml bottle of apple juice, as well as brown sugar and water. Our efforts were rewarded.

“The star anise is assertive on the nose,” said Kathy, “but it doesn’t overpower the other flavors.” Michelle added, “It’s much more complex than everything else, and yet you can still taste the apple of the juice.” “You can taste every ingredient,” agreed Donna. Kathy said, “And the carda-mom adds a subtle pepper fla-vor.” Me, I loved the visuals — all those little star anises floating in my mug like exotic marshmallows.

The goodness of those chunky bits of seasoning got us wondering: could we make the mix ourselves and do better? The next day, I called In Harmony Herbs & Spices in Ocean Beach (619-223-8051; inharmony-herbs.com). Saleslady Rhonda told me, “All our spices are organic. We get the finest herbs and spices, we get them harvested at the right time, and we sell them fresh.”

“This time of year, people come in look-ing for things such as cloves [\$2.20 per oz.], ginger [\$2.26], allspice [\$1.75], orange peel [\$1.55], and cinnamon. We have three kinds: sweet cin-namon [\$1.81], cassia ([\$1.81], and cinnamon sticks [\$1.34]. They also buy cardamom [\$2.80], which is a green pod with black seeds inside. And star anise [\$2.32]. We sell nutmeg, ground [\$2.41] or whole [\$2.50]. If you grind it yourself, you get a fresher flavor. We have a grinder for sale [\$17.95]. I think it’s wonderful to make your own mull-ing mix; that way, you really get to know the spices.”

Peoples in Ocean Beach (619-224-1387; obpeoplesfood.coop) also sells bulk spices. The clerk noted that they carry a bulk mulling spice mix (\$19 a pound), and a “small pack-aged version” from Simply Organic (\$1.49).

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- 1: Cost Plus World Market mulling spices
- 2: Trader Joe’s mulling spices



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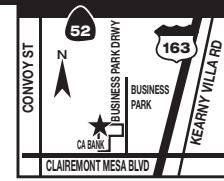
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The Unkindest Cut

My introduction to Elizabeth Cooper-Schultz comes by way of a text message in which she refers to Mary Birch as "that hospital that claims to be mother and baby friendly."

When I arrive at the apartment she shares with her husband and two children in the UTC area, Cooper-Schultz welcomes me into her home with a hug, a cup of coffee, and a plate of strawberries and coffee cake. Once we're seated, Cooper-Schultz begins. She's eager to tell the story of her son's birth.

"Usually I start off by telling people my C-section started even before I got to the hospital. I had a C-section because my doctor didn't care if I had a C-section."

According to statistics compiled by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, Sharp Mary Birch Hospital for Women and Newborns had the highest rate of cesarean section deliveries in San Diego County in 2009. The California average was 29.8 per 100 births; at Sharp

Mary Birch, the rate was 37.7. The World Health Organization suggests that C-section rates should be between 10 and 15 per 100 births.

At 40 weeks, two days prior to her due date, Cooper-Schultz's water broke, though she was not in labor. In a birthing class she'd taken at Mary Birch, she'd been told that this happens to 25 percent of women. She says she'd never recommend the class "because it's focused on the assumption that your birth will be intervened on in some way." If your water breaks, they told her, we have to get the baby out within 24 hours. So she and her husband went to the hospital right away.

"They pretty much wanted to put me on Pitocin the minute I walked in the door because I wasn't having regular contractions," she says.

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Pitocin is a synthetic form of a natural hormone called oxytocin that stimulates uterine contractions. The drug is controversial not for what it can do — help induce labor — but for its overuse as a tool of convenience, for managing or controlling labor, despite the risks it presents, including, in rare cases, uterine rupture and fetal distress.

Dawn Thompson, a private doula, or birth coach, based in Encinitas, calls Pitocin the first in the “snowball

effect” of interventions that ultimately lead to a C-section. The contractions induced by Pitocin come strong and fast, unaccompanied by the endorphins present with natural contractions, and the use of Pitocin requires constant fetal monitoring, which limits mobility for the mother. Most women find the pain intolerable and end up needing an epidural. An epidural is an injection into the bony spinal canal of a local anesthetic that blocks nerve impulses in the

lower half of the body. While epidurals eliminate pain, they come with their own set of risks, potentially slowing down the process of labor, causing a drop in blood pressure for the mother, and causing a lower heart rate for the baby. Ultimately, these interventions set the stage for the C-section.

Mary Birch administrators do not deny that their C-section rate is high. John Cihomsky, Sharp’s vice president of communications, wrote to me in an email, “Sharp

Mary Birch Hospital for Women & Newborns is the busiest high-risk, Level III delivery center in the state. Sharp Mary Birch not only delivers the most babies in the state, but we also deliver the most babies weighing less than 1500 grams. These very low birth weight babies are almost always delivered by cesarean section. In addition, we also care for many mothers with high-risk perinatal conditions, such as placenta accreta, and medical conditions that

often require delivery via cesarean.”

Hospital administration declined to give me a tour of the hospital or a face-to-face interview.

To be fair, Mary Birch is but one hospital among thousands across the country whose C-section rates are two to four times higher than they should be. And it’s likely that the “too push to push” crowd and the “I want my kid born on Valentine’s Day” moms do their fair share to raise these rates with their elective C-sections.

But a significant number of women believe their C-section deliveries at Mary Birch were the result of convenience for the doctors, fear of litigation, and/or lack of staff training in nonmedicated childbirth options.

A study done in Portland, Oregon, in the late 1990s found a correlation between the use of Pitocin and C-section rates. The January 1, 2003, issue of *Ob.Gyn. News* outlines the study, in which 4635 women who went into labor



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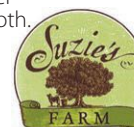


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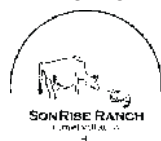
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spontaneously had an 11.5 percent C-section rate, while 2647 who were induced had a rate of 23.7 percent.

On the Drugs.com website, an "Important Notice" accompanies the indications and usage information about Pitocin.

"Elective induction of labor is defined as the initiation of labor in a pregnant individual who has no medical indications for induction," the notice reads. "Since the available data are inadequate to evaluate the benefits-to-risks considerations, Pitocin is not indicated for elective induction of labor."

It is common for hospitals to use Pitocin if a woman has not gone into active labor within 24 hours after her water has broken to avoid the risk of infection. But the staff at Mary Birch wanted to give Cooper-Schultz Pitocin within the first two hours.

Cooper-Schultz refused the Pitocin at first. She wanted to get

things going naturally, and for the next several hours, she and her doula walked and used the birth ball, a large physiotherapy ball on which the mom can sit to relieve pain during labor and which is believed to assist in positioning the baby. At the 12-hour mark, her cervix had dilated to four centimeters. She says she now understands that this "is a good natural labor progression for a first-time mom."

But it wasn't fast enough for the staff at Mary Birch. Cooper-Schultz, who describes herself as the kind of person who will "try not to be a problem because you might be mean to me if I am," allowed them to give her the Pitocin that she says they'd been pushing since she'd arrived.

"No human should have to withstand Pitocin contractions on their own. It's awful," Cooper-Schultz says. "They weren't honest with me. They didn't say, 'If you

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get the Pitocin, you're probably going to need an epidural."

Thompson, the doula, says that the lack of informed consent is a big problem when it comes to the medical interventions doctors use to manage labor and delivery. When women ask for her services as a doula, the most common statement she hears from moms who have had previous births is, "If I would have known *this*, I would've never done *that*."

Many doulas, including Thompson and Care Messer, who is also a hypnobirthing instructor, believe that a large part of their job is to help inform the patient about the effects of Pitocin and other interventions. They see themselves as advocates, helping to remind the mothers that in a hospital setting they are the customers and they have the right to say no. But Cooper-Schultz

didn't know any of this before her experience at Mary Birch, and she chose her doula for her nurturing characteristics rather than her strength of advocacy.

"I needed somebody to be like a mom for me because my mom wasn't going to be there. And that's what she was," Cooper-Schultz says. "I didn't go into this situation thinking I have to be an advocate for myself. I didn't know I had to do that."

Cooper-Schultz withstood the pain of Pitocin contractions for eight hours before she finally gave in and got an epidural. "I was in so much excruciating pain I couldn't move. All I could do was just sit in the chair. Every time I would get up, I would have one contraction on top of another on top of another."

The epidural worked on only her left half.

At one point, the



PHOTOGRAPH BY HOWIE ROSEN

"I had a C-section because my doctor didn't care if I had a C-section." — Elizabeth Cooper-Schultz

doctor came in to check on her and alerted the nurses that she was going home to take her kids to school. Some time later, she returned with wet hair, checked

Cooper-Schultz, found her at nine centimeters, and told her to try pushing.

"I pushed, and [the baby's] heart rate went down, which I now know

can be in a normal range of labor. But she said she's worried about it. She said, 'He's not in distress, but he's a little bit stressed.'"

The doctor told

Cooper-Schultz it would go one of three ways. In the first scenario, Cooper-Schultz would push for 20 or so minutes and the baby would come out. In the second, she could push for 20 or so minutes, the baby would not come out, and they'd have to do an emergency cesarean section. Or, the doctor said, they could do a cesarean section right now.

Cooper-Schultz chose the cesarean.

"I was really afraid [of the emergency C-section] because my husband wouldn't have been able to be there with me," she says. With the nonemergency C-section, her husband was allowed in the operating room.

Cooper-Schultz had never been hospitalized or had surgery before. She recalls the anesthesiologist as a kind and concerned man who offered her a shot of Demerol, but that's all she remembers.



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"I kind of passed out, and basically, I missed my son's birth," she says. "The next thing I remember was them holding up a baby on the other side of the room that could've been mine, could've not been mine, who the hell knows."

* * *

Dawn Thompson, who has been a doula for eight years, no longer provides her services to women who plan to

deliver at Mary Birch because, she says, the environment is particularly unsupportive of the natural birth process. A doula can only provide information and support to a mom; she can't make decisions for her. And to deliver naturally at Mary Birch, a mom has to be prepared to fight.

"I couldn't handle the emotional ride," she says. "As a doula, if I don't invest with these

mom, I'm not doing a good job. So, to feel their disappointment and their devastation and knowing that I had all the information and could have offered them something different is just huge."

In eight years, Thompson has overseen 134 births. Of those, 17 took place at Mary Birch, 12 of which resulted in a C-section. That's 71 percent. Of the remain-



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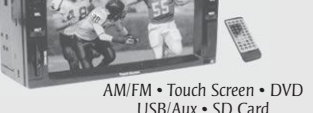
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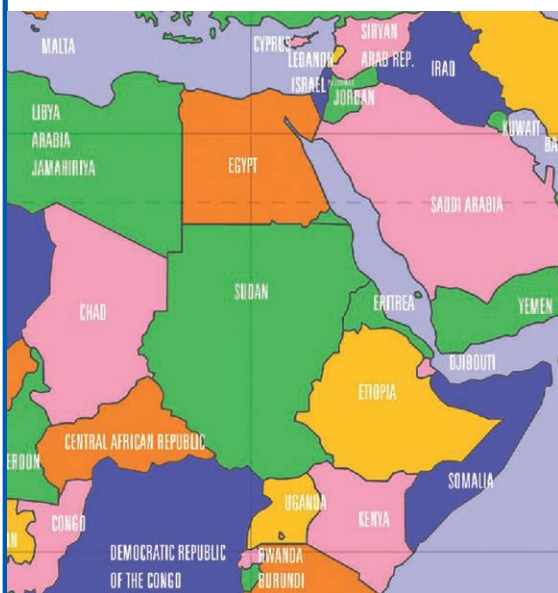
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ing 117 births, only 9 resulted in a C-section. That's just under 8 percent.

"When the guidelines are so stringent, you know that you're working uphill," she says. "The moms shouldn't have to battle to have a normal childbirth."

* * *

Helen Dover (not her real name) welcomes me into her North Park apartment shortly after the dinner hour on a Tuesday evening in mid-September. She tells me she's an unlikely candidate for natural childbirth.

"I'm like Woody Allen," she says. "I am a New Yorker who likes living in the city, who likes creature comforts. And for somebody like me to be embracing

[natural childbirth] is humongous."

We sit together on

ilar to Cooper-Schultz's in that it begins with a desire to give birth

"There's so much fear on their part when you walk in the door that something's going to go wrong, and it's overwhelming."

her couch, she with one foot tucked beneath her. Her two-year-old daughter hacks away at purple construction paper with a pair of plastic scissors on the floor near the coffee table.

Dover's story is sim-

naturally at Mary Birch and ends in what she considers an unnecessary C-section. One difference is that when Dover started out, she *did* know she might have to fight for what she wanted. When she began

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to labor, she called her doula first, not the hospital. She stayed home and labored for 10 to 12 hours before she went to the hospital, avoiding “the clock” for as long as she could.

When she arrived, armed with her research and her hopes for a natural birth, she found that the environment at Mary Birch had a greater impact on her than she’d imagined it would.

“There’s so much fear on their part when you walk in the door that something’s going to go wrong, and it’s overwhelming,” she says. “It was never, ‘We’re so excited. You’re going to have a great birth.’”

The progression she’d experienced at home, from two centimeters to four, slowed

drastically when she arrived at the hospital. A doctor told her

to advance slowly.

“I should’ve stayed as cool as possible,” she

“[The doctor] said, ‘You need a C-section.’ I said, ‘I don’t understand why I need a C-section.’... And he said, ‘Well, she’s stuck.’”

that it might help if he broke her water. So she allowed it. But nothing happened. Her daughter’s position, she says, acted like a stopper, and Dover’s labor continued

says. “I’d read the books where they say once you get to the hospital, you’re a little bit more tense because you know there’s a clock running. They kept coming in and

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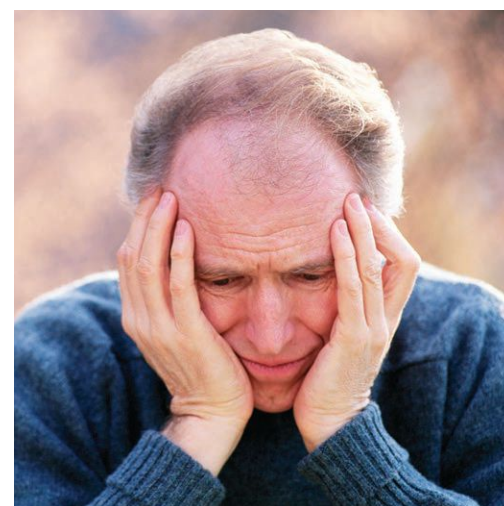
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nothing was happening, and I was getting a little bit more stressed. The only person coaching me along was my doula. Everybody else was, like, 'Are you there yet? Are you there yet?'"

Dover's husband, Henry (not his real name), pipes up from the nearby kitchen table, where he's been listening in.

"As things were not progressing, there was never any inflection or tone of 'You'll be all right,'" he says. "It was just more and more concern, more and more concern, like, 'Things are not going the way we have our script to play out.'"

Dover lists her regrets: Not waiting and laboring longer at home. Allowing the Pitocin at 12 hours. Giving in to the epidural after 8 more hours. But the regrets go as far back as her pregnancy, when she chose to stay with Sharp.

"I should've just switched, but it's so hard with an HMO," she says. "In order for me to switch to Scripps and go to one of the birth rooms at Scripps, which has a much better record, would have meant changing everything: changing my primary care physician, changing my OBG. I would've had to totally change my insurance policy. And at the time, I already had a pediatrician picked out for her and everything. We'd interviewed, and just the idea of doing all of that was overwhelming. I thought I didn't have the strength to do it."

Dover's daughter, who has finished cutting all the purple construction paper available, piles her blanket, stuffed horsie, and

stuffed giraffe into her mother's lap. Then she climbs up on the couch and joins us.

Dover tells me that around the 40-hour mark, she began to cry.

"[The doctor] said, 'You need a C-section,'" she says. "I said, 'I don't understand why I need a C-section. Everything seems to be fine. Her heart rate's not drop-

ping.' And he said, 'Well, she's stuck.'"

Dover reaches out and runs a hand over her daughter's hair.

"I'd read all these books where the mid-

wives use their hands and try to help gently," she says. "But he said, 'No, I'm not going to do that.'"

When she asked why not, the doctor said he

didn't know what position the baby was in and didn't want to cause a broken shoulder.

"He wasn't even willing to use his hands and help," she says. "And I

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was totally against using the suction, but anything besides the total hands-off. He said, 'I don't want to hurt your baby, and you don't want to hurt your baby.' I started crying. And I just finally said, 'Fine. Cut me open.'"

* * *

"Moms are easily led at the very end because they want to get the baby out. They're tired," Messer tells me.

Elizabeth Cooper-Schultz confirms that

this was true in her case. "Go without eating for 27 hours — on Pitocin and with an epidural that's only working on half of you — and try to make a rational decision," she says.

Wait.

Without eating for 27 hours?

The staff at Mary Birch emphasizes the no-food-in-the-labor-and-delivery-unit policy during the hospital tour that most moms take earlier in their pregnancies,

Messer tells me. "The first thing they say is, 'What can't you do when you get here?'" And the answer she says is, "No eating or drinking."

"At Kaiser, you can eat and drink," Messer says. "UCSD, you can eat and drink. Pomerado, you can eat and drink. Palomar, you can eat and drink. But at Sharp, their reason is if you need a C-section, you can throw up, you can aspirate, and you can get really sick."

When I email

Cihomsky, the communications vice president at Sharp, to ask about the

ing labor. Anesthesia is always safest on an empty stomach because

ance on whether or not a mother eats during labor rests with her physician."

Thompson cites the "bait and switch," where a doctor claims to support a woman's birth choices up until the final weeks, when it's too late to change doctors.

no-food-or-drink policy, he responds, "It serves as a precaution in case of an emergency that requires a mother to undergo general anesthesia dur-

of the risk of aspiration. Other factors come into play, such as how long the labor lasts, the mother's particular condition, etc., so the ultimate guid-

Messer scoffs at this policy.

"How do you expect a woman to run a marathon with no fuel? It's dumb," she says.

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"I think at 2:30 in the morning, a C-section at Mary Birch is, 'We can manage this and then we can all go home.'" — Christine Stewart

* * *

The obstetrician a woman chooses plays as large a role in her birth experience as the place she chooses to deliver her baby. Some doctors

have a reputation for being more inclined to help with a natural birth, and others for being less inclined. Childbirth books suggest that a woman question poten-

tial candidates to get a feel for their practices. Messer and Thompson agree that's not always enough.

Thompson cites the "bait and switch," where

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a doctor claims to support a woman's birth choices up until the final weeks, when it's too late to change doctors. Messer says she's seen doctors who've initially said they'd support the hypnobirthing process but later changed their minds.

"All of a sudden it's, 'That's not going to work. No, you can't be on your hands and knees. *That's* not safe, and *this* isn't,'" Messer says. "And that's at 40 weeks. So now, where can I switch?"

Christine Stewart, a petite redhead and mother of twin girls born at Mary Birch in September 2009, says she experienced something similar with her doctor.

We're sitting in the dining room of her

home at the end of a cul-de-sac in Carlsbad. The girls, who will turn two

Method childbirth class," Stewart says, "which is a 12-week class, pretty

"Nurses have a lot of power, and the reason they have a lot of power is because the doctors aren't present."

tomorrow, are just up from their naps. Their Austrian nanny ushers them past us and into the kitchen for their snacks. One runs back for a quick kiss from Mom.

"My husband and I, we took a Bradley

in-depth, and we decided we wanted to do natural, unmedicated labor."

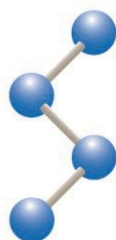
When she first mentioned this to her doctor, Stewart says the doctor told her to "keep an open mind" and not to "fixate on any particular way of

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labor and delivery.” At the time, Stewart thought the doctor didn’t want her to be disappointed if natural birth didn’t work out, but now she speculates that the doctor was always leaning toward a C-section.

At 36 weeks, the doctor suggested they induce her at 38 weeks. Stewart refused.

“From what I can tell,” she says, “it’s just common that it’s more manageable to have twins at 38 weeks because of size. Sometimes they’re concerned about size. But [my girls] were normal-sized.”

The doctor suggested 39 weeks, then 40. Finally, Stewart agreed to induce at 41 weeks if she hadn’t gone into labor by then. But it was unnecessary. At 40 weeks, three days short of her original due date, Stewart went into labor.

Stewart chose Mary Birch because it had everything she was looking for. Originally, she’d wanted to deliver at Best Start Birth Center in Hillcrest, but they don’t accept women who are pregnant with twins. Mary Birch, she says, seemed like the next best thing.

“It had the facilities, doctors on hand, and all these different classes — prenatal yoga — and since I was diagnosed high-risk because I had the twins and since I was over 35,” she says, “I just thought their whole entire focus is for women and newborns, so I’ll probably get the best care because they’ve got all the resources for that.”

Stewart had heard about other women going into the hospital prematurely and getting “strapped down” immediately. But in her natu-

ral childbirth class she’d learned that mobility helps with labor. So she and her husband didn’t go in right away.

Once they did arrive at the hospital, Stewart

was four centimeters dilated. She gave the nursing staff her birth plan, which stated that she did not want any mention of pain medication.

“Thankfully, they did not offer medication. They were respectful of that. The contractions were intense,” she says, pulling her feet up onto the chair and hugging

her knees. I was slowly dilating in a normal time frame. They were telling me that was normal. My doctor still was not present. She did not actually arrive until about 10:00

p.m. So up until that time, it was the labor nurse who was in communication with my doctor over the phone.”

The nurse who’d been assigned to her

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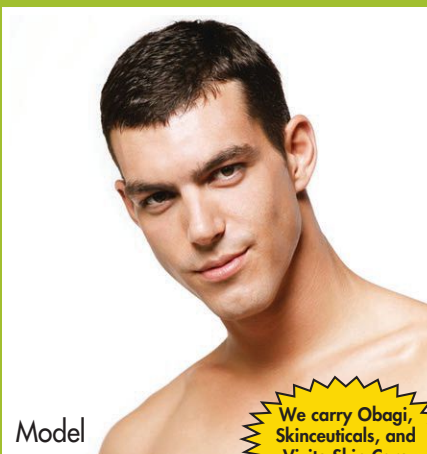
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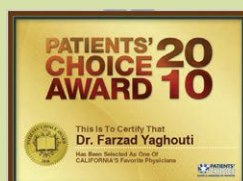
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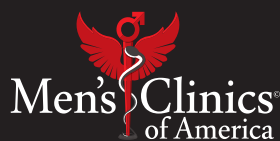
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provided juice, watched the fetal monitors, and kept the doctor informed about any changes. But otherwise, Stewart received no help from her.

"She was there, I guess, as a resource, but she wasn't active or in any way involved in the labor process itself," Stewart says. "Everyone knew we were doing nonmedicated birth, but I think we just felt like if that's the decision we made, we were just on our own. There was just no assistance getting through it."

While it may be true that doctors call the shots, doula Dawn Thompson believes that the nurses' lack of training in unmedicated births plays a large role as well in whether a

woman gets a C-section.

"Nurses have a lot of power, and the reason they have a lot of power is because the doctors aren't present," Thompson says. "The nurse is the one calling the doctor to give them an update. So if the nurse is inexperienced, she might say, 'She hasn't changed dilation in two hours.' She might constantly be giving the doctor a negative report. Or she might say, 'She's doing great. Just a little bit of change.' In that case, then the doctor might say, 'Okay, call me when she's ready to push.' The nurse absolutely has a lot of control."

Christine Stewart believes that the main reason she ended up having a C-section was that her nurses had no train-

ing in natural childbirth.

"Ultimately, the outcome was because there was no one in the labor room who had the experience to help get the babies in position to be delivered," she says.

By the time the doctor arrived, Stewart was fully dilated. She knew her babies were healthy, that they were both head down, in a good position, face forward. Her blood pressure was not elevated, she had no fever, and she'd been in labor for less than 24 hours. Everything was normal except that the babies were wedged in, each trying to get out first.

"There were a couple of things they asked me to try," Stewart says, "but I never really felt like there was any truly pro-

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active measures to say, 'Okay, can we move the babies around? Let's see if we can move this one up so the other one can move down.' There was nothing hands-on."

At 2:00 a.m., the doctor came in and said, "It's time to meet your girls."

"There was kind of an emotional appeal going on. I just said, 'Okay, fine.' It was a disappointing moment. I kind of resigned myself, like, 'If this is what we have to do, this is what we have to do.' I felt like crying because it just went against everything I had hoped for, everything I had planned and practiced for."

The twins run past us now and into the room behind us, where an air mattress sits in the

middle of the floor. They leap onto it and begin to jump. Stewart watches them for a moment and then turns back to me.

"I think the hospital has some standard protocols, and I think that if you don't follow their standard protocols, they just don't know what to do with you," she says. "And a C-section is manageable. They know exactly how to do it, and I think at 2:30 in the morning it's, 'We can manage this, and then we can all go home.'"

* * *

In mid-October, Care Messer lectured student nurses at San Diego State University who were doing their obstetrics rotation at Mary Birch.

"They were floored by what natural birth is like and what all the

hospital procedures do to the natural process," she wrote to me in an email. "It happens every time I teach there."

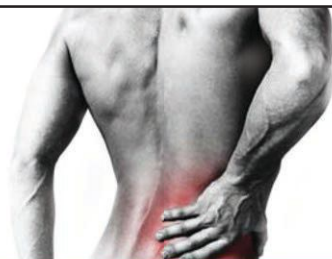
She adds, "I'd love to teach it to a whole hospital staff so they'd see where we're coming from. The problem is that they're just never trained about natural birth in their system. And our doctors aren't either. It's really not their fault. We don't train them in it. And OBs are trained surgeons. Their specialty is surgery."

Alexis Martin (not her real name), a former labor and delivery nurse at Mary Birch, says that her training lacked exposure to any nonmedical methods of helping women through labor.

"The training that I got there was mostly

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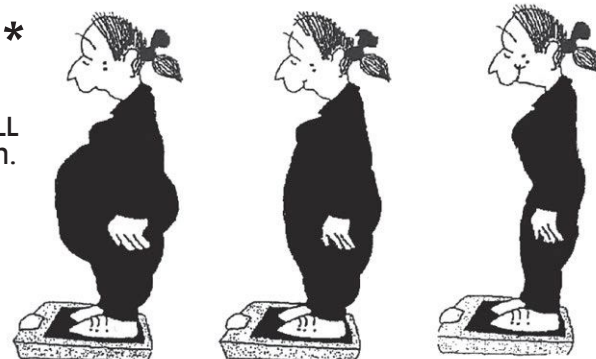
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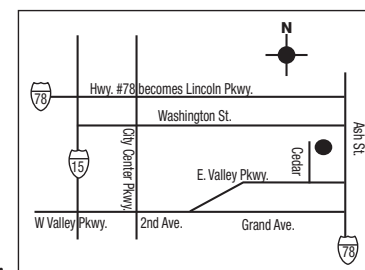
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about the medicalized [procedures]: how to run Pitocin and what fetal-monitor-strip reading is all about, interpreting the data," she says. "That's what the majority of our training was all about."

Today, Martin works as a doula and private monitrice, a labor-support person who may perform some clinical tasks, such as monitoring the fetal heart rate or taking the mom's blood pressure, tasks a certified doula is not allowed to perform. Some of the moms that Martin helps do give birth at Mary Birch, and from what she can see, "Not much has changed," she says, in the ten years since she worked there as a nurse.

"You can have a natural birth at Mary Birch, too. It's not impossible," she says, "but the nurses

are not that helpful with it, other than maybe bringing you a squat

doula training so that they're familiar with how to facilitate that pro-

"You can have a natural birth at Mary Birch, too. It's not impossible," she says, "but the nurses are not that helpful with it, other than maybe bringing you a squat bar."

bar," a device that fits on a hospital bed and supports the mom in squatting. "I often say I wish the labor and delivery nurses would have a

cess. It would have been maybe two days extra in your nine-week orientation and education to give you that information: how to help a mom

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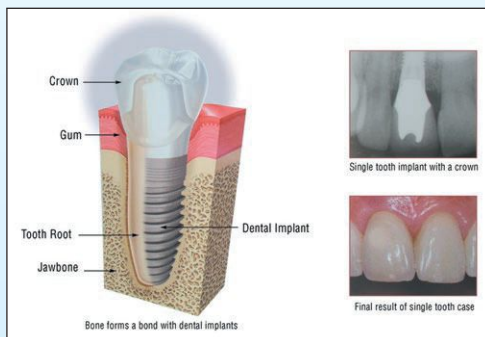
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have a natural birth.”

* * *

Last March, when her first son was two and a half years old, Elizabeth Cooper-Schultz had her second child in the back bedroom of her UTC apartment, in the company of her husband, her midwife, two apprentice midwives, and a doula.

Today, Helen Dover is pregnant again. When I ask if she plans to give birth at Mary Birch, she and Henry simultaneously answer, “No.”

“What I’ve learned is that at Mary Birch, everybody’s going to try to get you to do the birth that they want you to do,” Dover explains.

For their next baby, the Dovers will stay with Sharp in order to take advantage of the tests, which would cost

them thousands of dollars out-of-pocket. They will also register at Mary Birch so that they are prepared in the event of an emergency. But they have hired a midwife to help them birth at home.

“We’re going just to get what doctors are good for,” Henry says, “and then to use the midwives for what they’re good for.”

* * *

Over the summer, Care Messer heard an ad on the radio saying that Sharp Mary Birch honors women’s birth options. Her first thought?

“Bullcrap,” she says.

Messer was so incensed by what she considers false advertising that she looked into purchasing space on a vacant billboard over the 163, where it would be

seen by hospital patients. The message she wanted to share echoed her original thought. The billboard would read, “Bullcrap.” But at \$1000 for the initial vinyl and \$6000 for a 30-day rental, the price was too high.

“If I had that kind of cash, it would have been up that week,” she says.

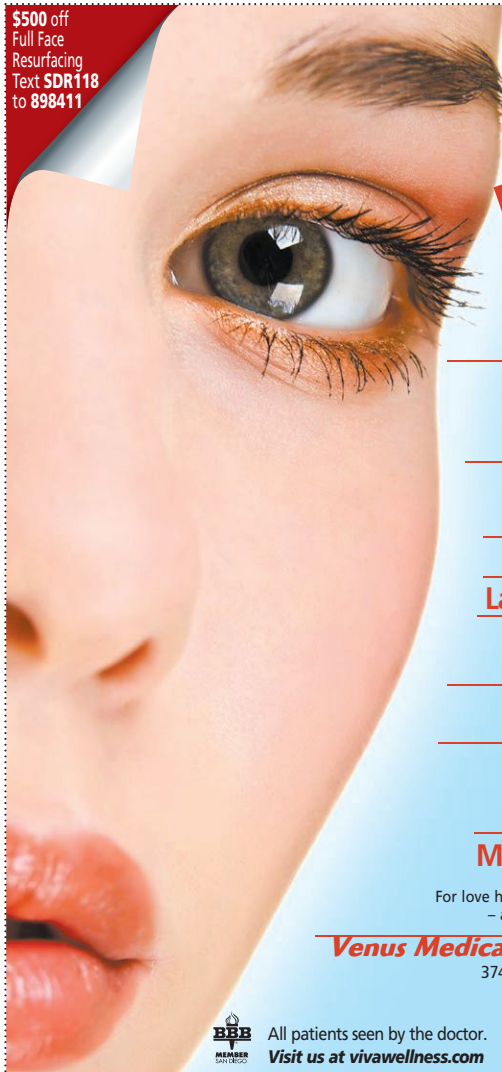
* * *

In early November, John Cihomsky confirms a rumor that Sharp Mary Birch is developing a doula program. “It’s in response to our patients’ desire for more options during their birthing experience,” he says in an email. “The Doulas will be independent contractors, and our target date to start offering this service is at the beginning of 2012.” ■

— Elizabeth Salaam

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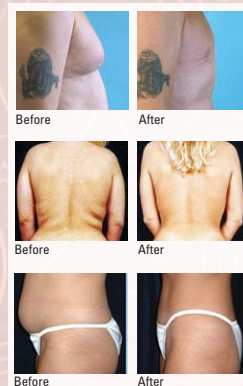
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On November 20, 1602, three ships weighed anchor. They sailed past the "point of ballast stone" and across from the *loma* — little hill — guarding San Diego Bay. Vizcaíno wanted to study the finest harbor he'd found in more detail.

But the expedition had been at sea since July 5, and what some called the curse of the cold northern latitudes — today known as scurvy — began to take a toll.

"Our General [Vizcaíno] ordered that we should continue our voyage without further delay," writes Father Ascensión, a Carmelite priest who chronicled the voyage. "Our men were all becoming ill [with] neither comforts nor medicines" to cure them. "If we should delay, the voyage could not be completed."

One by one, sailors succumbed. Their legs ached. Red splotches grew on their skin. Even minimal amounts of work exhausted them. Their jaws tightened, making it increasingly difficult to swallow whole food. More and



1602 map of Monterey Bay

QUOTATIONS

1. Chapman, Charles E.: "Nearly all [Vizcaíno's reports] had to say was true, save for the yarn about the excellence of Monterey as a sheltered port; but it was precisely this departure from strict accuracy that had the most effect: the legend of the port of Monterey became one of the moving factors for a century and a half in Spanish expansion to the northwest."

2. Father Ascensión (in Wagner): "All men in the fleet, well or sick, had to confess and take communion."

3. Vizcaíno's diarist: "All the men had fallen sick, so that there were only two sailors who could climb to the main-topsail."

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FACE BODY BREAST

more, each ship became a sick bay, stem to stern.

Though the viceroy of New Spain had ordered him not to, as he headed north Vizcaíno continued to rename islands and bays: Santa Catalina Island after Saint Catherine; San Clemente Island; San Pedro; and Santa Barbara.

As they sailed the channel at Santa Barbara, a large canoe sped toward them. It was “so well constructed,” Vizcaíno’s diarist noted, “that since Noah’s Ark, a finer and lighter vessel...has not been seen.” Four rapid oars dug deep. An old man, obviously the chief, stood in the center with his son. Then all six on board began to sing, and the chief danced, whirling round and round.

His craft circled the *San Diego* so swiftly, writes the diarist, “that in a moment they were around us twice.”

The canoe was a tomol: built from redwood planks found floating in the channel, and at least 25 feet long. The natives were Chumash. The “seashell people” lived in dome-shaped, permanent homes made from willow branches, which could house 50 people. They had a highly evolved culture: women could become chiefs or shamans.

When the canoe pulled alongside the *San Diego*, the chief saluted three times. Sailors lowered a thick rope. He grabbed it without hesitation and pulled himself onboard.

He spoke in hand signals. Relays of natives from Catalina, he signed, had rowed to Santa Barbara to announce that three large boats — “whales with wings” — were coming his way. The chief had come to meet the strangers, because they’d given the Catalinans gifts and he wanted some for his tribe.

He “was so intelligent,” writes Ascensión, “he appeared to be...a person of great understanding.”

At one point Vizcaíno

handed the chief tin, lead, and silver plates, asking which he preferred. He tapped each, then pointed to the silver: keep this, he signed, forget the others.

The chief urged the Spaniards to come ashore.

He would give them everything they needed — including, they hoped, a cure for those taken ill.

When he didn’t see any women onboard, the chief asked where they were. He “pointed to his

private parts,” writes the diarist, “and gave us clearly to understand what he wished to say.”

They had no women, Vizcaíno replied, “nor were they necessary.”

The chief beamed a

smile. Come ashore, he pointed. Ten women will “serve and entertain” each of you. He even offered to stay onboard as a hostage. After sundown he left, but not before repeating the offer.

An hour later, a southeast wind came up. It was the first “stern wind” the expedition had known, pushing the ships from behind. Was it a sign?

The council agreed to use “the opportunity

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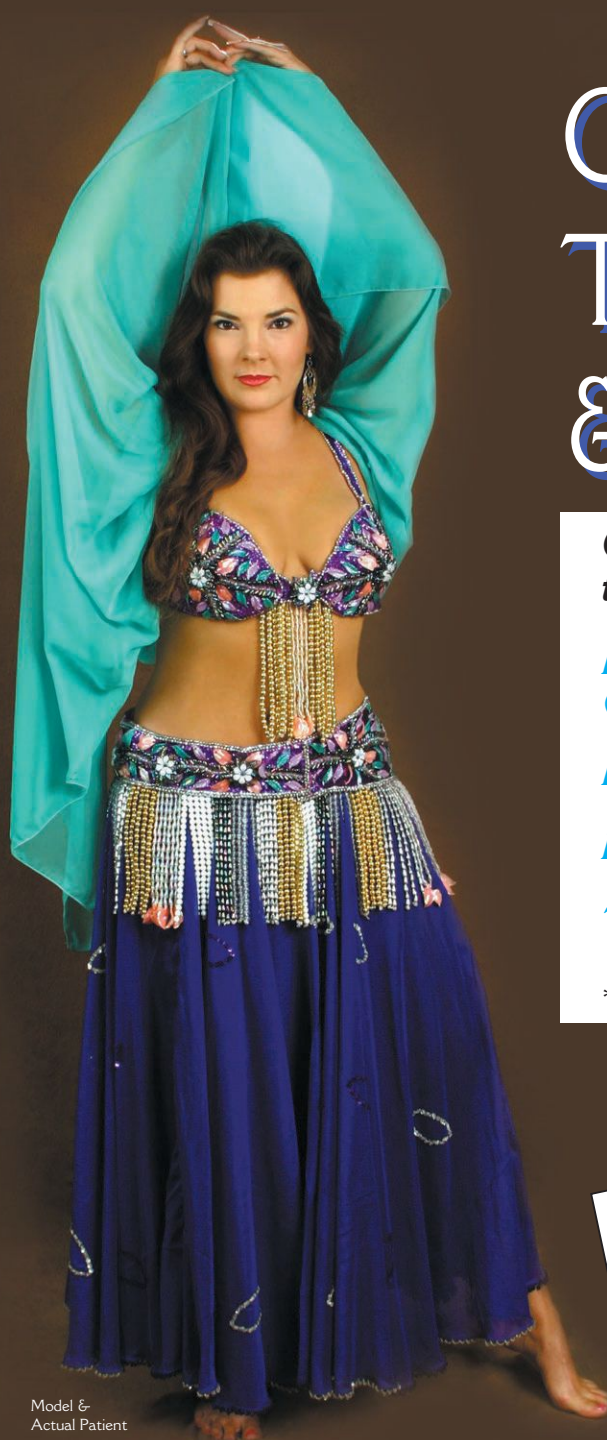
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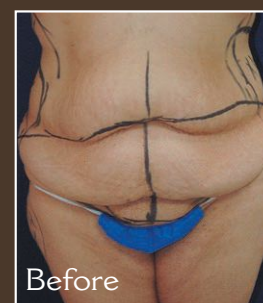
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which our Lord had provided. On the return voyage [we] would come back and see what the Indian chief had promised."

That night they sailed 15 leagues, by far the greatest distance thus far.

But fewer and fewer sailors could perform their tasks. Both the pilot of the *Santo Tomás* and his assistant were bedridden. A pain had spread through their bodies. Gums ached. Teeth began to fall out. Purple spots, from the waist down, grew to the size of mustard seeds. Their legs stiffened. Then paralysis set in.

"All is groans and cries," writes Ascensión, "and there is no other consolation except to ask God to help take one away from this life."

Infected bodies became "as sore as a boil." Death was often so sudden that many died mid-sentence.

On December 16, the fleet sailed into a bay. Vizcaíno declared it "the best port that could be desired." He praised its live oaks and pines, fresh water, and fertile soil. He said the climate, near freezing at the time with snow on the mountains, resembled Castile. He named it for the viceroy of New Spain, the Conde de Monterey.

On his map the cosmographer Geronimo Palacios turned the relatively small Monterey cove into a fairly large, well-protected bay shaped like a fishhook.

In a letter to the viceroy, Vizcaíno boasted

that Monterey was "sheltered from all winds" and extolled its virtues in florid prose.

But the cove has no protection from northwest storms and came nowhere near the possibilities of San Diego Bay. Vizcaíno overpraised Monterey such that when the Costanzo expedition came north in 1769, they couldn't find it.

Earlier Vizcaíno had proclaimed San Diego the finest port in the South Seas. Was Monterey superior, or just the best for their present needs? Vizcaíno sought a landfall for Manila galleons from China after four months at sea. San Diego may have seemed too far south, too close to home. And Vizcaíno may have assumed that Monterey

was a more favorable latitude for Manila galleons.

But, says Paul A. Myers, "this belief indicated a lack of insight" because "the galleons turned to the southeast while still hundreds of miles away from the Northern California coast."

Vizcaíno may have had another reason for naming his exaggerated bay for the viceroy: his expedition was falling apart. At least 16 sailors had already died from scurvy. Forty-five others had major symptoms, including helmsmen too rigid to steer the ship.

On December 18, Vizcaíno called a council of captains and pilots: "the most solemn of all," writes the diarist. As each man spoke, the factors piled up, including the *Santo Tomás*. It was leaking again and didn't have enough healthy crewmen to bail out the bilge.

The council decided to send the *Santo Tomás* back to Acapulco as an "advice" ship. It would take the sickest sailors and copies of all maps and documents (in case those who remained behind "should be wrecked or die on the voyage"). In a letter, Vizcaíno would urge the viceroy to send men and sup-

plies to Cabo San Lucas, where Vizcaíno would meet them in May. The other ships, the *San Diego* and the *Tres Reyes*, would continue north, at least to Cape Mendocino.

Even though the *Santo Tomás* was as infirm as its crew, with favoring winds and currents, it could complete the "downhill" run south. The Cabrillo voyage took 70 days to reach Monterey from La Navidad, just north of Acapulco — and only 20, in the favoring conditions, to return.

The expedition had been gone 188 days. On December 29, after they redistributed the crews, lightened the load, and put most of the provisions on the other ships, the *Santo Tomás* sailed from Monterey "with orders to make haste" — and no stops along the way.

When the *Santo Tomás* anchored at Acapulco three weeks later, 25 had died. Father Tomás de Aquino also had scurvy. Since he could barely stand, during the voyage he had to prop himself against a mast to administer last rites.

"To see the condition in which the sick reached there was pitiful," writes Ascensión. "They had suffered many hardships, as

the sound men aboard her fell sick." At Acapulco, only three still had their health. Others, including Father Tomás, took months to recover.

On January 1, ten able members of Vizcaíno's crew went ashore at Monterey to take on wood and water. The snow-covered mountains reminded them of Popocatepetl, the volcano of Mexico. "Extreme cold," writes the diarist, froze their freshwater hole "to more than a palm in thickness." Water in the bottles also froze: "Even when turned upside-down, not a drop ran out." They encountered no natives "because of the great cold they were living in [in] the interior."

At midnight on January 3, 1603, a northeast wind came up and the *San Diego* and *Tres Reyes* set sail for Cape Mendocino. They made ten leagues by dawn. On January 7, winds shifted to the northwest. Assuming the ships were still together, Vizcaíno put up no signal lantern. When he stopped to inspect a bay, the *Tres Reyes* continued northward. The ships separated and remained apart for the rest of the voyage.

With a crippled crew, the *Tres Reyes* may have sailed all the way to Cres-

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cent City. But bitter cold and scurvy took many lives, including Commander Aguilar and pilot Antonio Flores. Estevan Lopez, the boatswain, became captain of the frigate. He turned it south to find the *San Diego*.

The ships may have sailed within sight of each other, but neither had enough healthy sailors to climb to the crow's nest and keep a regular watch.

The *Tres Reyes* raced south. When it arrived at Navidad on February 26, only Lopez and five of his crew were still alive.

On January 12, a gale blasted the *San Diego* near Cape Mendocino. The tempest became so furious that Vizcaíno and his captain couldn't decide "whether to go forward or to turn back, for it was as dark in the daytime as at night."

By then, the flagship was, writes the diarist, "a floating hospital." Sailors took the helm who had never steered before. First-timers climbed slippery rigging to the masthead. Those barely able to move made mush in the galley, since the sick couldn't open their mouths to eat the available hard foods: rotting jerked beef and chick peas infested with weevils.

"There were not more than six men on board who were well and up," writes Ascensión. "The rest of the soldiers, sailors, cabin boys, and ship boys were sick in bed," Ascensión among them. Along with fainting spells, he kept blacking out. Sometimes the moans of others woke him up. Everyone, he writes, feared of "losing their lives in such a place without any human remedy and without any expectation of finding one."

If the storm grew worse, winds would slam the *San Diego* onto the rocky coast. All they could do was furl the sails, point the bow west, and hope.

On January 13, Vizcaíno called a council. All

agreed they could no longer sail north. "There were no men for it," writes the diarist. "It was very cold, the rains were increasing and winter coming on all at once, and if we were to go on, we should all perish."

The viceroy had ordered the expedition to reach Cape Mendocino, latitude 41 degrees. They'd achieved this objective, said Vizcaíno. It was time to head back.

The next day the winds suddenly stopped, and the sun made blue skies bright — an omen of confirmation?

Later that afternoon, black clouds bulged to the southeast. Another storm usurped the sky, bitter cold and determined, the crew became convinced, to prevent a safe voyage home.

Next time: The Death Ship Comes Alive. ■

— Jeff Smith

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CITY LIGHTS

Under the radar

continued from page 2

agreement and ground lease for the long-stalled redevelopment of City-owned Brown Field airport on Otay Mesa, according to a November 16 lobbyist disclosure filing.

— Matt Potter

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Convention center

continued from page 2

portation Association, and American Academy of Family Physicians had attendance that was, respectively, 42.75 percent, 30.76 percent, and 27.59 percent lower than the center had forecast, but the consultant's report showed room nights the same as initially predicted. There is no way that actual attendance could be that far below the forecast while hotel room nights remained the same.

The above examples are a few of the discrepancies that Sanders discovered. He found more than one attendance number that didn't look right. For example, for 2009, the center reported that there were 16,000 attendees from the American Thoracic Society. Sanders checked audited numbers of the society's last two conventions in New Orleans and Denver. In 2010, only 13,725 people attended its annual convention. This year, it was 12,817. So 16,000 in 2009 is a suspicious number, says Sanders.

Buckle your seat belt. According to the consultant, Comic-Con attracted 126,000 attendees in 2010, resulting in 20,310 room nights. But this year, the

CITY LIGHTS

center predicted attendance of the same 126,000 and a whopping 60,765 room nights, or almost triple the previous year's number. "How did some event magically get 40,000 room nights?" while attendance is expected to remain the same, asks Sanders.

The convention center relied on the consultant's bullish suggestions in deciding to go ahead with the proposed expansion. (Actually, consultants are normally paid to give a city the go-ahead on a course it has already decided to take.) In any case, the consultant carefully words its preface: it says it greatly depends on information provided by its client and the client's representatives. "No responsibility is assumed for inaccuracies in reporting by the client [or] the client's agent and representatives," weasel-words AECOM. The consultant trusted information supplied by the center.

"The room night issue pervades all [San Diego Convention Center-related] reports," notes Sanders. "Since the consultants use the upwardly biased room night figures to estimate the impact of the proposed expansion, those too are inflated. And with inflated forecasts of expansion room nights come unrealistic estimates of the increased [transient occupancy, or hotel] tax revenues that are supposed to pay for the expansion. It's a veritable house of cards.

"This kind of fudging is really scary," says Sanders, who wonders why mainstream media and city leaders repeat the center's rosy figures as gospel when actual numbers are published by the center itself, albeit tucked away in hard-to-find nooks. "Is it incompetence? Willful blindness?" he asks.

I asked Alexis Gutierrez, chairman of the center, and Steven Johnson and Denise Mosgrove of the public relations staff to comment on Sanders's findings. I heard nothing. ■

CITY LIGHTS

Watch your step

continued from page 3

is paid for by the neighborhood's property owners by way of maintenance assessment district fees.

Roxanne Stuber, co-owner of Walk N Roll Doggie, a San Diego dog-walking, boarding, day-care service, tells me Little Italy is among the top neighborhoods in the city for cleanliness but also for convenience of dog-poop pickup.

"There are trash cans all over," she says of Little Italy, "so you're not walking around for a half hour with a bag full of poop in your hand."

Stuber, who provides her services to clients in many of the city's urban neighborhoods, notes that even those without Dogipots or trash cans tend to have significantly less fecal matter on their sidewalks than City Heights.

"Hillcrest has a shortage of trash cans and no Dogipots to speak of," she says. "But dog owners are very responsible there. Everybody picks up pretty well."

And City Heights?

"I have stepped in poop there," she says. "There's poop all over the streets. If you were to compare City Heights with, say, South Park — and they're pretty close in distance — City Heights isn't a very pleasant place to be walking."

When I make a call to the County's Department of Animal Services to ask what I can do about the dog feces on sidewalks in my neighborhood, I'm told by the man on the phone that the only way his department can do anything is if one of his officers witnesses the defecation. Or, if I witnessed it, and I can give him the name and address of the person who did not pick up after his dog, then someone can come out and write a ticket on my behalf. Not cleaning up after one's dog is a violation of municipal code

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CITY LIGHTS

44.0304.1, he tells me.

But what about the poop that's already there?

"Unfortunately, that just sounds like a sanitation issue for the City of San Diego," he tells me.

When I call the City's Environmental Services Department, I'm told that no one in the office is allowed to speak to me because I write for the *Reader*.

Later in the afternoon, I speak to Lieutenant Dan DeSousa at the County's Department of Animal Services, and he tells me that there is one patrol officer per 85,000 people. So it's unlikely that his officers will catch many offenders by witnessing the offense themselves.

"The community has to be the eyes and the ears," he says.

However, he notes that the amount of feces on sidewalks in City Heights may not be solely the result of lazy dog owners.

"Dogs running loose is probably our biggest request for service throughout our jurisdiction," DeSousa says.

For fiscal year 2011 — July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011 — DeSousa estimates that his department received "about 400" calls about loose dogs in the 92105 zip code.

Ricardo Rojas, employee of Acacia Landscape, the company contracted to maintain the Landis and Highland Park, says that at least once a day he has to pick up dog feces on the walkway that cuts between the football/soccer fields and the City Heights performance annex. He sees a lot of dogs off leash, he tells me, and he sometimes witnesses those dogs defecate in the park, but he usually doesn't say anything to the dog owner.

"I'm not a security guard. My job is to maintain this park," he says. "This is one of those places where I don't like to say anything because people get offended easily. That's why I usually just ignore it and pick it up myself." ■

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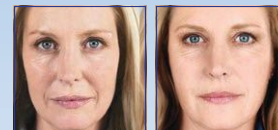
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CITY LIGHTS

NEWS TICKER

continued from page 3

caused Italian prosecutors to open an investigation.

"Our constitution guarantees the protection of Italy's cultural heritage, and now it will be up to the law to determine whether damage has been done here," Alessandra Mottola Molino, president of the heritage conservancy Italia Nostra, tells the *New York Times*.

"It's like a scratch-and-win lottery ticket," adds Tomaso Montanari, a professor at the University of Naples.

Not so, Alexander Moen, vice president for mission programs at the National Geographic Society, a partner in the project, told the paper. "We are confident in the approach that was taken, which was deliberate and not decided on alone but with the critical agencies that are stakeholders."

*By Matt Potter
Thursday, December 8*

CITY LIGHTS

Muzzled Community County Supervisors Propose Limiting Planning Groups

San Diego — County supervisors received recommendations to streamline the land-use permitting process from the Red Tape Reduction Task Force on Wednesday. The task force spent months drafting the recommendations after interviewing county employees and poring over county documents.

Among the recommendations, the one focused on community planning groups received the most attention. The task force found that community planning groups often delay projects and hold too much power and influence over projects. To solve that issue, the task force recommended that the board limit the scope of their responsibilities and limit the number of years volunteers can serve.

Members of the public criticized the recommendation.

"Public notice on this was totally inadequate. Planning groups were not notified," said Lakeside resident Janis Shackelford. "What you are doing is muzzling community participation in the land-use process."

*By Dorian Hargrove
Wednesday, December 7*

Chokehold

Occupier Hunger Strikes Over Alleged Police Brutality Downtown — Occupy San Diego will march from the Civic Center to the San Diego police headquarters on Broadway and 14th Street at 6:30 tonight in protest of what they're calling "police brutality" at the ongoing peaceful protest that began in early October.

Occupy San Diego media volunteer Kali Katt says that San Diego Police Department spokesman Gary Hassen's claim that the most recent arrests on December 5 occurred in response to protesters camping on the plaza is false.

A recording of the morning's Ustream (at 01:09:00) shows the protestors without tents and watching a movie when the officers move.

CITY LIGHTS

Occupy San Diego is calling for the resignation of police chief William Lansdowne by petition for the way he has handled the protests. Occupier Julie Kramer has begun a hunger strike until Lansdowne publicly apologizes for his treatment of protesters.

"There have been a slew of human rights violations at Occupy San Diego, and we have videotape evidence," writes Kramer via email.

"On November 12...as the cops were standing him up, Officer Michael E. Sweet put my friend Bob O'Grady in a chokehold, slammed him to the ground, and choked him for 30 to 40 seconds, while he was restrained by three officers. That video has been watched by over 20,000 viewers and can be seen here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6QCRneABhU&feature=youtu.be>.

"I would very much appreciate any help I could get publicizing my hunger strike, as I don't have much weight to lose.... It is my hope that my hunger strike will bring awareness to the police misconduct at the Civic Center."

Meanwhile, protester John Kenney is in his 25th day of hunger strike and is requesting that the City come to the table and discuss the right of Occupy San Diego to conduct protests in the form of an encampment. John has become sick and now has a wheelchair to get around.

*By Chad Deal
Tuesday, December 6*

To the Marrow

Ricky's Army Seeks a Few Good Donors
San Marcos — Ricky Martinez has an army. When the nine-year-old Murrieta boy was stricken with aplastic anemia, a disease that causes bone marrow to produce blood cells at a reduced rate, CSU San Marcos professor Scott Landow urged his two Creativity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship classes to take action.

Less than a month later, Ricky's Army is on the CSUSM campus recruiting students

CITY LIGHTS

to join the National Marrow Donor Program, a registry of individuals willing, if matched, to donate the bone marrow needed to cure Ricky's disease and dozens of others.

While Ricky's Army is only a few weeks old, they've already developed a presence on Facebook, have reserved a domain name where they'll soon launch a website, and are hoping to hold registry events at other colleges across the county and, eventually, across the country.

*By Dave Rice
Tuesday, December 6*

Political Combat

Ladder-Climbing with Bonnie Dumanis

San Diego — Republican Bonnie Dumanis, currently trying to climb the local political ladder from her post as county district attorney to San Diego's mayor, has been noted for tutoring others in the ways of political combat.

According to the website of the 27th International Gay & Lesbian Leadership Conference, held at the Hilton Americas Hotel in Houston over the weekend, Dumanis was billed as the headliner of a breakout session entitled "Climbing the Career Ladder."

A description of the Dumanis event asks, "Can you get to the next level? Hear from elected and appointed officials about how they climbed the career ladder and discuss the opportunities and challenges involved as you seek to make a difference as a public official."

Meanwhile, coming up on Wednesday, Dumanis is throwing a 60th birthday party for herself at La Jolla's venerable Cuvier Club as a campaign fundraiser. Minimum suggested contribution is \$75, with table sponsorships going for \$2500.

*By Matt Potter
Monday, December 5*

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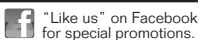
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LETTERS

continued from page 4

like a kid at the playground loudly bragging to cover his insecurities. San Diego is wonderful for two basic reasons: our weather and our natural setting. Unfortunately, some residents have been doing their utmost to change both of those for the past 125 years or so. All the attempts with irrigation to change San Diego from being a desert have resulted in the average humidity more than doubling since the 1970s. And while an entire book could be written on changes to our physical setting, I'll offer one small example. Drive south of Broadway on Harbor Drive in Centre City. How much of the San Diego Bay can you see? Just consider how much more attractive it might be if something like Chicago's Lake Shore Drive had been the inspiration instead of filling in with hotels and convention buildings. There may be a place for those, but I don't accept that it is where they were located.

We residents continue to be pushed by our elected officials — and a few others who hope to remain nameless — to build sports stadiums, expand convention facilities, plan new city halls, etc., and all the while, our streets are in disrepair, our water supply and distribution system are inadequate and falling apart, our sewage treatment is inadequate, and on and on.

The list of issues is complex. But I feel it needs to be addressed in a better fashion than we are doing currently. Tim
San Diego

Another Kind Of Justice

We were disturbed to learn in Moss Gropen's otherwise interesting and important cover story "My House Has Wheels" (December 1) that Osiris Murillo, an alumna of our criminal justice program at San Diego State University, who lost her job during the current recession, is now living with her three-year-old daughter out of her car

at 28th and L Street. We are concerned about Osiris's future and want to reach out to her (though we do not have a contact number). We encourage Osiris to get in contact with SDSU's criminal justice program's career adviser, Patricia Frosio, at 619-594-5576 (pfrosio@mail.sdsu.edu). The SDSU Criminal Justice Student Association president Ran-Dee McLain (cjsapresident@gmail.com) and the criminal justice Honor Society president Adrienne Ehrlich are also there to help, and Dr. Nurge, the coordinator of the Criminal Justice Program, will arrange to cover child care while Osiris goes for interviews.

Dr. Stuart Henry
Director of the School
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SDSU

Comments from Reader website Diary of a Diva Published December 7

Larry E. says: My wife and I have had a similar discussion (but no argument -- yet), so David has my empathy. It's not just about the people. It's also about the dog. Mind you, maybe Newt "Gingrich" can offer you advice on how to make the dog productive and earn some income.

By Facebook 2:13 p.m., Dec 7, 2011

Suzanne Y. says: A dog would love you unconditionally, really don't expect too much from you in return, your "nice things" are just that and nothing more.

By Facebook 2:24 p.m., Dec 7, 2011

Michelle S. says: We have nice things, and we have a cat and 2 dogs. The secret to that is training, keeping them exercised so they don't get bored and eat things, and a schedule. Also, getting a dog that ISN'T a puppy will help. So many older dogs (just 3 or 4yrs old) are available for adoption but so many people want puppies. If you don't want kids, you don't want a puppy. I've taken dogs out in the rain and it's not that bad. Plus it only rains like 6 days a year here. Just keep a towel by the door to wipe/dry its feet.

By Facebook 3:16 p.m., Dec 7, 2011

Deena E. says: We had that argument here for several years, then he finally agreed to it...Jesus, you'd think these dogs were his flesh and blood now. He LOOOOOOOVES them and I get to give him sh*t about how long he resisted. Happy couple=happy dogs.

By Facebook 3:32 p.m., Dec 7, 2011

Shawn S. says: It's a tough decision amongst couples, but Deena's right. Having a big, dopey dog greet you when you get home is hard to resist.

BTW, kudos to whomever crafted this article's picture of the two dogs trying to see eye-to-eye.

By Facebook 3:33 p.m., Dec 7, 2011

I just showed this image to David and said, "Don't be an angry puppy." <http://i.imgur.com/kMcuL.jpg>

By Barbarella 3:36 p.m., Dec 7, 2011

Feature Story "Milton the Barber"

Published December 7

Great story, Elizabeth! I've know Milton for quite some time and he is just awesome! When I go get a haircut from him or his co-worker Joe, I'm always assured of two things. 1. I will have one of the best haircuts in San Diego and 2. I will have a smile or hearty laugh because he is such a hilarious person and great host! It's great to see his story and stories like this. Keep up the good work, Elizabeth!

By riches1976 12:38 p.m., Dec 8, 2011

Best Buys

Published December 7

For the best sparkly lips, try Wonderland lip gloss from red apple! This is a gluten-free lip gloss and is absolutely beautiful. The holidays are so much fun for make-up! I love the glitz and glam of a good holiday party!

By maidjillian 12:39 p.m., Dec 7, 2011

Thanks, Jillian. I haven't done sparkly lips in a while, but I might have to give the Wonderland a try.

--Eve Kelly

By EveKellyReader 3:03 p.m., Dec 7, 2011

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Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

Thursday | 15

TEA AND DESIGN DOWNTOWN

Product Porch (a pop-up shop and “retail experiment” currently on view downtown) partners with Halcyon Tea for an afternoon of specialty teas, pastries, art, and design. Brooks Hudson Thomas and Blaire Dessent will present an overview of the shop and share insights about featured artists and designers.

WHEN: 4 to 6 p.m.

WHERE: Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, 1001 Kettner Boulevard, Downtown. 858-454-3541; mcasd.org/programs



Saturday | 17

KFTS RADIO VARIETY SHOW

Feeding the Soul Foundation (an organization that “brings community together in creative generosity”) presents an event with comedy, magic, and music by Bushwalla, Raining Jane, and the Makepeace Brothers. Magician and television-host Justin Willman moderates.

WHEN: 6 p.m.

WHERE: Neurosciences Institute, 10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive, La Jolla. 917-860-9118.

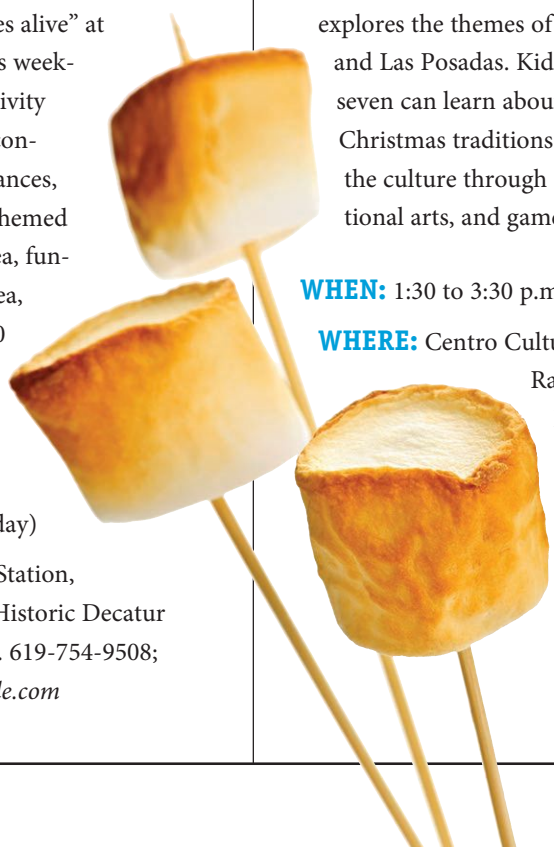
Friday | 16

A CHRISTMAS TABERNACLE

“The true meaning and spirit of Christmas comes alive” at Liberty Station this weekend with a live nativity scene, Christmas concerts and performances, Santa’s Village, a themed Christmas-tree area, fun-with-snow play area, and more than 100 vendors.

WHEN: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. (also Saturday and Sunday)

WHERE: Liberty Station, Womble Road at Historic Decatur Road, Point Loma. 619-754-9508; christmastabernacle.com



Sunday | 18

FELIZ NAVIDAD

This Dulce Sweet Kids program explores the themes of Navidad and Las Posadas. Kids three to seven can learn about these Latin-Christmas traditions and celebrate the culture through songs, traditional arts, and games.

WHEN: 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

WHERE: Centro Cultural de la Raza, 2125 Park Boulevard, Balboa Park. 619-235-6135; dulcesweetkids.com



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20: LA PASTORELA DE VALOR

Monday | 19

GARDEN OF LIGHTS

Over 100,000 sparkling lights now adorn the plants and trees at San Diego Botanic Garden. Enjoy horse-drawn wagon rides, holiday crafts, live entertainment, marshmallow roasting, visits with Santa, and tasty treats.

WHEN: 5 to 9 p.m. (event runs through December 23 and December 26-30)

WHERE: San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760-436-3036 x206; sdbgarden.org

December 24)

WHERE: Lyceum Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza, Downtown. 619-544-1000; lyceumevents.org

Wednesday | 21

DECORATE A GINGERBREAD HOUSE

Pretty enough to eat! The house and frosting will be supplied at this event for kids and teens; you need only bring a bag of candy to use and share with other decorators. See how creative you can get when you play with your food!

WHEN: 6 to 7 p.m.

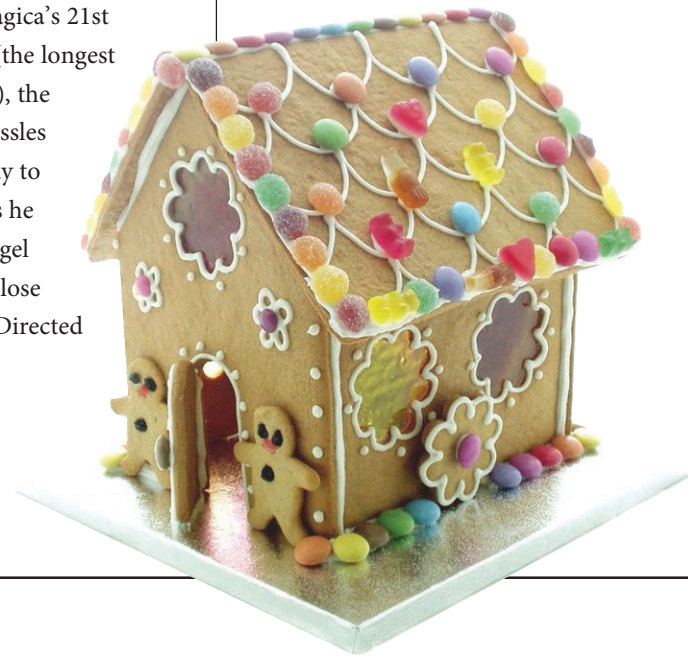
WHERE: Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway, Mission Valley. 858-573-5007.

Tuesday | 20

LA PASTORELA DE VALOR

In Teatro Mascara Magica’s 21st annual holiday show (the longest running in San Diego), the Prince of Darkness hassles shepherds on their way to Bethlehem. Little does he know that the Archangel Michael is keeping a close eye on their journey. Directed by William Virchis.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. (Tuesdays and Thursdays through



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TRAVEL STORIES AND TIPS FROM OUR READERS



For \$20/night, spot 73 at Jalama Beach County Park was our home for the next three days.

Jalama Beach, California

By May Chu

We left at 12:00 a.m. on October 25, en route to Jalama Beach County Park from San Diego for a surf trip. Research told us that campers have to arrive at the park's flag post at 6 a.m. sharp in order to make a waiting list for the prime oceanfront real estate — miss the meeting, forget about a spot. It's first come, first serve.

Driving in the middle of the night is torture on the mind and eyes but well worth it for patience's sake since we missed the Sea of Brake Lights, Los

Angeles. After arriving in Santa Barbara at 3:30 a.m., we filled the gas tank and rested in a bank parking lot. By 5:00 a.m. we were awake and prepared to complete our drive to Jalama.

On a map, Jalama appears to be a straight shot off Pacific Coast Highway 1. The small bush-covered sign on the roadside directed us to turn left to our destination. The joke was on us, however, when we encountered 14 miles of driving in darkness through switchbacks. The only sign that told us we were on the right track was the presence of bright spaceship-shaped oil rigs offshore.

We arrived at the campground a little after 6, before sunrise, without a ranger in sight and ample oceanfront camping spots.

After an hour of waiting, napping, then watching the waves, we set off and marked our spot with the tent, camping gear, and surfboards. For \$20/night, spot 73 was our home for the next three days.

We enjoyed a technology-free surf trip, glassy waves, dolphins, long, peaceful walks on the beach, classic California fall weather, gorgeous pink and purple sunrises, a nighttime sky full of stars

(hard to miss), campfires, French press coffee, and crafty raccoons.

Jalama was a spontaneous choice, and one that I'm completely stoked about. I love this place. I really hope that it stays as it is — without developers considering it as a location for the next coastal planned development.

Tips:

1. 4.5 hr drive from San Diego (without cars on the road in the middle of the night).
2. Site rates vary by season, location, and amenities.
3. Fall is the best time of year.
4. Shower usage costs 50 cents for 3 minutes.
5. Store your food and coolers in the car at night to avoid raccoons.
6. Clean up after yourself, and some-

times others.

7. Last, enjoy this sliver of California coast that the Chumash Native Americans once occupied. They were savvy in their real estate pickings.

Little Rock, Arkansas: Indie-Music Mecca

By Tamar Fleishman

Little Rock, Arkansas, has quietly become an indie-music lover's paradise. Those turned on by the harder stuff — punk, hardcore, hard Southern rock — can get their rock on at Juanita's. Tasty Tex-Mex is served during the earlier evening hours, and the bands come on

continued on page 56.

Other Adventures



Heather Randolph: Bud-die's Sand Buddies in Buttercup, Thanksgiving 2011



xvinnyx: A starry night as the campfire shines on the large boulders encompassing the campsites at Joshua Tree National Park, September 3, 2011 (Photo by Vicente Guerrero)



Sigourney Grondin: The Santa Monica Pier is alive at night.

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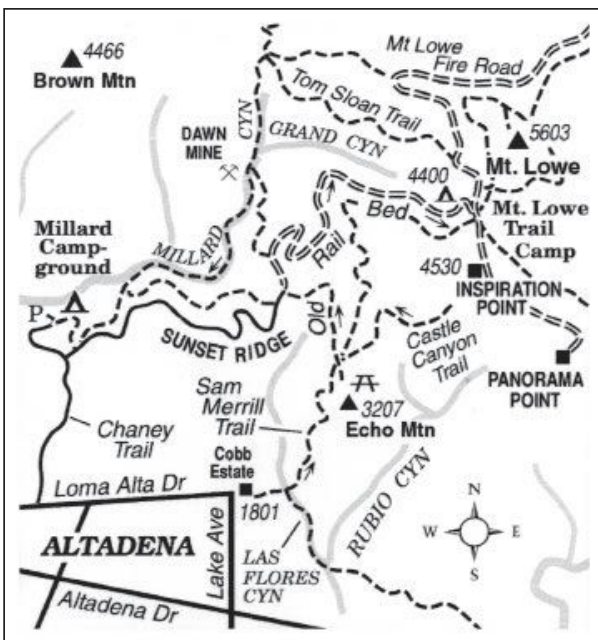
ROAM-O-RAMA

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

FROM THE TRAILMASTER'S FAVORITES FOLDER

The Mt. Lowe Railway hike is recognized as one of the most successful "rails to trails" projects in the country.

Originally published: October 2, 2003



An engineering marvel when built in the 1890s, the Mt. Lowe Railway above Pasadena and Altadena lived a checkered past

full of both glory and destruction. Before its final abandonment in the mid-1930s, the line carried over 3 million tourists. Unheard of by

millions of Southland newcomers today, the railway was for many years the most popular outdoor attraction in Southern California. Today you can hike parallel to and sometimes directly on the old rail bed, using your imagination to reconstruct what it was like to ride the rails a century ago.

The line consisted of three stages. Passengers rode a trolley from Altadena into lower Rubio Canyon, then boarded a steeply inclined cable railway that took them 1300 feet higher to Echo Mountain, where two hotels, a number of small tourist attractions, and an observatory stood. In the third phase, a mountain trolley climbed another 1200 vertical feet along airy slopes to the end of the line — a lodge called Ye Alpine Tavern.

For the most complete hiking tour, 11.2 miles with an elevation gain and loss of 2800 feet, you begin at the Cobb Estate trailhead, at the north end of Lake Avenue in Altadena. Walk east past the stone pillars at the entrance and continue 150 yards on a narrow,

blacktop driveway. The driveway bends left, but you keep walking straight (east). Soon you come to the rim of Las Flores Canyon and a sign indicating the start of the Sam Merrill Trail. This trail goes left over the top of a small debris dam and begins a switchback ascent of Las Flores Canyon's precipitous east slope.

Inspired by the fabulous views (assuming you're doing this early on one of L.A.'s sometimes crystal-clear fall or winter days), the 2.5 miles of steady ascent on the Sam Merrill Trail may seem to go rather quickly. Turn right at the top of the trail and walk south over to flat-topped Echo Mountain, which is more like the shoulder of a ridge. Poke around and you'll find many foundation ruins and piles of concrete rubble. An old "bull-wheel" and cables for the incline railway were left behind after the Forest Service cleared away what remained of the buildings here in the '50s and '60s.

Next, you'll go north on the signed Echo Mountain Trail, where you walk over railroad ties still embedded in the ground. Interpretive panels posted at intervals tell the story of this segment of the rail-



An old "bull wheel" and cables for the incline railway

At 2.4 miles from Echo Mountain, you pass through Granite Gate, where a narrow slot was blasted out of solid granite on a sheer north-facing slope, a process that took eight months to complete.

You arrive at the site of Ye Alpine Tavern 3.4 miles from Echo Mountain. Today it's the Mt. Lowe Trail Camp, where backpackers can stay overnight. The rails never got farther than here, although it was hoped they would one day reach the summit of Mt. Lowe, 1200 feet higher.

Hike on another half mile to Inspiration Point, which follows a proposed extension of the rail line. Sighting tubes in place there then (and now) helped visitors locate places of interest below.

Inspiration Point is the last station on the self-guiding trail. The fastest and easiest way to return is by way of the Castle Canyon Trail, which descends directly below Inspiration Point. After two miles you'll arrive back on the old railway grade just north of Echo Mountain. Retrace your steps on the Sam Merrill Trail.

NOTE: The information in this archived article may not be current.

way. The original line from Echo Mountain to Ye Alpine Tavern had 127 curves and 114 straight sections.

At 1.6 miles from Echo Mountain you'll pass the site (and some concrete footings) of the Circular Bridge, an engineering accomplishment of worldwide fame, where startled passengers swung into midair over the upper walls of Las Flores Canyon.

Find more Roam-O-Rama columns online at SDReader.com/roam

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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.

Blue titles indicate sponsored events. To place a sponsored listing, call 619-235-8200.

OUTDOORS

Landscaping in Buchanan Canyon Volunteers called to help Friends of Buchanan Canyon shovel, spread decomposed granite for initial landscaping of a native plant garden along portion of canyon rim. Tools provided. 619-297-2957. Saturday, December 17, 9am; 18 and up. Johnson Avenue at Lincoln. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

Miner's Loop Trail Walk Arne Johanson leads hike along north face of Black Mountain Open Space Park. Meet at parking staging area. 858-484-3219. Saturday,

December 17, 9am; Black Mountain Open Space Park staging area, 14850 Carmel Valley Road. (RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS)

Moonless Star Party Join MTRP resident stargazer George Varga to scope the Andromeda Galaxy (M31) and companion M32, Pleiades, the Double Cluster in Perseus and more, during viewing enhanced by later-evening moonrise. Meet at far end of the Kumeyaay Campground's day-use parking lot. Saturday, December 17, 5pm; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Silverwood Cleanup Volunteers invited to help with construction of trails, invasive weed control, trail clearing, maintaining fire clearance zones. Bring gloves, pruners, loppers if you have them. Snacks, water provided. RSVP: 619-443-2998. Saturday, December 17, 9am; Silverwood Sanctuary, 13003 Wildcat Canyon Road. (LAKESIDE)

Surviving in the Wild Learn how animals and plants adapt to their environment, coexist, and thrive. Meet at the Visitor Center for guide-led walk. Saturday and Sunday, December 17 and 18, 9:30am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Sycamores and a Waterfall Naturalist Linda King leads moderately paced loop hike to Carson's Crossing, waterfall, and Sycamore Crossing. 858-484-3219. Saturday, December 17, 8am; **free**. Del Mar Mesa trailhead, 7107 Park Village Road. (RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS)

Whale Watching Adventures Hornblower Cruises leads 3.5-

hour outings in search of migrating gray whales, with captains and naturalists from San Diego Natural History Museum on hand to help spot tails and teach guests more about the marine wildlife offshore. Reservations: 619-686-8715 or hornblower.com/whales. Sundays, 9:30am; through Sunday, April 15, **free**-\$40. Hornblower Cruises, 1066 North Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

Winter Water Birding Resident birder Jeanne Raimond seeks Lake Murray's resident and migratory waterbirds and terrestrial sage/chaparral species during outing. Meet at Lake Murray (east side) in the parking lot off Kiowa Drive. Saturday, December 17, 8am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park. (SAN CARLOS)

SPECIAL EVENTS

"A Christmas Tabernacle" Festival promises more than 100 vendors, food court, Christmas concerts and performances, living nativity scene, workshops, Santa's Village, themed Christmas tree area, fun zone with snow play area, more. Multi-day passes available. 619-754-9508. Friday through Sunday, December 16-18, 11am; \$12-\$18. Liberty Station, Womble Road at Historic Decatur Road. (POINT LOMA)

"A Night of Christmas Hope" Hope Church presents contemporary music, creative dance, the Christmas story, traditional carols, comedy by Carlos Oscar. Saturday, December 17, 7pm; \$10-\$15. Moonlight Amphitheatre in

Brengle Terrace Park, 1200 Vale Terrace. (VISTA)

"An Irish Christmas" Music, traditional dance, storytelling, carols, "and plenty of Irish soul" come together with help of Darren Maguire, Ciaran Maguire, Collette Dunne. Pre-performance concert on historic Wonder Morton Organ for ticket holders (7pm). 619-570-1170. Friday, December 16, 7pm; \$36-\$57. Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

"He Is Born!" Christmas concert with Chancel and Dorian bell choirs, strings, woodwinds, organ, piano performing classical to 20th-century selections. Offering. 858-454-7108. Sunday, December 18, 4pm; **free**. La Jolla United Methodist Church, 6063 La Jolla Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

"Holiday Harmonies" San Diego Choraleers adult mixed chorus performs, along with Inflections, Women of Note, Men of Note. Reservations: 619-501-7298. Saturday, December 17, 4pm; \$3-\$7. Patrick Henry High School, 6702 Wandermere Drive. (SAN CARLOS)

"Holiday Sparkler" The North Coast Symphony plans concert mixing "classical music and holiday favorites" including JS Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," "Festive Sounds of Hanukah," more. Requested donation: \$10-\$8; family rate: \$25 maximum. 760-753-3003. Sunday, December 18, 2:30pm; Seacoast Community Church, 1050 Regal Road. (ENCINITAS)

"KFTS Radio Variety Show" Feeding the Soul Foundation's event promises comedy, magic, music by Bushwalla, Raining Jane, the Makepeace Brothers. Host: magician, television host Justin Willman. Saturday, December 17, 6pm; \$50. Neurosciences Institute, 10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive. (LA JOLLA)

"Lead Me Back to Bethlehem" Chancel Choir presents Christmas concert with orchestral accompaniment. Listen for "new music to lead listeners back to the miracle and the mystery of the Christ child's birth." Offering. Saturday, December 17, 5pm and 7pm; **free**. Foothills United Methodist Church, 4031 Avocado Boulevard. (LA MESA)

"Police Power: To Protect and Serve?" "In light of the many police crackdowns on the Occupy movement, what do you think of the use and abuse of police power in the USA?" Discuss or just listen with Civilized Conversation Club. Thursday, December 15, 7pm; **free**. Filter, 4096 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

'Tis the Holiday Season Pat Bean and RB Chorale present "night of singing, dancing, beautiful sets, with something for all ages." Santa will be on hand. Bring an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots campaign. Friday and Saturday, December 16 and 17, 7pm; Sunday, December 18, 2pm; \$20-\$5. Poway Center for the Performing Arts, 15498 Espola Road. (POWAY)

Bizarre meets Bazaar Visit the Encinitas Market, "a new underground market with a handmade focus," teaming up with Seaside Bazaar with vendors selling all manner of items, live performances, music. Saturday and Sunday, December 17 and 18, 9am; **free**. Seaside Bazaar, 495 South Coast Hwy 101. (ENCINITAS)

Bradley Manning Rally WikiLeaks suspect Bradley Manning will have been incarcerated for 571 days on December 17, his 24th birthday. Meet at San Diego Civic Center, march six blocks north to Third Avenue bridge over I-5 to place a banner for freeway traffic viewing, then march back to Occupy San Diego for rally. Saturday, December 17, 3pm; **free**. Civic Center Plaza, 1100 3rd Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

Crossroads of the West Gun Show Exhibits designed to appeal to hunters, gun collectors. Saturday and Sunday, December 17 and 18, 9am; **free**-\$12. Del Mar

Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Dr. Sketchy's Anti-Art School Sketch models such as "burlesque beauties, roller derby girls, tattooed vixens, belly dancers, rippling hunks of men and more" during cabaret life-drawing event. Saturday, December 17, 3pm; \$10. 21 and up. Ruby Room, 1271 University Avenue. (HILLCREST)

Fantasy on Ice Enjoy ice-skating outdoors adjacent to Horton Plaza. Two sessions Friday-Sunday: 10am-7:30pm, and 8-10pm. Open until 5pm Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Rink closed Christmas Day. Admission includes skate rental. 858-966-6700. Daily, 10am to 10pm; through Sunday, January 8, \$12-\$14. Horton Square, 225 Broadway Circle. (DOWNTOWN)

Garden of Lights Gardens decorated with 100,000-plus sparkling lights on plants and trees through December 30. Horse-drawn wagon rides, holiday crafts, live

Arkansas

continued from page 54.

later at night. They've just moved to a more inviting, accessible location in the River Market District.

Stickyz — formerly Sticky Fingerz — is that perfect bridge between listening to what the cool kids are listening to and relaxing like a grown-up. You can catch anything from blues to soul to country here, while sitting at real tables, real booths, and eating house-made chicken fingers with freshly prepared dips.

Cajun's Wharf, serving Cajun/Southern dishes in view of the Arkansas River, has perfected talent scouting for interesting music over a period of 30 years. Even the happy-hour acts — with no cover, mind you — are exceptional.

Recently, they had Andy Tanas, a local legend from his days in Black Oak Arkansas and Krokus. With all of his new projects dropping, including a CD and book on the rock star's view of the



Little Rock legend Andy Tanas of Black Oak Arkansas and Krokus

music industry, it takes a special place like Cajun's Wharf to persuade him to fit an evening of performing into his busy schedule.

I spoke to him about what drives him to play in Little Rock. Tanas has seen firsthand what the music biz does to other venues and cities; he appreciates the support that Little Rock gives him. He knows that, as he puts it, "the silly little bands" he was in grab people's attention, but he's touched that audiences stay to hear his indie-rock/alt-country original style.

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Holiday Family Sing-Along FanFair Foundation event begins with prelude performance of classical pieces by members of FanFair Foundation's "Kids Playing for Kids" program. Sing-along of holiday carols led by a vocalist with piano accompaniment follows. 619-533-3968 or 760-666-1810. **Saturday, December**

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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

upscale organization for singles looking for relationships, marriage and more, offers this dance/mixer at the beautiful Carmel Mountain Ranch Country Club. Celebrate the New Year with entertainer Pete Peterkin, a Finalist on America's Got Talent! Complimentary appetizers, lock & key, champagne toast and more! \$42 (\$52 after 12/20). Must pre-pay at www.SimplyTheBestSingles.com or call 818-577-6877. Saturday, December 31, 8:30pm to 12:30am. Carmel Mountain Ranch Country Club, 14050 Carmel Ridge Road. (CARMEL VALLEY)

BOOK SIGNINGS

Afterglow/Tras El Rayo Renowned Mexico City poet Alberto Blanco visits to read from and sign his new book. Blanco has published 27 books of poetry, books of essays on art, poetry in translation, and books for children. 858-456-1800. Saturday, December 17, 7pm; **free**. D.G. Wills Books, 7461 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Nimpentoad San Diego elementary school students Josh and Harrison Herz read from and sign their recently published

children's fantasy, "the story of a courageous and resourceful little Nibbling." Thursday, December 15, 3:45pm; **free**. Scripps Miramar Ranch Library, 10301 Scripps Lake Drive. (SCRIPPS RANCH)

COMEDY

Comedy Conspiracy Live Standup Headliner Billy Bonnell joined by featured comics Greg Santos, Allison Gill, Bryan Bartell, OB Anton, host Mike Egbert. 619-702-6666. Thursday, December 15, 8pm; **free**-\$20. 21 and up. Mad House Comedy Club — Horton Plaza. (DOWNTOWN)

Comedy in Little Italy Tommy Chunn headlines, Josh Nelson hosts. Friday, December 16, 8pm; \$10. 21 and up. 98 Bottles, 2400 Kettner Boulevard. (LITTLE ITALY)

Rex Navarrete This Filipino-American comedian brings "his special brand of humor" to the stage. 877-946-7252. Saturday, December 17, 7pm; \$20-\$25. 21 and up. Pala Casino, 35008 Pala Temecula Road. (PALA)

Stage Monkeys Improvised Theater Stage Monkeys perform long-form improvised theater, using "one single suggestion from the audience" to catapult "into characters, scenes, games, songs," more. Friday, December 16, 8pm; \$5. 18 and up. Café Libertalia, 3834 Fifth Avenue. (HILLCREST)

Rhyme & Verse

Lilith

A poem by Ron Koertge

She did not graze on all fours but wrapped her arms and legs around Adam and said, "Oh, Daddy. It feels so good," and he promised her a little place of her own in Manhattan.

God saw that he had made a mistake and put him to sleep, wiped his brain smooth as a grape and tried again with Eve

who lay flat on her back, arms and legs extended as if she had fallen from a tree. As Adam tried, she talked out loud, "So much to do, so many animals to name, so much adoration to give Him."

Adam rolled off her, sat up holding his side. "It hurts," he said. "What does?" "Here." "That's called a rib." "No. Above that." "Your heart. I've only been here ten

minutes and already I know ever so much more than you." "I think it's broken." "Oh, pooh. Everything's wonderful and all you do is complain. You should be glad you're not an insurance salesman."

Adam had to admit she was right, yet what was that smell of crushed fern, such heat disguised as words, a vision: lovely toes pointing toward the sun. "Sorrow," he said, "I feel sorrow." "You eat too fast," said Eve. "It's gas."



In the apocryphal literature, Lilith was the first wife of Adam, sometimes portrayed in ancient lore as an evil demon, but also, in medieval mythology, as a powerful, independent woman who refuses to be subservient to Adam. Ron Koertge is a well-known, greatly admired poet with a quirky wit and a genius for imaginative and playful narrative. He is also the author of several brilliant, award-winning young adult novels. "Lilith" was originally published in a collection of Koertge's poetry titled Diary Cows, published by Little Caesar Press. Photo credit, Sonia Sones. The poem is reprinted by permission.

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry

DANCE

"Jingle Jam 'n' Blues" Swing Jam Friday holiday party with dancing to live swingin' blues by Mercedes Moore Blues Band. Classes: 7:45pm, 8:30pm, 8:45pm.

Open dance: 9:30pm-12am or later. "Swing FX" performance, "dancing gag gift exchange," potluck. Friday, December 16, 7:45pm; Dance for 2, 7528 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)

Argentine Tango with Colette Will give you a first free class any Monday or Wednesday at 7pm and will introduce you to the passion and magic of Tango at Dance. No need for a partner. More infor-

mation: www.TangoWithColette.com or call 514-726-5567. Monday, December 19, 7pm. Dance Place San Diego, 2650 Truxtun Road, Studio 106. (POINT LOMA)

The Nutcracker San Diego Civic Youth Ballet leads audiences on "extraordinary journey with Clara, the prince, and the Sugar Plum Fairy" with 200 young dancers. 619-233-3060. Friday, 7pm; Saturday, 2pm and 7pm; and Sunday, 2pm; through Sunday, Decem-

ber 18, \$10-\$15. Casa del Prado Theatre, 1650 El Prado, Suite 208. (BALBOA PARK)

The Nutcracker Celebrate holidays when City Ballet presents Tchaikovsky's classic ballet performed with live music by City Ballet Orchestra. 858-272-8663. Friday, December 16, 7:30pm; Saturday, December 17, 2pm and 7:30pm; and Sunday, December 18, 2pm; \$29-\$59. Spreckels Theatre, 121 Broadway. (DOWNTOWN)

The Nutcracker California Ballet presents classical dance, Tchaikovsky's magical score performed by San Diego Symphony, choreography by Maxine Mahon. 858-560-5676. Saturday, December 17, 2:30pm and 7pm; Sunday, December 18, 1pm and 5:30pm; \$25-\$80. San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

An Irish Christmas Music, dance, storytelling, "and plenty of Irish soul" come together with help of *Riverdance* star Darren Maguire, the Kerry Dance Troupe and Orchestra, more. 619-570-1170. Friday, December 16, 7:30pm; \$25-\$50. Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

Leaping Cossacks and Legions of Rats! San Diego Ballet Company performs *The Nutcracker* with over 100 dancers reveling in Tchaikovsky's score. Direction by Robin Sherertz-Morgan and Javier Velasco. Reservations: 619-294-7311. Saturday, December 17, 2pm and 7:30pm; Sunday, December 18, 2pm; \$20-\$50. Mandeville Auditorium at UCSD, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

FOOD & DRINK

Festive Treats and Sweets Learn to prepare sweets like toffee, fudge, decorated Rice Crispy

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Calendar LOCAL EVENTS

treats in holiday shapes, whoopie pies, and gingerbread and minty wonderland cupcakes on a stick during hands-on sweets class. 858-459-2877. Thursday, December 15, 6pm; \$15-\$50. Cups Lounge and Culinary, 7857 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Haute Tamale Arizona Tamale Factory chef-owner Linda L. Lipincott divulges making healthy tamales with olive and avocado oils and no lard, along with traditional and non-traditional fillings, sauces, salsas. 858-459-2877. Saturday, December 17, 2:30pm; \$65. Cups Lounge and Culinary, 7857 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Holiday Chocolates Chef shares professional chocolate-making techniques, shortcuts. Class makes variety of chocolate truffles, holiday candies. 858-442-5252. Friday, December 16, 6:30pm; \$45. 18 and up. Charlie's Classic Cooking, 1291 Simpson Way, Suite H. (ESCONDIDO)

Holiday Cookies Make special holiday cookies. Participants make five different kinds of cookies, take five dozen home. 858-442-5252. Thursday, December 15, 6:30pm; Saturday, December 17, 9:30am; \$45. Charlie's Classic Cooking, 1291 Simpson Way, Suite H. (ESCONDIDO)

Party Foods Prepare appetizers to make your "party the hit of the neighborhood" with chef Carrie Rosebraugh, who will also dispense a few cocktail recipes to "kick everything up a notch." 760-233-2433. Saturday, December 17, 10am; \$50. Alchemy of the Hearth, 960 Rancheros Drive, Suite L. (SAN MARCOS)

Taste N' Tinis Peppermint martinis! Candy cane cosmopolitans! Scroogedivers! Self-guided walking tour promises "mouthwatering appetizers and festive beverages." Participating shops will have bartenders on hand serving cocktails. 619-233-5008. Thursday, December 15, 5pm; \$20-\$25. 21 and up. Hillcrest, 3737 Fifth Avenue. (HILLCREST)

Taste of Opera — Don Pasquale Chef Katherine Emmenegger prepares recipes inspired by the opera; "sous chef" Nicolas Reveles of San Diego Opera entertains "with facts and stories" while meal is being created. Menu includes chiles en nogada, tres leches cake, more. Registration: 888-478-2433. Friday, December 16, 6pm; \$54. 18 and up. Great News!, 1788 Garnet Avenue. (PACIFIC BEACH)

FOR KIDS

"Family Festival: Holiday Pops" San Diego Symphony continues its family holiday music tradition with popular holiday

carols and more. 619-235-0804. Sunday, December 18, 2pm; \$10-\$15. Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. (DOWNTOWN)

"Whale of a Tail" Watch for migrating gray whales during Sea Days program and get up close to real whale baleen. Learn why these marine mammals swim more than 12,000 miles each year. Scripps Oceanography scientists share stories of their current research. Included in admission (\$14 general). 858-534-7336. Saturday, December 17, 11am; Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

Feliz Navidad Dulce Sweet Kids program explores Navidad and Las Posadas themes. Kids (three to seven years old) learn about traditions of Christmas and celebration of Las Posadas and Latin culture through songs, traditional art, games. Sunday, December 18, 1:30pm; \$30. Centro Cultural de la Raza, 2125 Park Boulevard. (BALBOA PARK)

Hands-On Art for Families Prodigy Kids Performing Arts presents live theater, visual art, and dance. Create art projects to take home. Saturday, December 17, 10am; free. Encinitas Library, 540 Cornish Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Mommy and Me Make Holiday Cookies Children (4-7) invited to make cookies for the holidays. One child per adult. Registration: 760-233-2433. Thursday, December 15, 2pm; \$45. Alchemy

of the Hearth, 960 Rancheros Drive, Suite L. (SAN MARCOS)

Stories with the Gingerbread Queen Mary Beach returns (as the Gingerbread Queen) with stories of winter and the holidays. 858-573-5007. Thursday, December 15, 11am; free. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

GALLERIES

"Nature's Contrasts" Opening reception for featured artists Betty Hock and Lauren Cazden ("Altered States"), along with juried and awarded artwork from "Outstanding Visual Artists" of region. Closes Sunday, January 15. Friday, December 16, 6pm; free-\$3. San Diego Art Institute: Museum of the Living Artist, 1439 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

LECTURES

"Can We Save Historical Buildings..." And can they be given "new life at the same time?" La Jolla Historical Society's "Contemporary Architects Making History" series draws to close with James Alcorn, whose "passion for the whole of the built environment includes the spaces between buildings and the streetscape surrounding it." 858-459-5335. Thursday, December 15, 7pm; \$10-\$15. Wisteria Cottage, 780 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

"Crop Circles and Consciousness" Crop circle researcher Cariel Quinly speaks, also addressing "paranormal aspects of the circles," for MUFON (Mutual UFO Network). Sunday, December 18, 6pm; free. 18 and up. Sizzler, 3755 Murphy Canyon Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

"The Trouble with Christmas" Tom Flynn, executive director of the Council for Secular Humanism, editor of *Free Inquiry*, presents "thought-provoking — yet

wildly funny — view on the Christmas holiday" for Humanist Fellowship of San Diego. Saturday, December 17, 11am; free. Rancho Peñasquitos Library, 13350 Salmon River Road. (RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS)

Astrology and the Bible What does the Bible say about astrology? "The tree of life is represented spiritually as well as astrologically." Look at "possible birth charts for Jesus" during class. 760-721-2110. Saturday, December 17, 2pm; \$10. Kindred Journeys, 510 N. Coast Hwy. #101A. (OCEANSIDE)

Bicycle Safety in Traffic Class for new cyclists and those who want to feel more comfortable riding on city streets will cover basics — choosing the right bike, properly fitting a helmet, safest ways to ride in traffic, techniques to avoid or deal with road hazards, emergency maneuvers, more. 858-472-6025. Sunday, December 18, 9am; \$30. Kensington Cafe, 4141 Adams Avenue. (KENSINGTON-TALMADGE)

SPOKEN WORD

"Season's Readings and Season's Greetings!" Sunset Poets holiday poetry party with R.T. Sedgwick reading from and speaking about his new book, *Left Unlatched*. Expect Christmas cookie buffet and refreshments. Bring favorite winter and holiday poetry and verse for open reading. Sunday, December 18, 2:30pm; free. Vista Library, 700 Eucalyptus Avenue. (VISTA)

SPORTS

Bolts versus Baltimore San Diego Chargers host Baltimore Ravens during final regular season football game. Broadcast on NBC. 877-CHARGERS. Sunday, December 18, 5:20pm; \$61-\$107. Snapdragon Stadium, 9449 Friars Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

Dash for Gifts and Cash! Participants will "dash, zip, and avoid flying paintballs being shot by" Santa and elves for gift cards, cash, candy canes stashed inside gift bags. Kids, 10-13 years old: noon-1pm; adults, teens 14 and older: 1-2pm. Saturday, December 17; free. Total Combat Paintball, 2015 Birch Road. (EASTLAKE)

Professional Men's Basketball San Diego Sol men's team hosts Los Angeles Slam in SportsCenter. 619-933-7740. Saturday, December 17, 5pm; free-\$10. Alliant University, 10455 Pomerado Road. (SCRIPPS RANCH)

Ride to Rancho Santa Fe Join San Diego Bicycle Touring Society riders for 50-mile adventure promising Rancho Santa Fe, Del Mar, lunch (bring money). 619-255-5360. Saturday, December 17, 8:45am; De Anza Cove, 3000 East Mission Bay Drive. (PACIFIC BEACH)

San Diego Sol versus San Diego Surf Men's basketball game in SportsCenter. 619-933-7740. Sunday, December 18, 2pm; free-\$10. Alliant University, 10455 Pomerado Road. (SCRIPPS RANCH)

Sockers vs. Stars San Diego Sockers take on Tacoma Stars. 866-799-4625. Saturday, December 17, 7:05pm; \$10-\$17. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Spin Those Wheels Knickerbikers bicyclists plan roughly 25-mile ride at an easy pace; first stop may be for coffee in Ocean Beach (bring money), with lunch later. 858-450-0373 or 619-787-7427. Saturday, December 17, 8:45am; Old Town Transit Center, 4005 Taylor Street. (OLD TOWN)

Strikeforce Mixed Martial Arts Card includes Melendez versus Masvidal for lightweight championship; and Mousasi versus St. Preux for light heavyweight bout. 800-745-3000. Saturday, December 17, 5pm; \$49-\$179. Valley View Casino Center, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (MIDWAY DISTRICT)

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SHEEP AND GOATS

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Canyon View Church of Christ

Contact: 4292 Balboa Avenue, San Diego;
858-273-5140

Membership: 450

Pastor: John McKeel

Age: 58

Born: Wichita, Kansas

Formation: Columbia Christian College, Portland,
Oregon; Pepperdine University, Malibu

Years Ordained: 32

San Diego Reader: *What is your favorite subject on which to preach?*

Pastor John McKeel: Life with a capital L. I really believe life is an adventure and we're here to experience the highs and the lows. I have little patience for people who have been given gift of life and squander it.... We need

to get out and meet people and experience things. Here in San Diego, especially, we have the ocean, the beach, the mountains, and the most amazing mix of people that I've met anywhere.

SDR: *What makes life such an adventure for you?*

PM: I was working at a university in Phoenix and I hated every minute of it. One day my wife leaned across the breakfast table and said, "Honey, the last of the kids has left home. What do you say we sell the house and give away everything we own and buy that sailboat we've always dreamed about?" I thought she was joking...but when I came home from work that day, I saw a "For Sale" sign on

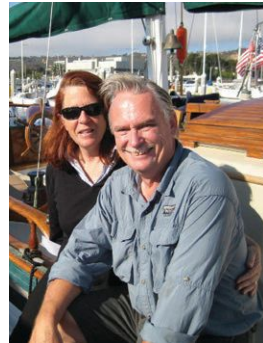
the front lawn and the house sold the next day. After we bought our sailboat — the *Santa Teresa* — the patron saint of romance and headache sufferers — an appropriate name for a sailboat, we sailed down the coast, pulled into San Diego. We had some engine trouble and I think our anchor got stuck on the bottom here because we stayed ever since.

But here's the strange part of the story. I went to kindergarten here in San Diego in 1956–1957, and I remember as a kid that my father and other men of the congregation were building a building. Mom and the other ladies were making the sandwiches...and the kids were

playing in the dirt. I had the most important job — I had a little red wagon and I'd fill it with nails and bring them to the men so they could build the building. What do you know? But 40 years later I'm the senior minister in that building. I had no idea it was until one day I was rummaging around in the attic and ran across some old bulletins. That's when I realized I'd come home.

SDR: *Where do you go when you die?*

PM: We go to the waiting place....When Jesus died on the cross, he was crucified between two thieves, and one of them turned to Jesus and asked him to remember him when he comes into his



John McKeel: "If you die and smell smoke, you're in trouble."

kingdom. And Jesus turned to him, and said, "This day, you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43).... There is a day coming when the world will end and the age is over and we all come to judgment. Meanwhile, the faithful wait in paradise.... But there is the paradise and

the other waiting place. That's the place of torment. If you remember in the parable of Lazarus and the rich man (Luke 16:19-31), Lazarus had a hard time in this life, but he went to the bosom of Abraham, and across the divide there was the rich man, traditionally called Dives, who is in anguish, also waiting for the judgment in a transitory place, too, until judgment. But if someone doesn't make it to heaven, then it's a place that I don't want to be. In other words, if you die and smell smoke, you're in trouble.

— Joseph O'Brien

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1ST SPIRITUALIST CHURCH Full Moon Meditation



Friday, Dec. 16: Who We Really Are discussion group, 6:30-8:00 pm. Saturday, Dec. 17: Candlelight Service, 6:00-8:00 pm. Sunday, Dec. 18: Meditation/Auric Healings, 10:00 am. Lecture Service/Messages, 11:00 am. Guest Speaker: Rachel Connelly. Christmas potluck and gift exchange following. Wednesday, Dec. 21: Reiki Practice Group, 7:00-9:00 pm. www.1st-spiritualist-church.org. CITY HEIGHTS 3777 42nd Street (619) 284-4646

ST. KIERAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Hebrews and James Epistles

Catholic Scripture study for 28 weeks, written by Scott Hahn and Mark Shea. Presented by Fr. Mitch Pacwa and Fr. Scott Courtney. Fridays, 9:00 am to 11:00 am. EL CAJON 1510 Greenfield Drive (619) 588-6881

MISSION BASILICA SAN DIEGO DE ALCALA Candlelight Music Meditation

The Mission Basilica Choir, with Classic Brass, will perform its annual concert of lessons and carols. MISSION VALLEY 10818 San Diego Mission Road (619) 283-7319

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By joining us in prayer, meditation, uplifting music, and an inspiring, thought-provoking Bible-based message on Sundays at 9 and 11 am. Christmas Choir Concert, Sun., December 18, 5 pm. Candlelighting service, Wed., December 21, 7 pm, and Christmas Eve Candlelighting service, Sat., December 24, 7 pm. Christmas Day service, Sun. 9 and 11 am. Prayer ministry: (619) 282-7609, Daily word: (619) 281-LOVE(5683). COLLEGE AREA 3770 Altadena Avenue (619) 280-2501

SAN DIEGO LDS TEMPLE Sights and Sounds of Christmas

Visitors can enjoy Christmas lights, festive music, and nativity scenes as they walk the beautiful temple grounds. Every evening from Saturday, December 3, to January 6, 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm. LA JOLLA 7474 Charmant Drive (858) 622-0991

ENCINITAS COMMUNITY AND SENIOR CENTER Feeling at Home with Hanukkah

Participants will explore the origins, learn how to light the menorah, and enjoy Hanukkah's culinary delights. Children's activities include: "Giving the Dreidel a Spin," Hanukkah sing-along, and a Hanukkah craft project. Thursday, Dec. 15, 6:00 pm. ENCINITAS 1140 Oak Crest Park Drive (760) 753-2456

TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM Hanukkah Event

Latkes Spanish style; burritos and enchiladas, \$5; bake sale; bazaar: Sunday, December 18, at 9:00 am. Read our newsletter at www.bethsholomtemple.com. Shabbat services: Friday, 7:30 pm; Saturday, 10:00 am. CHULA VISTA 208 Madrona Street (619) 420-6040

PRINCE OF PEACE ABBEY Silent Retreat for Men

Preached by the Priests of Miles Christi. Based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Friday, December 16, through Sunday, December 18. Information: (858) 768-0872, or email california-men@spiritualexercises.net. OCEANSIDE 650 Benet Hill Road (760) 967-4200

ST. ANNE CATHOLIC CHURCH Five Latin Masses

Every Sunday. 7:30 am low Mass; 9:00 am sung Mass; 11:05 chant Mass; 12:30 low Mass with sermon and some hymns in Spanish; 6:00 pm low Mass. LOGAN HEIGHTS 621 Sicard St. (619) 239-8253

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH Mid-Week Advent Services

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Like Sheep

The wheels fell and sparks flew for both the brass and the woodwinds.

The following are classical music entries from the *Reader's* "Jam Session" music blog. Click to sandiegoreader.com/weblogs/jam-session for more.

NEW CITY SINFONIA: BAD DOES GOOD

What does one write when a group is doing a good thing but they're not very good — at all? That was my experience of the New City Sinfonia.

I loved the group and their attitude. They were an amateur group, and I've made it clear that I respect the love that amateurs embody. The First Universalist Unitarian Church was the venue. Garrison Keillor would have called it "Our Lady of the Eternal Whatever," but I found the space to be warm and welcoming. The music on the program was solid, and the audience was supportive.

The conductor directed our attention to the donations basket at the back of the hall. He let us know that the money went to buy scores for the orchestra and that the New City Sinfonia supports a charity each year. This year they are supporting Habitat for Humanity.

I found all of these things to be charming, and I was eager to hear the orchestra play.

I won't dwell on it, but I'm confident each string player was playing a slightly different pitch, which created an anemic/starved quality. The wheels fell off and sparks flew for both the brass and the woodwinds. It was a mess.

But, I still enjoy the fact that this group exists and gives three concerts per year. I still respect the players and their commitment to being in an orchestra.

The audience gave them a standing ovation at the end of the concert. Who am I to say they did or didn't deserve it?

HANDEL'S MESSIAH ISN'T CHRISTMAS

The Messiah has become a Christmas tradition, but of the three sections, only the first is related to

Christmas. The text for the ever-famous "Hallelujah Chorus" is about "the end of days" and comes to us from the Bible's last book, the Book of Revelations.

You know, the book that gave us the rapture, the antichrist, the beast with seven heads and ten horns, and giant locust-like creatures that sting people in the chest. Merry Christmas.

The "Hallelujah Chorus" is at the end of the second section of Handel's *Messiah*. The third section is about the defeat of death. The text of the third section is from the Apostle Paul's first letter to the Corinthians and his letter to the Romans, except for the very last chorus, which again comes from Revelations.

What of Handel's *Messiah* is actually about Christmas? There are four brief recitatives for the soprano and one chorus that are taken from the Gospel of Luke regarding the birth of Christ. Most of the first section is about messianic prophecies from Isaiah and Malachi.

From start to finish, *The Messiah* is about three hours long, and of that music, approximately four minutes are about Christmas.

SILLY SHEEP: MESSIAH

Of the three sections of *The Messiah*, I think my favorite is the beginning of the second.

This section is based on the passion or sacrifice of Jesus, but once again, only a small section of text is taken from a gospel account. Most of the text comes from the Old Testament.

The second section uses Isaiah extensively, including, "All we, like sheep, have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way, and



Handel's *Messiah* is about three hours long, start to finish, but only four minutes of it is about Christmas. So, why's it such a Christmas tradition?

the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53: 6)

The chorus — "All we, like sheep have gone astray" — is my favorite *Messiah* chorus. Handel has the chorus sing the phrase "All we like sheep" together before sending each section astray.

The tone of the music is sanguine and carefree, even playful. Then, in the midst of these frolicking sheep, Handel drops the hammer: "And the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Playtime is over.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH HAS BALLS

The first performance of *The Messiah* was on April 13, 1742, in Dublin, Ireland. It almost wasn't performed because Handel's music was considered to be "profane and subversive." Jonathan Swift, of *Gulliver's Travels* and dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral, didn't want singers from the cathedral to participate.

Swift relented, and the performance took place. A year later, Handel premiered a different version of *The Messiah* in London. Throughout the 1750s Handel tinkered with the score to suit different performers and occasions.

Mozart reorchestrated *The Messiah* and included new instruments from the orchestra of the

classical period. In the late 1950s, Sir Eugene Goossens reorchestrated *The Messiah* and included new instruments from the 20th-century orchestra.

The original performance had a modest orchestra and chorus. Today there are "sing-along" performances of *The Messiah* with over 3000 singers.

Most performances of *The Messiah* fall between these two poles, but which approach is right?

Does it matter? Three thousand singers getting together for a community performance has one value, and 24 professional singers getting together for an "authentic" performance has a different value.

The sticking point could be in using "authentic" to describe a performance.

With *The Messiah* we have a difference between the original performance in Dublin and the second performance in London. Handel authorized both versions, so which is authentic?

Period performance people, those who would be "authentic," use men on what have become the female parts of soprano and alto.

This is half-baked authenticity. The men singing alto and soprano today still have their balls. In Handel's day, castrated men sang alto and soprano. Don't call it authentic if they're still in possession of the family jewels. ■



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"Classical Holidays" The 45-piece Hillcrest Wind Ensemble performs music for Christmas, Chanukah, New Year's, joined by local jazz vocalist Andrea Sperling. Portion of proceeds benefit Challenge Center of La Mesa. 619-692-2077 x814. Saturday, December 17, 7pm; \$15. Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center, 6845 University Avenue. (COLLEGE AREA)

"Gaudete! Motets and Carols: Old and New" Bach Collegium San Diego plans a cappella holiday concert of selections from 16th century chant to 21st century motets. Program includes pieces by Byrd, Wilby, Tavener, Howells, Sheppard, Tallis, Weelkes, others. 619-341-1726. Friday, December 16, 7:30pm; \$20-\$40. St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, 743 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

More "Gaudete! Motets and Carols: Old and New" Bach Collegium San Diego plans a cappella holiday concert of selections from 16th century chant to 21st century motets. Program includes pieces by Byrd, Wilby, Tavener, Howells, Sheppard, Tallis, Weelkes, others. 619-341-1726. Saturday, December 17, 7:30pm; \$20-\$40. St. Andrew's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, 1050 Thomas Avenue. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Fallbrook Chamber Orchestra Holiday Concert Selections from the Nutcracker Suite, Messiah, and many other holiday favorites. Join in on a Christmas sing-along finale! Meet and greet with orchestra members follows. Sunday, December 18, 2pm; **free**. Fallbrook Library, 124 S. Mission Road. (FALLBROOK)

Festive Holiday Music! Entertainment by Third Wheel Trio, "dedicated to expanding the traditional woodwind trio repertoire with a fresh, youthful perspective." 760-753-7376. Sunday, December 18, 2pm; **free**. Encinitas Library, 540 Cornish Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Holiday Pops Enjoy memorable yuletide tunes when San Diego Symphony, guest singer John Pagano, San Diego Master Chorale, San Diego Children's Chorus, Mariachi Champaña Nevin with Mónica Ábrego entertain. Christmas carol sing-along too. 619-235-0804. Friday, December 16, 8pm; Saturday, December 17, 2pm and 8pm; Sunday, December

18, 7:30pm; \$20. Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. (DOWNTOWN)

ART MUSEUMS

"The Point of View" This retrospective includes more than 80 works, ranging in media from oil on canvas to watercolor and pencil sketches, created over the last 25 years by William Glen Crooks. His "outdoor 'snapshots' bring a freshness to the landscape genre by capturing the subtle modalities of atmosphere through the opacity of light and the transparency of shadow." Through Sunday, April 22.

Oceanside native Everett Peck is an animator, cartoonist, illustrator, painter, best known for his television series *Duckman* (1994-1997). "It's Not My Fault," on display through Sunday, January 29, showcases Peck's work over past 30 years, tracing his evolution as an artist from early concept sketches to recent large-scale paintings, humorously exploring pop culture of modern America and its intersection with everyday life. Also on display: illustrations, sketchbooks, preliminary and concept drawings from Peck's extensive animation work.

Four MFA artists from UCSD were invited to collaborate with a professor on a new work of art or select an existing work establishing a strong vi-

sual and conceptual dialogue for "Vantage Point: UCSD Visual Dialogues." View resulting work by students Ela Boyd, Chris Kardambikus, Brian Zimmerman, Alida Cervantes and professors Ernest Silva, Louis Hock, Ruben Ortiz-Torres, Anya Gallaccio through Sunday, January 15.

"Parallel Visions-Visiones Paralelas" is a photography project connecting Oceanside teens with teens in Cartagena, Colombia, "bringing into focus two different yet parallel communities as seen through the lenses of the youth who reside there." View "100 captivating photographs" through Sunday, December 18.

Local artist Cathy Breslaw created a site-specific installation using "industrial materials to investigate her interest in how people relate to changing physical and intangible environments." View "A Matter of Space" through Sunday, February 12.

"We Can Work It Out" finds artist Becky Guttin transforming museum's lobby with "a playful installation" inspired by memories of growing up in Mexico City. "Working with Mexican cultural symbols such as mythical folk animals, tortillas, and miniature houses, she investigates the meaning of home, family and identity." Closes Thursday, January 5. **Free**-\$8. Oceanside Museum of Art, 704 Pier View Way. (OCEANSIDE)

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Big Black Sun

Art criticizes everything, especially the way art itself frames reality.

I know people who say they're from the '60s as some people say they're from Paris or New York. It's not descriptive, it's declarative, proudly (or smugly) so, and vaguely definitive of their politics. I don't know anybody who says they're from the '70s. Even if they are, it's not a city they want to be associated with. In the 1970s, in the nation, and especially in its sunny, sick patient, California, enough was too much already. Jim Jones takes his followers to Jonestown, the Hillside Strangler kills, Elvis dies, Prop. 13 passes, Dan White murders Willie Moscone and Harvey Milk, Patty Hearst becomes Tania, Nixon becomes a crook, Carter lectures on narcissistic malaise, then Reagan rules. While all that was happening, artists were courting their own extremities. Artistic practice, especially in California, blew itself out in more ways than anyone could then account for. *Under the Big Black Sun*, currently at the Geffen in Los Angeles, offers such an accounting.

Artists had long violated the borderlands between art's orders and life's disarray, between artisanal crafting and acting out. Dada made art of anti-art, new sense of nonsense. The Futurists and Surrealists staged events that proselytized new states of consciousness. By the 1960s, performance and installation, even if not quite accepted as fine arts, were thriving. The political dimensions of those years, the tsunami-force demonstrations and Dionysian outdoor rock concerts, were coordinate to a bigger, baggier public space for art. By the 1970s, art wasn't confined to studio spaces, and its medium and material could be anything, including the body of the artist, including nothing at all.

Some of the freshest, most Californian art was old style. Ed Ruscha was before anything else a landscape artist. His arid, mild-mannered, smoldering ochres and oranges created a representation of Southland light as expansive and heroic as Albert Bierstadt's 19th-century repre-

sentations of Western wilderness. And his love of signage reaches at least as far back as Stuart Davis. Ruscha could see the Hollywood sign from his studio and made a now-iconic painting of it, as well as heraldic pictures of Standard Oil stations. He brought a certain cool to the enterprise, and being cool, even while acting manic or outrageous, became virtually a rule of 1970s art-behavior.

Art didn't require fashioning an object, though. It could be an action, or inaction. The famous CalArts professor John Baldessari modeled education on the assumption that every arriving student was already an artist. Skill was a moveable feast. You could make photography, paintings, or video, but you could also just exercise the skill of making yourself present in certain ways, or by disappearing. Chris Burden did both. For *Five Day Locker Piece*, Burden shut himself inside a student storage cubicle at the University of California, Irvine, for five consecutive days. (He'd stopped eating several days before: the locker above contained five gallons of water, the one below, a five-gallon empty bottle.) The purpose — and 1970s art was fat with purpose — was to express invisibility. Burden also crucified himself on the engine compartment of a revving VW Beetle and rolled naked over glass scattered in the street.

Art wasn't only representation or decoration, it was also a way of being in the world, a way that could be staged as intentional performance or incidental occurrence. Immediacy was everything, so presenting this kind of art in an exhibition, in extant snapshots or video recordings warped or washed out by the passage of time, is a historical wish and prayer. You really *did* have to be there. This sort of art didn't just mark the passing of the old eternity as a determining concept in art-making, it ignored eternity and treated the instant with a mirthful or tweaking look-at-me

ART W.S. DI PIERO



Devastation and decay never looked so good. (John-Divola's *Zuma Beach* 1977-'78)

Under the Big Black Sun: California Art 1974-1981 is on view at the Geffen Contemporary at MOCA in Los Angeles until February 13, 250 South Grand Avenue, moca.org.

(or don't-look-at-me) stare.

The show includes many photos of conceptual performance pieces, such as Barbara T. Smith's invitation to women to come sit on a park bench in an art gallery for a day (provisions included). The images are spooky: the art act is long over, and the visual archive we possess requires tedious, detailed explanations of what happened. Without context or narrative, we're lost, and the antsy spontaneity of the art drains away.

The studio used to be (still is for many artists) a laboratory space. In the 1970s, the studio could be an artist's body, or a performance or installation site — garage, airplane hangar, street, school locker. Ironic subjectivity ruled. Artists used appropriated sources to sly, disorienting effect. Larry Sultan and Mike Mandel looted photographic archives of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, United Technologies of Sunnyvale, the Bechtel Corporation of San Francisco, and other California entities, then made a book of

them, *Evidence*, without providing captions or context. The images — a vintage T-Bird in flames; technicians in hard hats wading through foam; a horse-hoof pressed on a fallen picture frame — are visual evidence of a completed reality that's unknowable; they question the secretiveness and authenticity of any representation.

The Eternal Frame, made in 1975 by the collective "T.R. Uthko," is a different beast, an intentionally cheesy video reenactment of JFK's assassination, with follow-up interviews of the actors, who note that during filming bystanders whooped when Kennedy got shot. Americans don't hold copyright on grotesquely obscene behavior, and in any case, *Frame* makes its point: art criticizes everything, especially the way art itself frames reality. "Frame" plays on "Flame." Every representation, even the most revered, is by some measure a falsification, and sacralized political events need to be desacralized. I'm not a humorless man, until I become humorless. Call



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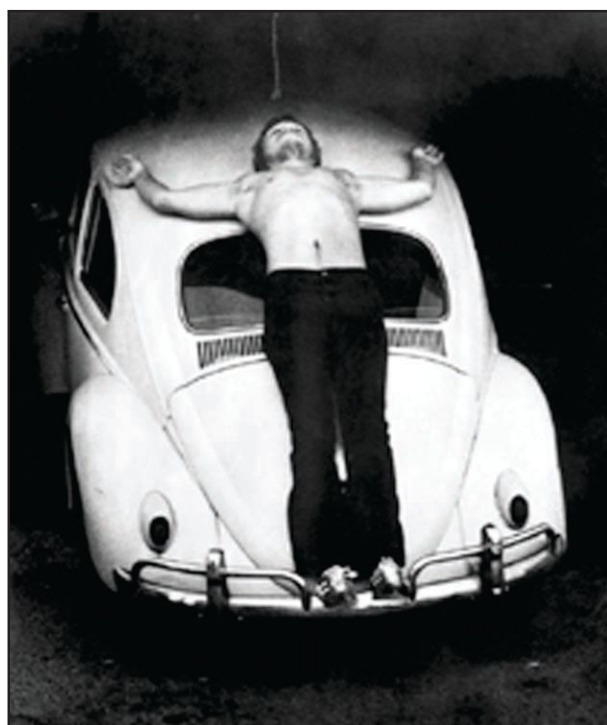
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me totalitarian, but seeing the faux send-up reenactment right after the Zapruder footage made me want to pull the plug. I felt I was in the room with people who — how to say? — make everything about *them*. Relative to assassination, clever stunts and culture criticism shrivel in importance. But I also believe that the mockery, satire, and impudence in 1970s art are an exasperated expression of sadness that can't quite be managed.

The most startling things in the exhibition express 1970s California culture with a supercharged beauty grounded in pound-mutt sincerity and the New Subjectivity. The photographer John Divola found an abandoned, vandalized building on Zuma Beach in Malibu that was condemned by city officials who wanted to expand a private beach in an already privileged community. Divola, enchanted by the dilapidated site, decided to interact with it and spray-painted the interior with his own graffiti. Devastation and decay never looked so good. His interiors are lushly riotous with garish, liquid color, but in virtually every image we see through the empty window frame the blue-ice Pacific or a cooked pink sunset. A trashed interior frames the sublime.

Artists' sense of art-historical time changed. In the 1970s, there was an intensified self-consciousness of the Next Big Thing. Few alternative artists took a long view of tradition; it wasn't part of the program. Given their of-the-moment, art-in-real-time ambitions, old masters — even not-so-old ones like de Kooning, who was still alive — offered few useful precedents. Some artists, photographers, mostly — David Hammons, Anthony Hernandez, and the subversive Chauncey Hare, whose images of corporate employees depict a homely American melancholy — issue from a recognizable tradition. But if history encodes teleology, a determining purpose that the catalog calls “a master narrative of progress



Chris Burden's *Trans-fixed*, a 1974 performance-art piece featuring him being nailed to a Volkswagen in Venice, CA

and succession,” many 1970s artists were creating an end of history. The spirit of the times was “Let’s try *this*, let’s try *that*!” Why worry details or destiny?

Sometimes, though, the spirit seems suspiciously Romantic. Consider Rimbaud’s injunction to artists to pursue “a long, immense, and reasoned derangement of all the senses.” In San Francisco, Tom Marioni, whose Museum of Conceptual Art was the site of legendary performance pieces, documented his “social interactions” with beer bottles he and his friends left behind. The art was the

boozing, the art history was those bottles. For *From China to Czechoslovakia*, he drank a bottle of beer from a different country every day, then lined up the empties on a shelf in a kind of dipsomaniacal panopticon. And it makes a hairy kind of sense: “The work,” he said, “became a world map in beer bottles.” You can stagger about *Under the Big Black Sun* and be merrily surprised (or bored or miffed) whichever way you turn. The exhibition wants to be as messy, undogmatic, and unstructured as the art it celebrates. And so it is. ■

ART MUSEUMS

“Infinite Balance: Artists and the Environment” View “first U.S. presentation of artists shortlisted for the Prix Pictet, the world’s top prize for photography and sustainability” through Sunday, February 5. Exhibit showcases contemporary photographers including Sammy Baloji, Edward Burtynsky, Thomas Joshua Cooper, Susan Derges, Naoya Hatakeyama, Chris Jordan, Michael Wolf.

“See/Saw: Annual Youth Exhibition” is a juried exhibit of photography and film by young artists. Closes Sunday, January 29. **Free**-\$6. Museum of Photographic Arts, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

“Mexican Modern Painting” Exhibition features selection of 80 paintings dated 1907-1956 from the renowned Andrés Blaisten Collection. View work by artists including María Izquierdo, Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros, Rufino Tamayo, Alfonso Michel, Federico Cantú, Angel Zárraga through Sunday, February 19.

“Experiments in Abstraction: Art in Southern California, 1945 to 1980,” also closing February 19, includes works from museum’s permanent collection and some local loans, exploring diversity of post-war abstraction in Southern California.

“Walk from the Sun: Photographs of Southern California by scott b. davis” continues through Sunday, March 18. “Taken at night with a large-format camera, certain photographs of Southern California document iconic aspects of the region including the Hollywood sign and the bright lights of Los Angeles.” Also on view are “surprising takes on the area with moody and enigmatic looks at seemingly abandoned highways, parking lots, and buildings.” **Free**-\$12. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

“Phenomenal: California Light, Space, Surface” Enjoy in-depth look at 13 artists whose work with light as a medium in the 1960s and ’70s defined an era of art making in California. Featured artists: Peter Alexander, Larry Bell, Ron Cooper, Mary Corse, Robert Irwin, Craig Kauffman, John McCracken, Bruce Nauman, Eric Orr, Helen Pashgian, James Turrell, De Wain Valentine, Doug Wheeler. “Combining key works from the museum’s collection” with major loans from public and private collections, exhibit “includes immersive light installations together with rare, ephemeral, and site-conditioned works, some seen in California for the first time in decades.” Through Sunday, January 22.

View “Jennifer Steinkamp: Madame Curie,” a new digital video animation through Monday, January 2, inspired by Steinkamp’s recent research into atomic energy, atomic explosions, and the effects of these forces on nature. The “enveloping panoramic work will activate a field of moving flowers and flowering trees.” **Free**-\$10. Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown, 1100 and 1001 Kettner Boulevard. (DOWNTOWN)

“San Diego’s Craft Revolution” This exhibition reveals important contributions of San Diego craftsmen to the post-war Southern California art scene. Show explores progression from sleek modernism to unconventional handmade objects of use

such as furniture, doors, jewelry, ceramics by over 60 artists. Exhibit is part of “Pacific Standard Time: Art in L.A. 1945-1980.” Closes Sunday, April 15.

“A Fantastic Voyage — The Art of Ynez Johnston,” opening Sunday, December 18, surveys six decades of the artist’s wood and bronze sculptures, paintings, prints, ceramics from 1940s to 2010, including recent works that have never publicly been shown. Closes Sunday, June 17.

“Maneki Neko — Japan’s Beckoning Cats — from Talisman to Pop Icon” includes selections from a collection of 155 cats given to museum by collector Billie Moffitt. Made in the 19th and 20th centuries, each cat is unique; most are made of clay, but some are wood, metal, ceramic, papier mâché. A fabricated cat with a paw upraised in the Japanese gesture of beckoning has been considered a good luck charm, drawing good fortune to individuals and businesses, since the Edo period (1603-1868). Enjoy the cats through Sunday, January 15. **Free**-\$7. Mingei International Museum, 1439 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Saint Bartholomew Museum features this painting, described as “the only Rembrandt painting on public display in San Diego.” Permanent collection includes European old master paintings, 18th- and 19th-century American paintings, and Russian icons. **Free**. Timken Museum of Art, 1500 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

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Cheapskate Me

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Cheapskate Me: Eclipse Chocolat

Last week I found a coupon that I thought I had lost. Yes, I can be a real cheapskate, and I use coupons and online deals sometimes. It allows me to eat out more often and at more pricey places than I could otherwise afford. I thought I put it in my wallet, but alas, it disappeared. When it appeared under my car mat, I couldn't wait to use it. It was a coupon for Eclipse Chocolat in North Park, 2121 El Cajon Boulevard.

Eclipse Chocolat has been reviewed on *Feast!* before, and I certainly can't add any superlatives to what's been said about their wonderful chocolates. But my dealio wasn't for chocolate, it was for brunch. We've been meaning to go for ages. No time like the present.

Eclipse Chocolat's Sunday Chocolate Brunch is held from 9 a.m. till 2 p.m. weekly. The menu changes seasonally, roughly every three months. It's a three-course (\$14) or four-course (\$16) tasting menu that incorporates chocolate, vanilla bean, or caramel in each plating.

I chose the cocoa-glazed bacon (with toast and orange vanilla-bean butter), apple-cinnamon stuffed french toast, and the dark-chocolate salted croissant. The bacon is thick cut and smoky, with a liberal dusting of unsweetened cocoa. The slightly bitter edge cuts through the rich, porky flavor. Nice. The french toast is not a soggy, heavy standard-issue stuffed type. It relies instead on the juiciness of the tart green apples, the lightly sweet caramel cream cheese, and the maple syrup for moisture. Much lighter and more flavorful. I can only manage a couple of bites of my croissant, but it's very flaky, very crispy, and has wonderful dark chocolate and crunchy salt inside. The accompanying vanilla crème fraîche adds a great tangy touch.

John got the rosemary roasted fingerling pota-

toes, eggs in a basket, and the chili-burnt caramel cinnaroll. The potatoes actually are roasted, not fried, with a healthy dose of rosemary and smoky, spicy serrano sea salt. They're tender and fragrant. The eggs in a basket are nicely cooked, with just a hint of white truffle and a coating of crisply browned parmesan and lots of chives. The chili-burnt caramel hollandaise works surprisingly well

— the chili and "brownness" of the caramel keep it from going into too-sweet territory. Yum. Again, I'm only able to manage a bite or two of the cinnaroll, but it's great.

The cinnamon/chili filling has a real kick to it, and the muscovado/caramel cream cheese frosting is whipped into a light, fluffy, not-too-sweet complement.

We both got espresso lungos (\$2.50), made with local Caffè Calabria coffee. Good, strong, and hot. I don't like weak coffee, and it's nice to get a well made one at such a reasonable price.

On top of that, we found out that Eclipse Chocolat takes ten percent off any retail chocolate or pastry purchase when you have a meal there. A nice "thanks for the business" gesture.

Eclipse Chocolat also hosts monthly three-course tasting dinners (\$30) and weekly Friday Night Threesomes (\$12) from 6 to 10 p.m., where you can enjoy one small savory item, one small sweet item, and one half glass of wine.

Posted Dec. 7, 5:40 p.m.
by Mary Beth Abate

Acorns for Breakfast?

Do you know how to eat Californian? As in, from what Mother Nature has to offer in California's natural state, right here?

Me neither, but I've started trying to learn what every Kumeyaay knew back in the days before the rest of us turned up: That it's a food factory here if we'd just let what grows naturally grow. In hard times, that should be good news, right?

Mainly, we're talking acorns. That's right, people eat acorn meat. It's nothing new. From Europe to Japan they have been eating acorns as their staple

for millennia. It just became uncool the past two centuries, after other grains came onstream.

Even with the reduced number of oaks in the county these days, tens of millions of acorns drop and go to waste or into squirrel lairs. Free gifts from the California gods, hidden in plain sight.

Of course, you have to squish them into mush and leach them of bitter acids, but when you have the final product, you've got the equivalent of rice for the Asians or wheat for the Europeans. It's your staple. And acorns grow like crazy here — no pesticides, no fertilizers — if you just give oaks the space. It's like, yes, money does grow on trees. And because different oak species overlap in our neck of the woods, the supply can be pretty reliable.

I've eaten the mush, once when it was properly made and once when I tried to leach and prepare it. Uh, no. Don't try this at home till you've really got the preparation down. At the best of times it tastes, well, mushy. But so is rice or wheat when you don't have anything to flavor them.

People use it as the basis for dips and stews. Acorn meat is extra nutritious and low in all the bad stuff. And it doesn't go bad. It can last forever, pretty much. Which is why squirrels squirrel acorns away, I guess.

Mike Connolly Miskwish has been telling me



Eclipse Chocolat's roasted fingerling potatoes had a healthy dose of rosemary and smoky, spicy serrano sea salt.

about it for years. He's an aerospace engineer who returned to his Campo reservation Kumeyaay roots about ten years ago. He says the land has been pummeled for two centuries, since the Spanish came in with their cattle. So it "needs to rest." Then, he says, start planting. The natives, the willows, and above all, the oak. Then you'll have a fabulous food source that can create truly healthy nutrition.

So tell me why we can't make a truly San Diegoan bread from acorns? A truly San Diego breakfast cereal? A truly San Diegoan weight-loss acorn-based diet product that actually works? All we have to do is talk to the San Diegans who've been living here and eating the stuff for 10,000 years.

A good place to start learning more is at Kumeyaay Community College at Sycuan. Ask about Richard Bugbee's Kumeyaay ethnobotany classes (not as scary as it sounds), which he's starting in January. Sycuan Education Department, 619-445-6917.

Posted Dec. 5, 9:00 a.m. by Ed Bedford

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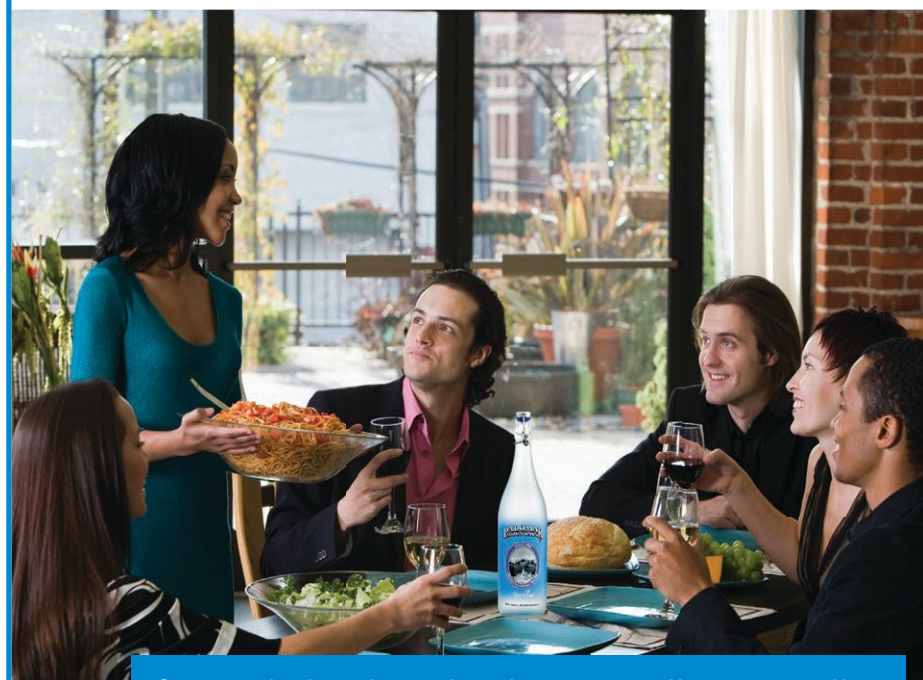
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local, organic food, Urban Gourmet sprouted up about three months ago at Fern and Grape in South Park with the goal of catering to the area's taste for healthy, fresh, and affordable eats.

"We want to know where our products are coming from — that it's at its freshest," says sandwichista Alex Grant. "We like to support local businesses and local farms. Our wheat-grass is all grown in Temecula. We have a raw honey. This is a pretty big vegan area, so we want to cater to a bunch of different palates. Not just vegan or gluten-free but a wide variety of palates."

Tapping into local favorites, Urban Gourmet features Caffé Calabria coffee, Viva Pops, and Big City Bagels, which are best savored as a breakfast sandwich with egg, bacon, and sausage or as a quick morning bite of

coffee and a bagel with cream cheese, almond butter, or peanut butter for \$2.99.

The green-certified hybrid Jewish/Turkish/Greek/San Diegan market and deli offers gluten-free options, is available for catering, and provides free delivery to nearby businesses. The deli touts fresh soups and salads, Dietz & Watson deli meats, hummus, and marinated artichoke and plans to start carrying local produce soon.

But the South Park-street-dubbed sandwiches and raw juices are the focal point of this community market and deli decorated by local artists Ryan Tanniscoli and Dok Whitson.

"The Fir is our ultimate veggie sandwich," says sammie slinger Savina Tisnado. "It has avocado, bell peppers, cheddar, banana peppers, tomato, lettuce, sprouts, marinated onions, mayo, and mustard. It's one of our bigger sandwiches."

"The Hawthorne is probably the most popular," says Grant. "It's like a turkey club. Sour-

dough bread, light mayonnaise. We try to keep it light on all the condiments. Heavy avocado, light mayonnaise. Shredded lettuce, tomatoes, turkey, a good amount of bacon, and muenster cheese."

"The Urban Gourmet is our signature," says Tisnado. "It comes on squaw bread and has a cranberry balsamic drizzle, mayonnaise, pears, lettuce, turkey, bacon, and Swiss cheese."

Sandwiches come with a choice of salads: house red-herb potato, chipotle macaroni, or kale with seeds and Bragg's Liquid Aminos. The Urban juice drink combines carrot, orange, and ginger, and the Energetic Cocktail is recommended if you're feeling the first symptoms of a winter cold.

"The Energetic Cocktail has a little bit of everything," says Grant. "Apple, orange, carrot, celery, and lemon."

In tune with South Park's canine-friendly community, Urban Gourmet offers free dog treats for in-house hounds.

Posted Dec. 4, 5:36 p.m. by
Chad Deal

Welcome Home — The Public House

Thursday night, John had just gotten back from a business trip to a city in the Midwest where, apparently, there is no good beer. Makes you appreciate what you have in your own backyard. So we headed up to the the Public House on Kline Street in La Jolla, which is definitely not in our "backyard" — we're from the wrong side of the tracks (or I-5, if you will), but they have good beer and lots of it.

There's 43 rotating taps of Belgian ale, local beer, specialty brews, and hard-to-find microbrews, in addition to over 200 bottled beers. They also have a more interesting wine list than most beer places. I was pleasantly surprised to see a Filas Torrentes from Mendoza, Argentina, a crisp, refreshing white wine that I haven't seen

on many wine lists.

The Public House's restaurant is in the house portion of a converted home; the bar and patio is in the garage and driveway. I've never been in the restaurant — we always sit at the bar — but it looks pretty.

The bar crowd there has always been friendly; someone usually strikes up a conversation with you. Tonight we're commenting on the Seahawks/Eagles game on one screen and a Hooters Girl beauty pageant on the other.

I ask for a Saison recommendation from our bartender and go with the Brasserie Dupont Biere de Miel Belgian Organic Farmhouse Saison Honey Ale (\$8), and John has the Great Divide Hades Belgian Style Golden Ale.

One of the day's specials is the Cowboy Burger (\$15.50), a half-pound Brandt Farms Angus burger topped with boneless short ribs, beef bacon, spicy cheddar, onion rings, and barbecue sauce. It sounds so

over the top that I get it. John's more conservative, opting for chicken fingers (\$7.50) with choice of ranch or BBQ sauce. Both come with a side of fries.

My burger makes us both laugh when we see it. It's definitely not something to order on a first date. But I don't have any problem diving in. It's medium rare, just like I ordered, the bun is nice and sturdy (they make them at the Encinitas Alehouse, their other location), and it's properly messy to eat. The short ribs make it a little chewy, but they are well cooked, with nice, crackly edges. Bacon's crisp. The cheese was the only misstep — it wasn't really melted, just sort of dried. Shoestring fries are my favorite, and these were crispy, salty, and good.

John's chicken fingers were not the usual kid's food. These were beer battered and perfectly fried to a dark, crunchy goodness. Nicely caramelized golden brown deliciousness. The chicken inside was juicy



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and flavorful. Ah, it's good to be home.

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Posted Dec. 3, 10:17 p.m. by
Mary Beth Abate

Fundraiser Beers Only Come Around Once

For writers, it can often feel as though we're typing hundreds of words and then jettisoning them into a black hole. It's always nice to be reminded that people actually read what you put out there. Comments, retweets, and emails help keep one of the most solemn professions from being so lonely. It's especially gratifying when proof of readership comes from individuals on a writer's beat.

Yesterday I posted about Green Flash Brewing Company taking a beer they initially crafted to raise money to fight breast cancer and making it available year-round and nationwide. As part of that piece, I lamented the fact that

most other fundraiser beers only come around once and then go away forever.

One such beer I cited was Ingrid's One-in-Eight, a Belgian amber ale brewed collaboratively by Ballast Point Brewing Company and Coronado Brewing Company (CBC). No sooner had the cyber ink dried before I received a message from Ballast Point specialty brewer Colby Chandler, stating that he and CBC director of brewery operations Shawn DeWitt had just brewed Ingrid's One-in-Eight the night before.

Talk about timing. And speaking of timing, the new batch will be ready to go by the start of the New Year. It will be a bit different, however, in that Chandler and DeWitt went with a California Ale Yeast versus the Belgian strand employed the first time around. Other than that, all of the ingredients will remain the same and, once again, proceeds from the beer (which was again made using donated time, supplies, and ingredients) will benefit the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

Posted Dec. 1, 10:06 a.m. by
Brandon Hernández

Black Mountain Road: Surati Farsan Mart

The miserable traffic on Miramar Road gave me the perfect excuse to wait it out at Surati Farsan Mart at 9494 Black Mountain Road in Mira Mesa. Surati Farsan specializes in vegetarian Gujarati food. Gujarat is a state in western India; *farsan* means side dishes or snacks.

There are two large display cases of *nasto*, savory snacks, and *mithai*, sweet ones. The dining menu is on the wall behind the register. If you're not familiar with Gujarati food, grab a take-out menu for descriptions. You order and pay

at the register and then wait for your number to be called to get your tray of food.

I order *masala dosa* (\$4.99), *sev puri* (\$3.99), and a rosewater *lassi* (\$2.50). It's strictly no-frills; food comes on styrofoam plates with plastic utensils. There are music videos playing on the TV; on weekends there's usually a Bollywood film on.

It's a crispy rice crepe rolled around spiced potatoes and onions. On the side is a bowl of vegetable soup, which you can pour over the crepe, and pale green coconut/curry leaf chutney. I usually cut off pieces and dip them into the soup instead, probably a faux pas, but I enjoy the crispiness of the crepe too much. The soft, spicy potatoes, and onions contrast nicely, and the cooling chutney adds a rich touch.

Sev puri are small, fried, whole-wheat shells stuffed with potatoes, beans, sweet and spicy sauces, and topped with crunchy noodles. These are most fun when you pop the whole thing in your mouth at once. Crunchy, sweet, tangy, spicy, with lots of texture from the potatoes, beans (tiny garbanzos and green mung), and crispy noodles.

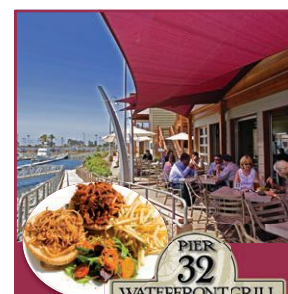
The rosewater *lassi* provides a sweet-tart, floral coolness. I love flower-water flavored drinks and desserts, but if it's not a taste you enjoy, there are regular and mango *lassis*, too.

Surati Farsan Mart is off the beaten path but well worth a stop if you're in the area. Surati Farsan Mart, 9494 Black Mountain Road (just off Miramar Road), 858-549 7280, surati-farsan.com.

Posted Nov. 30, 10:30 p.m. by
Mary Beth Abate

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Calendar RESTAURANT

some errands, so lunch is going to be a quick sandwich. Besides, since Thanksgiving I haven't had anything green to eat.

I've heard that Windansea Cafe, on the corner of La Jolla Boulevard and Playa del Norte, makes a pretty good panino. I run in, and it's not busy, so I decide to grab a table and stay. It's a small, friendly place. The pretty lady behind the counter, who's also the greeter/cook/server, calls me "Sweetie." I order the Veg-Out (\$6.95) on ciabatta. Focaccia, sourdough, and multigrain bread are also available.

I watch folks buying Christmas trees across the street while I wait. It doesn't take long, and to my delight, there's a nice

little mixed green salad with the order.

My sandwich is thick with fresh tomato, roasted eggplant, portabella mushrooms, red onions, and avocado, all under a blanket of melted mozzarella. Its crust is crispy, chewy, and the eggplant is rich and soft. Tender smoky mushrooms. Sweet caramelized onions. There's a shake of herb in there, too. Oregano and...something else? I can't put my finger on it. The balsamic vinaigrette cuts through the richness of the cheese, eggplant, and avocado nicely.

I'm full and happy. Quite a nice deal for the price. And I still have time to run a few more errands before happy hour. Windansea Cafe, 6780 La Jolla Boulevard, La Jolla, 858-459-1895, windanseacafe.com.

Posted Nov. 30, 4:16 p.m. by
Mary Beth Abate



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Cobbler Tuesday?

My \$3 meal with Barrio Star has left me with five bucks. Walking down past Extraordinary Desserts (2929 Fifth Avenue, Bankers Hill, 619-294-2132), I stop and think, *Maybe I can swing something sweet here.*

And I get encouragement. They have a sign next to the entrance says, "Warm four-berry cobbler, served with strawberry cheesecake ice

cream...scoop \$4.50, bowl \$6.50, extraordinary bowl, \$8.50."

Jeez, warm cobbler with a dunk of strawberry ice cream for \$4.50? They also have other deals such as pumpkin-apple-pecan torte with brown-sugar ice cream. Same prices. But I stay loyal to the warm four-berry cobbler idea.

So in I go, drooling past incredible pastries, teas with little sniffing bowls, fantastic big cakes, and right by the cash register to the cobblers. Beautiful, pastry-hatted, sitting in little china pots.

"I'll have that deal on the sign at the door," I say. "The four-berry cobbler and the scoop of strawberry ice cream. That's \$4.50, right?"

"Four-fifty for the ice cream, yes sir," says the gal. "But the cobbler will be \$9.95...."

At this point I tune out, in shock. I think she says the special combo will be \$11.95, but I can't be sure. Hey, I know how childish people can get when it comes to desserts. They can throw incredible hisses. I've seen it. So I just take a deep breath and tell her there's no mention of that part on the notice, only the \$4.50, \$6.50, and \$8.50.

"That's just for the ice cream, sir," she says.

I must admit, these cobblers and cakes look fit for a king, but

still they could have mentioned the full deal out there. In the end I get the scoop. Strawberry-streaked ice cream with a red rose petal on top. They bring it to me outside at one of their butcher-block tables. And it's delish. If I hadn't seen what I thought I could have had, I'd be a happy camper.

Back inside, Jessica explains to me kindly that they have different specials each day, and it pays to inquire. I still think they led us astray out there with the sign.

Maybe they should follow the taco trend. Like, when are they going to have \$3 cobblers on Cobbler Tuesday?

Posted Nov. 30, 1:59 p.m. by
Ed Bedford

The One-Taco Dinner

I'm on Fifth Avenue, tramping uphill, north. I get to Nutmeg Street, St. Paul's Cathedral.

It's five o'clock. Unbelievable pink sunset. And I'm looking at it from this maroon-stucco corner place, almost the same color as the clouds. Huh. I remember a piano place here once, and a picture framer? Whatever — now, in the sunset, its rosy, terracotta-red stucco outside glows. The bougainvillea's clutching the side of this building like hot coals. Tempting, tempting. It's called Barrio Star.

I walk through big double doors into this romantic eatery bar. New Christmas decorations mixed with skull masks, candles, and purple, orange, and white walls, and at one end, this huge, swoopy white plastic sofa.

The welcome table is loaded with a couple dozen lit candles all around full-sized skulls and a sign saying, "Please wait to be seated." I make for the counter. Soon as I set down, though, I'm shakin' in my boots: everything's going for, like, 15 bucks or more, foodwise, and drinks



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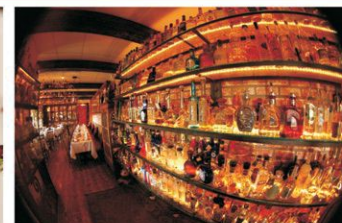
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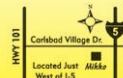
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Calendar RESTAURANT

are up there, too. Fact is, I'm down to my last six buckeroos. I saw the word "Mexican Soul" and took a chance.

But luck is with me! It's Tuesday night, and this guy Billy — turns out he's the manager — says it's Taco Tuesday. Points to a chalkboard above a passage to a purple side room.

Oh, yeah. Chicken, carnitas, soy chorizo, or tofu, \$2.99. I mean, no way cheap compared to, say, the Gaslamp on Taco Tuesdays. And fish or carne asada tacos are \$3.50.

They also have \$5 margaritas all night from five o'clock.

John the barman brings me an iced water. "Get you something tonight?" He hands me a couple of menus. I ain't even gonna look.

"Was thinking about that taco. Would it be all right just to have that and this water?"

"Oh, sure. Not a problem. Which one?"

So, hey, A-plus for attitude. I go for the carnitas, pork.

Must say, you feel kinda cool, sitting up on designer white stools at this multicolored ceramic-looking bar. Glows,

like the sunset outside.

John warns me that this is street-taco sized. He makes a circle with his fingers and thumbs. Can see how for three bucks (and normally you'd be paying around \$15 for a plate of three of them), people might have a size issue. Yeah, it's that small.

But it's a thick corn tortilla, and I have to say, the pork-guac-cotija cheese combo (plus chopped onions) is fabulous and filling. Really flavorful. The cotija tastes like goat cheese. It's squelchy, drooly, rico suave all the way.

Takes me ten minutes to get through, what with talking and all. Turns out this is one of six or so eateries that the chef Isabel Cruz has going. And they say she was involved in the Mission in Mission Beach, North Park, and East Village as well. Good news is this doesn't feel like a chain.

So Tuesday's the deal. Though they do have daily happy hour, five to seven. But mostly I'd say it's organic, dressed-up Mexican nosh for the sleek classes who don't get down to the street a lot.

Me, I'll come back anytime, soon as I've moved up the food chain a little. But Tuesdays, I'll

certainly be back. Hey, this water's delicious.

Posted Nov. 30, 11:58 a.m. by
Ed Bedford

New Name for a Brew That's a Treasure

It's hard to find fault with anything produced to raise money to fight breast cancer. I mean, who does that? Well... sometimes I do. Obviously, the creation of such beers is a wonderful thing, especially when they taste great. Unfortunately, they're almost always limited-edition brews; one-and-outs that merit fanfare then go away forever.

Ingrid's One-in-Eight and Boob Check spring to mind. Both are outlandish fundraiser beers brewed with ingredients not typically found in standard-issue pale ales, IPAs, and stouts. The former was a Belgian-inspired amber ale infused with ginger and cocoa nibs brewed collaboratively in 2010 by Coronado Brewing Company and Ballast Point. The latter company was responsible for Boob Check, a reddish creation flavored with hibiscus, cherry, honey, and lime, which debuted earlier this month and should tap out before the year is up. It's the beer and humanitarianism equivalent of good news/bad news.

One brewing company has learned that good recipes and good intentions can coexist. Earlier this year, Green Flash busted out Treasure Chest, a Belgian-style pale ale fortified with the brewing company's trademark hop forwardness and the flavorful funk of Brettanomyces. It raised thousands of dollars to support Chicks for Beer (a local non-profit founded by Ingrid Qua, namesake of the aforementioned Ingrid's One-in-Eight). It also stood out as one of the better beers to debut in San Diego in 2011.

Rather than retire the beer or bring it back every now and then like the beery version of a bake sale, they've decided to offer it year-round and nationwide starting in January 2012.

But don't go into your liquor store looking for bottles bearing the image of a buxom pin-up girl. That artwork and the name Treasure Chest have been replaced by royal blue packaging including the beer's standard logo and a new name: Rayon Vert. While the recipe features small changes, they're nothing more than standard evolutionary improvements. The flavor profile remains the same, and charity angle or not, it's still worth every penny.

Posted Nov. 30, 10:39 a.m. by
Brandon Hernández

Drink in the Education at Bottlecraft

It's been said by brewers that no single ingredient has more influence on a beer's flavor than yeast. One of my sources went so far as to say that yeast accounts for roughly 90% of a brew's overall taste profile. Yet few beer drinkers know much about it. It's like a foodie knowing zilch about the contents of the spice aisle at their local grocer.

Unless you're a brewer, there are few opportunities to get familiar with yeast. So, it's notable that a brew-free opportunity to get one's brain and taste buds around the medium will be presented on Tuesday, December 13, in Little Italy.

Bottlecraft, a combination beer store and tasting bar, will host Neva Parker, the head of laboratory operations for White Labs, a Miramar-based company that's the largest yeast producer in Southern California. She will guide guests through a tasting of six beers crafted using different varieties of yeast, providing the scientific what, how, and why about yeast's effects on each brew.

Parker provided a similar presentation at Sea Rocket Bistro during San Diego Beer Week, and it was one of the most interesting and educa-

tional events during the ten-day span. The class will take place at 7 p.m. Admission is \$15 and includes six four-ounce tasters of beer. Bottlecraft is located at 2161 India Street.

Posted Dec. 8, 10:04 a.m.
by Brandon Hernández

Au Revoir, Pierre

The cool part of Fifth downtown is south of Broadway. The uncool part is just north of it.

Maybe that was Pierre's problem. Pierre's Place (1404 Fifth Avenue, at Ash, 619-727-4700) was a brand-new construction. Father Joe was behind it, the Toussaint Center for homeless teens. It's a whole building devoted to the project and it looks beautiful. But not a lot of foot traffic.

It's named after Pierre Toussaint, a plantation slave from Haiti, born 1766, died 87 years later in New York, one of the city's most beloved philanthropists.

This is a school and a hostel. Toussaint Academy of the Arts and Sciences. Pierre's was where they trained kids for a life in the restaurant business. It did good, and it was good. And so was its food. I had one of their Tuscan chicken panini once. Hot, crispy, squelchy.

And it became a talent center, too. Open mikes, socials, meetings, usually something



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happening at night.

I went by the other night, and all the tables and chairs were there but nothing was happening. Darkness.

I went in to the academy next door. "They've been closed at least a month and a half," says Molly, the gal at the reception desk. "It's a pity, because it was teaching teens responsibility and marketable skills. But we're hoping to open right up again."

"What's holding you up?" I ask. I kinda know the answer.

"Money, of course," says Molly.

*Posted Dec. 7, 4:24 p.m.
by Ed Bedford*

Nothing Like a Dry Rub

Roasted tri-tip beef, rubbed all over with — no joke — coffee? I had this once before, but

I keep coming back. It's in a sandwich, along with smoked gouda cheese, tomatoes, mixed greens, garlic mayo. Oh, man.

Michael Karijanian's the guy who makes it, and it's his invention, he says. He actually massages the meat with dry coffee. Others may have poured, like, espresso over meats. But this dry rub he does (mixing in other spices) was just something he tried when he was fooling round with crazy ideas one day.

"Tasted pretty good," he says, "so I offered it as a special. People kept asking for it after that, so I put it on the menu. Now it's my most popular sandwich."

This is at his Sweet & Savory Café (4614 Mission Boulevard, Pacific Beach, 858-490-9140). And combined with his Armenian grandmother's input, Michael just keeps

experimenting.

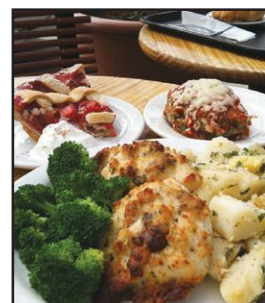
At breakfast — and I've had this, too — the PB Omelet also includes chunks of that coffee-rubbed tri-tip, plus bacon and "our three-cheese blend." But actually the standout there is the *muy* herby breakfast potatoes. Seven bucks.

*Posted Dec. 7, 11:59 a.m.
by Ed Bedford*

For Reuben's Sake: The Linkery

I was in North Park buying art supplies and wondering what to have for lunch, when I stopped in my tracks.

Reuben Tuesday? I like Reuben's a lot. I need to check this out. The Linkery, 3794 30th Street (at North Park Way) has made a batch of house-cured, grass-fed corned beef, and they're making Reuben sand-



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Calendar RESTAURANT

wiches with it. They do this “every month or three.”

I’ve “corned” brisket before, and I’ve made my own sauerkraut. It isn’t difficult, but it takes a lot of time and space in your refrigerator and kitchen. I figure this is going to be a bit of a spendy lunch, but quality ingredients cost.

It’s been awhile since I’ve been to the Linkery. I’d heard that they remodeled, and it’s an improvement. The dark booths in the back are gone, and the place looks brighter and more open.

My server brings a menu and beer/wine list and asks if I’m there for Reuben Tuesday. Their website says that they usually sell out of this special. I order that and a Green Flash Little Freak (\$7), a saison/farmhouse style that’s light and perfect for lunch.

I look over the regular menu while I wait for my sandwich. I’m glad to see that they’ve removed the long descriptions of ingredients for every single item in favor of a “Linkipedia” on the back side of the page. I’ll confess to misreading the words “pastured chicken” as “pasteurized chicken” on my first visit and thinking, *Wha-a-?* Simpler is better. Those of

us who like to read about how our burger is made from beef that’s been massaged with rose oil by seven virgins on the second Tuesday of the dark moon will still have our food-geek fix, but those who don’t care won’t be annoyed by all the extra descriptives.

My sandwich arrives with a large helping of fresh, house-made potato chips and green tomato pickles. The anticipatory look on my face makes my server laugh, and after a brief description of my food she says, “Dig in!” I do, believe me.

It’s served open-faced style on beer bread with sauerkraut (Suzie’s Farm organic cabbage), thousand island dressing, and Pt. Reyes Toma cheese. The bread, sauerkraut, and dressing are all made in-house. It’s well-toasted to a dark, caramelized brown, and the pieces of corned beef that are sticking out are crispy and blackened with burnt ends.

I can taste allspice, coriander, and black peppercorn in my first bite. This is nothing like those corned-beef vacuum packs that appear in the grocery around St. Patrick’s Day. It’s not overly salty, it’s not at all fatty, and the beef flavor comes through. There’s an ample amount of it, too. There’s just enough sauerkraut to add a pickle-y crunch, and the dressing lends a rich, tangy-sweet

touch. The Pt. Reyes Toma is a semi-hard, farmstead cows’ milk cheese with a creamy texture, buttery flavor, and a grassy-sharp finish. There’s not too much or too little of anything. The chips are crunchy and salty good, and the green tomato pickles are tart, spicy, meaty little bites.

The best part of this is that it’s well done. I don’t mean done well, I mean cooked deep, deep brown. I’m the one who always picks the dark chips out of the bag, I set my toasted marshmallows on fire, and if the popcorn picks up a bit of char in the pan, I’m in heaven. This sandwich is right in my sweet spot, dark brown without a hint of burned taste.

So, back to the spendy part. The sandwich is \$15.50. That’s a lot for a sandwich. Is it worth that much?

Yes, a thousand times, yes.

Posted Dec. 7, 10:35 a.m.

by Mary Beth Abate

Donovan’s Wades 20,000 Leagues Beyond Beefy Comfort Zone

Situated in the Gaslamp in the space that housed the failed Donovan’s Circle of Fifths (and before that, the failed Australian resto, Bondai), Donovan’s Prime Seafood opened quietly earlier this year.

However, since landing a chef from the kitchen at the Grand Del Mar’s five-star fine dinery, Addison, they’ve

become significantly more vocal, touting his pedigree and seasonally driven cuisine. The rep of the Donovan’s family of restaurants is built almost exclusively on their treatment of mammals. So, I was intrigued to check out the sea fare at DPS (333 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp).



Hamachi tartare appetizer

Executive chef Kemar Durfield’s dishes exhibit the multitude of components, thoughtful composition, and pretty plating one would expect from an Addison expat. A hamachi tartare appetizer is presented as a colorful cylinder that’s as tasty as it is attractive. Layers of diced fresh fish are topped with buttery avocado and whole-lime segments that explode with contrasting, palate-cleansing citrus zing. Chili oil goes unnoticed at first but offers a clean, creeping heat on the back end that’s delightful.

The most delicious and all-around successful dish I sampled was a medley of perfectly cooked prawns, mussels, and clams hanging out in a shallow pool of vibrant, peppery gazpacho broth that, in tandem with a celery-leaf garnish, evoked memories of mornings spent sipping bloody marys. Billed

as a “seafood cocktail,” it’s an inspired gourmet take on zesty *coctels* from Mexico, a place Durfield recently visited and drew an ingredient for this dish from — tiny slivers of young coconut bring all the flavor of the fruit with much less sugar and add an interesting textural element.

It’s still early, and clearly Durfield’s still settling in and fine tuning things, but there’s solid seafood cookery happening at DPS, and no matter how fancy and innovative the accoutrements, that is the most important factor at any seafood restaurant.

Posted Dec. 7, 10:27 a.m.

by Brandon Hernández

Eggsploitation on Trial

Chicken lovers, unite!

Today (December 6) is the day. According to secret sources on the sceptered isle of Coronado (okay, Carla’s buddy/hairdresser Diane called her), the Coronado City Council is set to debate whether their ban on keeping chickens within city limits is right.

Who cares? Leslie Crawford cares. For the past two months, a friend has been hiding her two chickens in a safe house beyond the long arm of the law, somewhere on the island. Crawford receives 10 of the 14 eggs they lay each week. The other four? Hush money to “grandmother” (the mysteri-

ous lady’s code name), who’s keeping them out of sight until this thing blows over.



Backstory: The city has banned the biddies since 1997, making Coronado the sole city in the county to outlaw the raising of chickens. Ms. Crawford claims her chooks created not just an egg each day, they also delivered the poop that makes her tomato crop famous (see 3000tomatoes.com).

“I depended on their eggs for breakfast. Besides, in this age of sustainable living, it’s very, well, chic to grow local and eat fresh.”

Two months ago, the city, uh, hatched a plan to “gather information” and ordered staff to lay out their findings at the December 6 council meeting. So today’s the day. Leslie needs backup. The meeting is at 3 p.m. at City Hall (1825 Strand Way, Coronado). Paint up placards saying “No Chooks, No Taxes!” and “Chickens Are People, Too” and “Don’t Egg

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Me On!" Force this council to join the Locovore Century.

How badly does this poultry pioneer miss counting her chickens?

"Well, I miss their eggs, and their poop for my tomatoes," she says. "But actually chickens are hard to get to know, personally. It's my Jack Russell, Ringo, who really misses them. He'd eat them in a snap, if they ever got out."

Posted Dec. 6, 11:59 a.m.
by Ed Bedford

Date Street Breakfast: Little Italy Mercato

Saturday mornings in our house almost always begin with a trip to the Little Italy Mercato at Date and India (9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.). We've been doing it since it first opened with 40 vendors in June 2008. It now has over 140 farm and specialty booths and stretches from Kettner to State.

Run by Catt Fields White, who also manages the North Park and Pacific Beach farmers' markets, the Mercato showcases local fruits and vegetables, herbs, flowers, eggs, cheese, pastured chicken and meat, and more. It's easy to graze your way through free samples, but if you want heartier fare, there are plenty of food purveyors to choose from.

On this spectacular December morning, the sun is shining, there's live music, holiday

spirit is in the air, and the colors are so pure they almost hurt your eyes. I have breakfast on my mind, and Poppa's Fresh Fish Company is where we head.

Today, Poppa's has five ceviches to choose from, shrimp, yellowtail, snapper, salmon, white sea bass, whole fluke out of Baja, sockeye salmon, Hood Canal oysters on the half shell, freshly made cherrystone clam cocktails, and live local sea urchins. I've got a full day of eating ahead of me, so I get three oysters to start (\$2 each, \$1.25 from 9 to 10 a.m.). I admire them for a moment before slurping them down. Briny, sweet, incredibly fresh.

Next, a caffeine fix. Down to the end of the market to the famous orange truck, Joes on the Nose. There's a full menu of hot and cold coffee and tea drinks and smoothies, but we just get a couple of brewed organic coffees from the press pots (\$1.75). I like my coffee

strong, and this doesn't disappoint. Nice vibe there.

We stand around for a minute enjoying them and then head back up the street to Masala Cottage for samosas. I get a veggie (\$2) and John gets a lamb one (\$3), both with hot sauce. We sit down on the curb to eat and people-watch.

The samosas aren't super crispy, but they are filling and delicious. Mine is stuffed with spiced potato chunks in their skins and green peas. I love the soft texture and homey flavor. John's samosa is filled with savory ground lamb; it's juicy and fragrant.

Walking back to the car, John laughs, "Don't you just hate winter around here?"

Posted Dec. 5, 2:41 p.m.
by Mary Beth Abate

Thai Timeout: Star Anise Restaurant

Last night I had a rare evening alone. I didn't feel like cook-

ing, but I was craving noodles. I know where I can get that fix.

Star Anise Thai Restaurant, 8195 Towne Center in University City, is walking distance from my apartment. It's a pretty, quiet place, with glass-covered tablecloths and a minimalist feel. I get a table near the kitchen, normally considered a bad place, but I like listening to the scrape, sizzle, sizzle of the woks. The food here is made to order, not sitting in a serving tray. It's quick, too.

I order the Spicy Khee Mao noodles with chicken (\$9.95) and a small pot of ginger tea (\$2). I laugh and nod when my

server asks, "Medium spicy?" I know my limits.


This is a pleasant place to just sit and sip a warm beverage. The two servers bustle around quietly, and the sizzling goes right on in the kitchen. My noodles are in front of me before I know it.

They are wide, flat, slippery rice noodles, nicely firm, with lots of tender pieces of white-meat chicken, soft-scrambled eggs, thick slivers of onion, red bell pepper, and chunky green bean pieces. The vegetables are crisp-tender, and everything is lightly cloaked in a pungent garlic-chili sauce.

The spice level is on the low side of medium for me, but today that's how I want it. I'm enjoying tasting the individual pieces without lip burn. The thing that really brings the dish home for me is the handful of large fresh basil leaves that have been stir-fried into it. The spicy, anise-y freshness makes it a very comforting bowl of noodles. And tonight, that's all I need.

Star Anise has daily lunch specials and evening specials several nights a week.

Posted Dec. 8, 4:20 p.m.
by Mary Beth Abate



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Totally Wicked

“I used to have a ranch down Toluca way,” Guillermo says. “Lamb is very popular.”

Who says there’s no more new food to create?

Last big food invention I can remember around here happened a century ago, when Caesar Cardini accidentally invented the Caesar Salad. But, hey, how about Michael Karijanian, the owner of Sweet & Savory in P.B., who recently came up with the idea for the coffee-rubbed steak?

Not sure if he was the first with that. Still, it started me thinking. People like Karijanian are not on the Food Network. But they’re out there, and they have new ideas.

Here are two more chefs who’ve turned into food inventors I’ve come across in the last few weeks.

Scene One. PB, around the corner from Sweet & Savory: I’m wandering down Emerald Street on a sunny, windy day at lunchtime. Surfers are coming back from the ocean looking gritty, salty-mouthed, and goosepimply from the waves. Notice a couple of them stopping in at an orange-and-yellow taco joint.

La Perla.

“Burrito Factory,” it says on the outside.

Actually, I was also on my way here because they serve lamb tacos, Toluca, Mexico-style — meaning, BBQ’d. When you put the right stuff with it, like mint sauce, or maybe chutney, or a green tomatillo salsa, you’ve got a real lamb *baa*-BQ wrapped in a corn tortilla.

I follow the surfers inside to this sparkling little husband-and-wife joint and get in line. The place has yellow walls, traditional Mexican paintings, a few tables inside, and four more outside. I soon get to talking with the husband, Guillermo Rodríguez. Lady cooking out back is his wife Lourdes. They opened this place up in May.

“I used to have a ranch down Toluca way,” Guillermo says. “Cattle, goats. But, also, down

there, they had sheep. Lamb is very popular.”

I get a lamb taco (\$2.50), which is totally delicious in its corn tortilla, with shredded cilantro, onion, lettuce, and the green tomatillo salsa Guillermo recommends. Right next door (at Mission and Emerald) is Bareback Grill, the New Zealand joint, which does a mean lamb burger, though that one’s \$12. So maybe this is Lamb Central for the entire county.

Whatever, it’s good. But by no means is it all. Guillermo has other strings to his bow: he invents burritos.

“We have lived in Oaxaca and on the Yucatán Peninsula. Very beautiful, and full of great food, moles, cheeses. I’m always experimenting with these.”

One day, when Guillermo was playing around with some Oaxacan cheeses, he got an idea: Why not make a California-style burrito, with plenty of crispy fries and guac and carne asada and salsa fresca and cheese inside? He’d *double*-

wrap it with two tortillas, add a layer of cheese *in between* those two wraps, then melt it so it sticks to the tortillas. The result is one whopping, awesomely crisp, and taste-bud-drenching burrito. Costs \$7.99, and it’s totally wicked, but you’ll never get through it in one sitting. So you know your next meal’s totally taken care of.

Scene Two. El Cajon, inside a brand new micro-brewery pub. The El Cajon Brewing Company. Ten o’clock at night.

This place is the hope of El Cajon. City authorities are desperate to kick life into the remodeled downtown they’ve spent so much money on, including hundreds of thousands in loans to this place so it could get up and running.

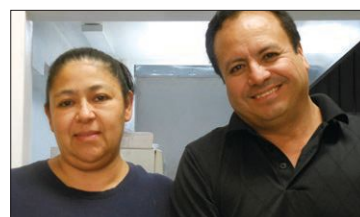
What I’m really hoping is to get a swig of one



Receptionists
Laurie and
Danielle



Steve Meadows,
who co-owns El
Cajon Brewing
Company (along
with his brewer
brother Dave)



Lourdes and her husband Guillermo
opened La Perla in May.



Traditional art on the back wall



La Perla's specialty, the lamb taco

you stuff the actual meat patty?”

Steve was for it. Chris came up with one stuffed with cream cheese, jalapeños, and bacon.

Steve liked it.

“Steve suggested the Greek [a burger patty stuffed with feta cheese, olives, and purple onions], and then we did an Italian, with mozzarella, pepperoni, and sausage. People have gone crazy over them.”

No contest — I order the jalapeño-stuffed burger. It costs \$8.95. (Dang, spotted “The Ultimate” too late; that’s where they dip the burger in beer batter and deep fry the whole thing for a dollar more.) Still, it’s totally delicious. The hot, peppery melted cheese inside the burger patty bursts in my mouth.

It’s a new experience. You wouldn’t think there’d be any surprises left with burgers, but Chris has pulled it off. I can hear future food historians: “That was one small step for burgers, one giant leap for burgerkind...”

And now I want to know: Any other gastro-inventions out there? ■

The Place: La Perla Cocina Mexicana, 745 Emerald Street, Pacific Beach, 858-274-3038

Type of Food: Mexican

Prices: Lamb taco, barbacoa-style, \$2.50; Oaxaca Burrito, with carne asada, fries, guacamole, salsa fresca, cheese, double tortilla with Oaxacan cheese melted between, \$7.99

Hours: 7:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m. daily

Bus: 30

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The Place: El Cajon Brewing Company, 110 N. Magnolia Avenue, between Main Street and Douglas Avenue, El Cajon, 619-873-0221

Type of Food: American

Prices: Jalapeño-stuffed burger (with cream cheese, jalapeños, bacon, \$8.95; the Italian (burger stuffed with mozzarella, pepperoni, sausage), \$8.95

Kitchen Hours: 11:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m. daily

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Legion Air. Last year, when the Far West band went looking for a place to record, they settled on the American Legion post in Encinitas. “Our drummer, Tony Sanborn, lives just south of Oceanside,” says Lee Briante. “His mother works in

an audience of senior citizens, mostly veterans or relatives of veterans.

“When it came time to record, they were more than open and willing and said, ‘Sure, come on and use the stage.’” Briante likes the room, the tall ceilings, and the

in Los Angeles, although Sanborn still lives near Encinitas. “Americana. That pretty much defines us,” says Briante, a singer/guitarist from Eagle Rock, a community north of L.A.

“They have us back every month or so. It’s a lot of fun to go down there and play.” It’s a good, no-pressure venue, he says, to test new material. “They’re very open, and they give us feedback right away.” And then there is the ambience factor. “It’s kind of half surf town, half biker town.” He thinks the building itself may have been a military barracks at one time.

Has the Legion atmosphere in any way informed Briante’s songwriting or the band’s performances? “We all agree in the band that having that venue outside of L.A., where it can be just a drag to play sometimes, is great. L.A. people have their arms crossed and there’s a lot of judgment going on.” He describes the Legion as having a honky-tonk vibe. “Everybody has a good time and nobody’s judgmental. In L.A., it’s not so easy to have fun.”

Briante says Far West will likely come back to the American Legion to record their next CD. Since there is no official stage, the band moves a pool table and sets up in a corner. But for purposes of recording, they spread out. “The drummer was in the dining hall, the bass player

was in the kitchen, and I was in the bingo room.”

In addition to digital release, copies of the Far West’s self-titled CD are available

16-year-old singer/songwriter Shyla Day, Kitty Plague, and Happy Ron Hill.

However, performers wishing to appear should be

of time or resources to the program. The show is about music only. Not money.”

As for ground rules, “The music does have to be devoid of bad swear words, but the content can be about anything. No genre of music will be denied.” The program will also be webcast on Ustream, Livestream, and ComF5, with episodes archived at *socalshowcase.tv*. Upcoming guests include Wendy Bailey, High Tide, Ronnie Lee, Summer Mencher, Megan Combs, Tori Roze, Starcrossed, Privatized Air, Celia St Croix, Defamation League, Hocus, and the Very.

Stevens is also looking for local venues where he can tape performances. “The episode will give credit to the venue...[which are] only required to pay the bands that play their showcase — \$150 to \$250 per band — and provide a drink tab for them.”

San Diego has a long history of public-access music shows, some of them right out of *Wayne’s World*. Club 33 captured early-’80s performances by bands such as the Beat Farmers, metalheads ruled on *Music Underground*, local music booster Brad Cahill produced *Songwriter Spotlight*, a late-’80s jazz show called *Music of Life* aired in North County, *Hot Traxx* (produced by David Law) screened urban videos, Dimension Cable had *Dimen-*

(continued on page 82)

the inside track blurt

the kitchen at the American Legion.” Far West played their first shows in the hall after the band formed more than a year ago.

“Tony said, ‘Hey, can we

sound. “But they said they wouldn’t close up for us... that we would have to work around them.” He describes clinking glasses and deliveries and voices in the background



Far West finds no-frills recording in an Encinitas American Legion.

play?’ And [the legionnaires] said sure. They were interested in having entertainment. They opened the doors to us.” Far West would spend the next six to eight months honing their material in front of

of the recording.

“But we like that,” says Briante. “We like the whole spirit of working live rather than in a sterile studio environment.”

The Far West band is an alt-country quartet based

at the Encinitas American Legion post.

— Dave Good

Local SoCal. “The show is made by local musicians, for local musicians,” says producer Joe Stevens, whose TV program *So-Cal Showcase* will debut in January on Time Warner public access channel 19. “Each 30-minute episode is dedicated to one artist or band. The first ten minutes, I interview the artist, and then the band goes up and gives a 20-minute live performance.” The show has so far taped hard rockers King Legend, rapper Destructo Bunny,

prepared to do more than just show up and play. “The best way for an artist or band to end up on the show as a guest is to attend the filming dates and donate their time to helping produce or promote the show,” says Stevens, who also sings and plays guitar with the band Beer Money.

“I will choose which guests get priority based on how much time, effort, or resources they have put into the program as time goes on. We do not pick guests in consideration of clout or offers of money. No one can buy into a guest slot with anything less than a selfless commitment

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VIGNETTE • NARINAS

Wednesday December 21
AMIGO

Thursday December 22
STATIC BLOOM • RELEVANCE

Friday, December 23
CHASING CLAYMORES • CURT OWEN
THE RED RIBBON ARMY
LUCKY & WILD (CD release)

Thursday, January 19
TOTAL CHAOS • D.P.I.

Saturday, January 21
BAZERK • FUZZ HUZZI
COREY WILKINS BAND
REEFORM • FAIRFIELD FATS BAND

Thursday, January 26
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2/17 Kids 4 Hope 2/25 Rugby Ruck N Roll 3/2 The Aristocrats • Science Fiction
3/10 LongFellow 4/6 Kings X 4/7 Flight 93 Benefit

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CLASSIC CREAM Featuring
KOFI BAKER • CLAPTON HOOK

Saturday, January 28
HELL BENT • OFU • SMACK THIS

Saturday, February 4
STOLEN BABIES
LONDON BELOW
SQUIRRLY ARTS

Thursday, February 9
EVOLVE • MATT TOKA
BLAMESHIFT

Saturday, February 11
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sion Video Explosion, Musical Playhouse ran for over 60 episodes on Cox Cable, *Leche: The Musical* aired on Oceanside's KOCT from 1993 through 1995, and a married couple from the local branch of NORML has been producing *Yourself Presents* on local access stations for over 20 years.

So-Cal Showcase debuts January 5 at 8:30 p.m.
— Jay Allen Sanford

A Jung Technology. Carl Jung once posited, “The creation of something new is not accomplished by the intellect but by the play instinct acting from inner necessity. The creative mind plays with the objects it loves.”

It was in this way that Bobby Bray (the Locust, Holy Molar, Innerds), a student of Interdisciplinary Computing and the Arts at UCSD, embarked upon the invention of the Pure Data Machine in collaboration with Bryan Oczkowski (Batwings, Christwaves). “We decided we wanted

OVERHEARD IN SAN DIEGO: HOUSE OF BLUES

JAY ALLEN SANFORD



OVER-HEARD? EMAIL JAS2669@AOL.COM - IF WE USE YOUR TIP, YOU GET THE ARTWORK

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something that doesn't exist,” Bray says over a cocktail at the Camel's Breath Inn, a few blocks from his Mission Valley practice space. “So we rolled up our sleeves and made it ourselves.”

The customizable effects controller is based on an open-source program called Pure Data, which was authored by UCSD professor Miller Puckette. The box of knobs, switches, lights, photo cells, and a joystick runs off of a thumb drive, so data is easily exchanged and modified. One of Bray's and Oczkowski's mentors, professor Tom Erbe, authors and shares plug-in effects for recording software under the brand SoundHack and has created many of what Bray considers to be Pure Data's best effects. Like Erbe, the duo plans to share all of their innovations online and for free.

Bray's PDM is intended

to function as a guitar effects controller, while Oczkowski's is designed to work as a sound generator. The project is a response to the prevalence of mainstream effects companies who dictate what

be explained otherwise via language,” Bray says. “If you believe that to be true, then you are going to become reliant upon effects companies to define what you can communicate.”



PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS WOO

The Locust's Bobby Bray sure talks philosophical for a techie.

Bray calls “creative trickle down” — the musical lexicon is defined by profit motives.

“It can be argued that sound and timbre metaphorically symbolize thoughts and feelings that cannot

The liberation of information and the do-it-yourself aesthetic are themes that Bray has explored through several projects, including the mapping of WiFi availability in the upscale Talmadge

neighborhood, circuit-bending a Casio into an interdimensional communication device, and circuit-bending reality with mock salesman infotainment performances at bars, where he endeavors to sell free information about cymatics (wave behavior) via a homemade Chladni plate (Google it).

“This concept of proprietary information and capitalism are blocking the evolution of the collective unconscious,” says Bray, an adherent to Jungian psychology. “I want to do my part to try to unblock that in anyway I can...that involves music, science, art, and technology. That's where I derive all my inspiration.”

— Chad Deal

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORS

Chad Deal, Dave Good, Dorian Hargrove, Mary Leary, Ken Leighton, Bart Mendoza, Jay Allen Sanford, David Stampone

daily blogs

San Diego Symphony: Choppy Beethoven

By Garrett Harris — Dec. 12, 11:52 a.m.

Vanja James Needs a Christmas Present

By Dave Good — Dec. 12, 9:31 a.m.

Blues at the Saville with Doug MacLeod

By Robert Bush — Dec. 11, 9:25 p.m.

New Little Italy Venue 98 Bottles Hosting Joshua White Dec. 15

By Jay Allen Sanford — Dec. 11, 5:01 a.m.

I Once Shared a Urinal with Dougie MacLean

By Dave Good — Dec. 9, 6:01 p.m.

Trio M : The Guest House

By Robert Bush — Dec. 9, 5:28 p.m.

Uptown Ocean Beats and My Dirty Drum Habits Tonight

By Chad Deal — Dec. 9, 12:13 p.m.

Read these and other daily breaking music stories at SDReader.com/jam-session

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ZIGGY SHUFFLEDUST AND
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JANE'S DICTION

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IRRADIO • SUBSURFER
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THURSDAY • DECEMBER 29
MINI MANSIONS • DARK THIRTY

FRIDAY • DECEMBER 30
GET BACK LORETTA
THE BURNING OF ROME
KUT U UP • BLACK CARL

SATURDAY • DECEMBER 31
NEW YEAR'S EVE
THE GROWLERS • TOMORROW'S TULIPS
THE ABIGAILS • TROPICAL POPSICLE

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CASBAH 23 YEAR
OLIN AND THE MOON • MAXIM
LUDWIG AND THE SANTA FE SEVEN
JESSE LAMONACA AND
THE DIME NOVELS

FRIDAY • JANUARY 6
THE NERVOUS WRECKORDS BLACKOUT PARTY
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FRIDAY 12/23 • 9PM

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Upcoming Shows:

1/1 New Year's Eve 2.0
Service Industry Night
feat DJ Leif
1/4 Dick Dale
1/5 The Spells with
Family Wagon
1/6 Pato Banton
1/7 The Country Buddy
"Dick Blue Ball" - A Farmer's
Celebration with
Buddy Blue Reunion Band,
Steve Poltz, Joey Harris and
Rolie Love
1/8 Elvis 77th Birthday
Celebration with
James Kruk's Elite
Elvis Tribute
1/12 Sister Hazel
1/13 40 Oz to Freedom
1/14 Wayward Sons and
The Pettybreakers
1/15 Handsome Furs

1/17 BFD Comedy Show
- Chris Porter (Last Comic
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Ease Up
1/20 Agent 51 and Pivit
1/21 Dead Man's Party
1/22 The Steve Morse Band
1/23 Mark Hummel's Blues Blowout
1/24 Alabama Shakes
1/25 The Wood Brothers
1/26 Lucinda Williams
w/Blake Mills - SOLD OUT!
1/27 & 28 Ozomatli
1/29 MarchFourth Marching Band
Bayou Brothers Matinee - 2-15-5pm
1/31 The Jayhawks
2/2 Joe Walsh - SOLD OUT!
2/3 Keller Williams
2/4 Martin Sexton
2/7 Dr. Dog
2/8 & 9 Groundation

2/11 ALO
2/13 The Asteroids Galaxy Tour
2/18 The Atomic Punks
2/19 Steve Poltz 3rd Annual
50th Birthday Bash featuring
The Rugburns, Bob Schneider,
AJ Croce and Sara Petite
2/21 Gomez
2/22 BoomBox w/III-Esha and
Chris B
2/23 Ra Ra Riot
2/24 Tommy Castro
2/26 America
2/28 Los Lonely Boys
Acoustic Show
2/29 Boz Scaggs
3/10 Who's Bad
(Michael Jackson Trib)
3/30 Michael Rose
3/31 Super Diamond
4/14 Pine Mountain Logs
4/21 Cat Empire

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12/31 Candy Kane New Year's Eve

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West of 5

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Monday, December 19
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**Chet Cannon
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Blues Party**

Tuesday, December 20
7pm • Blues

Charles Burton

Wednesday, December 21
7pm • Beach Funk

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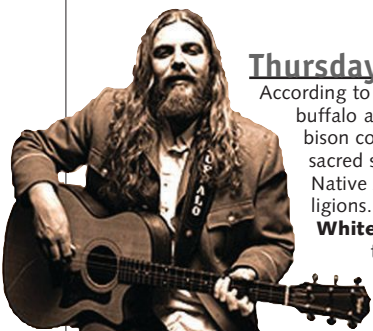
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This Week In Music



WHITE BUFFALO AT CASBAH

Thursday 15

According to the *Wik*, white buffalo are American bison considered sacred signs in several Native American religions. *Last.fm* says **White Buffalo's** "a throwback to the time of hard-touring, hard-drinking artists who lived

what they sang about." That's the one. The solo-rolling folkie's family name is Jake Smith, and he carries a guitar and a tune like all of the above. I read an online review by a guy named Ben Salmon who called Smith's voice "canyon deep and sequoia strong — makes Eddie Vedder sound like Bobby Brady going through puberty." Good one, Ben. The White Buffalo roams into Casbah tonight behind this year's *Lost and Found* EP. Like-minded locals **River City** and **April Ventura and the Magnolias** up first.... "Who's the loneliest Monk?" **Joshua White** is. The San Diego pianist placed second in this year's Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition. The jazz cat'll kill the keys at one of the tastiest spaces in Little Italy, 98 Bottles. White will be accompanied by bassist **Edwin Livings-ton** with **Dan Schnelle** on the hides.... Uptown: she's a little bit country, a little bit jazz and blues — rootsy cutie **Nena Anderson and the Mules** will be at Bar Pink...while Soda Bar sets up L.A. electro-pop act **Standing Shadows** with rock-n-soul quartet **Black Party Politics** and local power-pop trio **Neon Cough**.

Friday 16

...I'll stay with you till my seeds are dried uuuup. Local rock-roll luminary Mike Keneally will join Kofi Baker (yup, Ginger's son) and bad-ass bassist Robbie Pagliari (Ohm) to bring Cream tribute **Extreme Cream** to Brick by Brick Friday night. The **Brett Ellis Band** splits the bill in Bay Park...where, right 'round the bend, **Joey Harris and the Mentals** will feed your barroom-rock munchies at Tio Leo's. If you've never checked in at the cantina-cum-rock spot, it's a fun space with healthy pours and lots of



CHRIS CORNELL AT BALBOA THEATRE

Saturday 17

One of my favorite hard-rock singers **Chris Cornell** will take the stage at the Balboa Theatre downtown. He's out to tout this year's acoustic-live comp, *Songbook*. Dude's done no wrong (musically speaking) in that near 30-year career — Soundgarden, Temple, Audioslave, solo stuff. Even that James Bond track ("You Know My Name") was the best part of the movie. I was so stoked to get to see Soundgarden again and cannot f-ing wait for the new record, which the band says picks up where 1996's *Down on the Upside* left off. It's due to drop next spring.... Got a hanker-ing for some accordion jams? Well buff your boots, ese, as L.A.'s **Very Be Careful** will bring last year's cumbia *classico* *Escape Room* to the Ken Club. The up-and-coming San Diego trio **Cumbia Machin** will split the bill.... Surf-jazz sibs **Mattson 2** will be on the one at 98 Bottles. Check out the band's *Feeling Hands* for a primer.... Right down the road, Casbah hosts a 25-year reunion deal for the old Pink Panther

greazy treats to keep the buzz legal.... Hipsters can't dance, but they sure look kewl trying. **Mr. Tube** and **Rafter** will be shooting dub and dance-pop bullets at all them left feet at Casbah Friday night.... Up the big hill, psych-rock quartet **Pilots** land at Tin Can Ale House. **Animal Eyes** (Portland) and **Hotel St. George** check in first.... North County metal-core crew **As I Lay Dying** takes the stage at Soma on their Decade of Destruction tour. For ten years this Metal Blade band has just been killing it. I donut have last year's *Powerless Rise*, but can recommend the Grammy-nominated *Ocean Between Us* to fans of the brand.... Speaking of hard-working SanDagans, Belly Up books Poway punk-pop bands **Unwritten Law** and **Black Pacific** (ex-Pennywise).... Uptown, it'll be funk 'n' soul brothers the **Styletones** blowing up skirts at Bar Pink...indie-rock "jamb" band **Cuckoo Chaos** and Keith Milgaten's electro-pop side **Jamuel Saxon** plug in at Soda Bar...punk-rawkers **Billy Bones** and the **Last Years** turn up at Til-Two...and SD alt-rock act **One I Red** plays a CD-release thing at Eleven with Long Beach spaghetti-western wizard rockers **Bella Novella** in support.

crowd, featuring **Deadbolt**, **Manual Scan**, and the **Amandas**. With a new year rolling in, it'd be a good night to go say hey to some old friends.... Best of the rest has L.A. grindcore gang **Graf Orlock** at the Ché Café with **Dangers**, **Grievors**, and **Negative Standards**... **Blackfeet Braves**, **Nefer-titti's Nile**, and **Shiva Trash** fill a garage-rock bill at Tin Can Ale House...while carnival-ride rockers **Burning of Rome** join December residents **Short Eyes** this week out at Tower Bar.



PINBACK AT BELLY UP TAVERN

Sunday 18

Full Speed Ahead, Sunday night: **D.R.I.** still stands for Dirty Rotten Imbeciles. The Texas quartet melded hardcore and metal in the mid '80s on punk essential *Dealing with It*, which makes my list (the long list, anyway) for desert-



D.R.I. AT RUBY ROOM

island discs. The thrashcore crossovers' current world tour will tuck in at Ruby Room Sunday night with **Tim Raldo** and his **Filthy Fuks**.... Else: NYC klezmer krew the **Klezmatiks** will be at Anthology behind this year's *Live at Town Hall*. Everybody should have a live klezmer record in their rack...and **Ziggy Shuffledust** dons his Bowie best while **Jane's Diction** does nothing shocking at Casbah. It's Shuffler's annual yearly birthday bash. (Testing the copyeditor.) (Fuck off, Barnaby. Big jerk.)

Monday 19

After a couple solo discs, local indie hits Rob Crow and Zach Smith (Systems Officer) reform as **Pinback** to play Belly Up with **Ghetto Blaster**. Pinback's due to drop and will probably premiere its next Temporary Residence disc, *Information Retrieved*. That dealio's due "early 2012" Tin Can Ale House stages Bay Area experimental bands **Kitchen Wallet**, **Orgasmatron** (ex-Ancient Crux, Vaginals), and **Former Friends of Young Americans**. You wouldn't believe how many bands there are called "Orgasmatron," from, like, every corner of the globe. *What strange device is this?*

Tuesday 20

For the love of gawd, go finish your holiday shopping.

Wednesday 21

From the O.C., "psychedelic hip-hop punk-rock" septet the **Kottonmouth Kings** slither into Belly Up behind fan-friendly Christmas collection *Hidden Stash: Bongloads & B-Sides*. The compilation dropped just this side of KK's last studio set, this summer's *Sunrise Sessions*, which found the Kings dipping a little deeper into reggae roots and dub. Sin City rapper **Big B** and our own **Sprung Monkey** swing in first.... Cityside: *Old Soul's* **Stevie & the Hi-Stax** will funk up Bar Pink...as Rosie toasts old-school ponk at SD:Dialed In's



KOTTONMOUTH KINGS AT BELLY UP

Fast Crowd Christmas, featuring the **Bertos**, **International Dipshit**, and the **Last Years**. I'm in.

— Barnaby Monk

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Burned It Up

"The cops came with riot gear and dogs. We were ushered down under the stage."

The rough cut of Eric Rife's rockumentary *Garageland* begins with the shrill alarm of "Walk the Beat" by the Penetrators. And rightly so — some local rock historians say that the Penetrators, in 1978, were the start of San Diego's original music scene, a time that the as-yet-unfinished *Garageland* hopes to document.

In 1977, the original Penetrators were singer Gerry Heffern, Joel Kmak on drums, guitarist Scott Harrington, and Chris Sullivan from La Mesa on bass guitar. They played everywhere, it seemed, from Fairmount Hall to the California Theatre. Labels expressed interest, and one of their records landed in rotation at KROQ in Los Angeles. The band was seen by many, including Mick Jagger and Keith Richards.

When Kmak left for the Hitmakers, he was replaced by a pianist and record-store owner named Dan McClain. The rumor was that McClain had not played drums professionally until the Penetrators, and it was uphill after that. McClain's alter ego, Country Dick Montana, would move on to fame with the Beat Farmers. The big break never came for the Penetrators, and by 1984 the band was finished.

I talked to Chris Sullivan.

1978 WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT YOU GUYS OPENED FOR THE RAMONES AT MONTEZUMA HALL, A SHOW THAT PEOPLE REMEMBER TO THIS DAY.

"I remember having the feeling of arrival, kinda like, *Here's your shot, kid — show them what ya got.*"

VIOLENT OUTBURSTS AND INSURRECTION

FOLLOWED WHENEVER THE PENETRATORS WERE ON A BILL. DID IT EVER GET OUT OF CONTROL TO THE POINT THAT YOU WERE SCARED?

"No, I always felt like we were the ringmasters. The wildest time may have been a show at the California Theatre with the Ramones. The cops

came with riot gear and dogs. We were ushered down under the stage and out a side door into waiting cars."

WHAT WAS GOING THROUGH YOUR MIND?

"I was thinking, *Cool. This is like a Beatles movie.*"

THE PENS HAD BIG FANS IN STEVE ESME-DINA, THE *READER* MUSIC CRITIC AT THAT TIME, AND JIM MCINNES, WHO WAS A DJ AT KGB FM AND A SUPPORTER OF LOCAL BANDS.

"Jim first came to see us the first time we played with the Ramones. He loved the music and was, and is, a sharp wit. I kept after him, trying to get a job at the radio station. He finally said to just come on down to the station and talk to some people. I don't miss many opportunities, so I came to the station and talked myself into a job."

YOU WORKED THERE WHEN I DID...AND FOR THE LIFE OF ME, I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT IT IS YOU DID.

"At first it was market research, and then I went on to giving station tours, working promotions, driving the van, and eventually pulling some on-air shifts."

THE PENS HAD ANOTHER FAN NAMED EDDIE VEDDER, WHO WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL AT THE TIME. DID HE EVER HELP ROAD-IE YOUR BAND'S GEAR? AS I RECALL, HE HUNG AROUND THE CLUBS AND HAD PLAYED IN A BAND CALLED BAD RADIO.

"I wish he did; it would have made a great story! I know the show we did at San Dieguito High School left an impression on him [Vedder attended the North County high school; he would later tell a reporter that the Penetrators were an influence]. It was another one of those riot situations."

I REMEMBER YOU AS A SHARP-DRESSED MAN. THIS WAS DURING A TIME WHEN EVERYBODY ELSE WORE JEANS AND WHAT-EVER FREE T-SHIRT WE COULD MOOCH FROM TOURING BANDS AND RECORD LABELS.

"I grew up in Yonkers and the Bronx in an Italian, black, and Puerto Rican neighborhood. Talk about style and attitude... My mentors were guys like Dion and Jackie Wilson. I lived right near the Apollo Theatre and in the Belmont section of Little Italy in the Bronx. You had to have great hair, sharkskin jackets, and Beatle boots, because style meant a lot."

THOSE ZEBRA BOOTS YOU WORE AT SDMA THIS YEAR — MAN, WHERE DO YOU SHOP?

"Most of my clothes I pick up at second-hand stores. The leopard and zebra boots I got from a guy in Mexico. Seems like the Latin culture still likes Cuban heels and pointed toes."

WHEN THE PENETRATORS DID COME BACK



Chris Sullivan: "I grew up in Yonkers and the Bronx. Talk about style and attitude..."

TOGETHER, HOW DID IT FEEL TO BE PLAYING YOUR SONGS 30 YEARS LATER?

"It felt like we didn't miss a beat. I love the guys, and the songs hold up."

YOU GUYS BURNED IT UP...YOU COULD HAVE COASTED....

"When I was a kid, I read a story about Joe DiMaggio. A sports writer asked him, 'Why did you try to stretch a single into a double, risking injury during a game that the Yankees were sure to win?' He said there could be some kid in the stands who never saw him play. That has always stuck with me...there might be somebody who has never seen me play." ■

Find more musician interviews online at SDReader.com/interviews

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Colleen Kollar Smith • photo by Nathan Peirson

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THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

98 Bottles: 2400 Kettner Bl., Little Italy, 619-255-7885. *Thursday*, 8pm — Joshua White. \$10. *Saturday*, 8pm — Mattson 2. \$5.

AMSDconcerts: 4650 Mansfield St., Normal Heights, 619-303-8176. *Saturday*, 7:30pm — Ellis Paul. Folk. \$20.

Across the Street: 4601 Park Bl., University Heights. *Saturday*, 7:30pm — Psychosally, Kristen Sadler, Joseph Vincent Group. Alt rock/acoustic. \$6-\$10.

Anthology: 1337 India St., Little Italy, 877-828-0891. *Sunday*, 6pm — The Klezmatics. Jewish roots music.

Balboa Theatre: 868 Fourth Ave., Downtown, 619-570-1100.

Saturday — Chris Cornell. Alt rock/grunge.

Bar Pink: 3829 30th St., North Park, 619-564-7194. *Thursday*, 10pm — Nena Anderson and the Mules. \$5 or donate unwrapped toy. *Friday*, 10pm — The Styletones. Funk/soul. *Saturday*, 10pm — Neon Beat. With DJ Junior the Discopunk. *Wednesday* — Stevie & the Hi-Stax.

Belly Up: 143 South Cedros Ave., Solana Beach, 858-481-8140. *Thursday* — Venice. Rock. *Friday* — Unwritten Law. Pop punk. *Sunday* — Shawn Colvin. Rock/contemporary folk. *Monday* — Pinback. Indie/rock. *Wednesday*, 7pm — Kottonmouth Kings, Big B, Sprung Monkey. Rap rock/hop-hop.

Birch North Park Theatre: 2891 University Ave., North Park, 619-239-8836. *Friday*, 8pm — Gary Morris. \$27-\$39.

Brick by Brick: 1130 Buenos Ave., Linda Vista, 619-275-5483. *Friday*, 8pm — Extreme Cream with Mike Keneally and Kofi Baker. \$10. *Saturday*, 8pm — The Almagated, the Avenues, Comfort in Chaos. San Diego Animal Support Foundation benefit. \$10. *Wednesday*, 8pm — Amigo. \$5.

NOTE

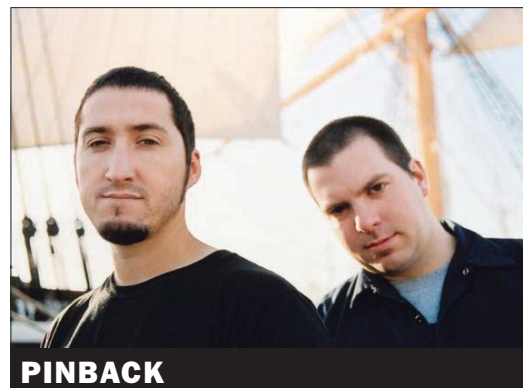
BY WILLIAM CRAIN

When Rob Crow and Zach Smith formed Pinback in 1998, they quickly became one of the most-talked about San Diego bands in indie rock (even if they weren't necessarily all that famous in San Diego). Their melancholy, atmospheric style, built on interlocking patterns created by Crow's guitar and Smith's bass, seemed made for movie soundtracks. (At least one song did appear in a movie, the box-office dud *Elizabethtown*.) But in the years since they released their fourth full length, 2007's *Autumn of the Seraphs*, Pinback has kept a low profile.

Part of the reason for this has undoubt-

edly been the time pressure brought on by the band member's numerous other projects. Smith (a.k.a. Armistead Burwell Smith IV) has been busy with the reunion of his old band Three Mile Pilot and a solo project called Systems Officer. Meanwhile, Crow has been recording solo and playing with Other Men, Goblin Cock, Optiganally Yours, and others. Pinback has also had a number of setbacks that were beyond their control, most tragically the cancer death of touring-keyboardist Terrin Durfey.

Nonetheless, Crow and Smith have kept Pinback going in one capacity or another. Last year, they staged a short tour as a duo. They called it "Pinback Presents the Rob and Zach Show." More recently, they released two vinyl-only EPs in extremely limited quantities. From what I've heard of them, the EPs are



PINBACK

among the best work Pinback has ever done. Reportedly, there is a new full-length release coming out early next year. Ghetto Blaster also performs.

PINBACK: Belly Up Tavern, Monday, December 19, 9 p.m. 858-481-8140. \$18, \$20.

Find more Of Note columns online at SDReader.com/note

Café Lily: 14045 Midland Rd., Poway, 858-486-3415. *Saturday*, 12:45pm — Tim Fullerton. Jazz guitar.

The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Bl., Little Italy, 619-232-4355. *Thursday*, 8:30pm — White Buffalo and River City. \$12-\$14. *Friday*, 8:30pm — Mr. Tube & the Flying Objects and Rafter. \$10. *Saturday*, 8:30pm — Deadbolt and Manual Scan. \$15. *Sunday*, 8:30pm — Ziggy

Shuffledust & the Spiders from Mars. \$10. *Monday*, 8:30pm — The nformals and the Secret Seven. \$5.

Ché Café: 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-534-2311. *Saturday* — Graf Orlock. Hardcore/punk.

Cosmos Coffee Café: 8278 La Mesa Bl., La Mesa. *Saturday*, 7pm — Melanie Devaney.

Dirk's Niteclub: 7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove, 619-

469-6344. *Friday, Saturday* — Serious Guise. Classic rock. **Free.**

Eleven: 3519 El Cajon Bl., City Heights, 619-450-4292. *Thursday*, 9pm — Save Amos. \$5. *Friday*, 9pm — One I Red. CD release. With Bella Novella and East of Sweden. \$6. *Saturday*, 9:30pm — Homeless Sexuals, Coda Reactor, the Natives. \$3.

Fluxx: 500 Fourth Ave., Downtown, 619-232-8100.

Sunday, 9pm — Ferry Corsten. EDM. With the Office Twins and DJ Flo. \$15-\$25.

Gallagher's Pub & Grill: 5046 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach, 619-222-5300. *Friday*, 9pm — Euphoria Brass Band. Brass band/funk/early jazz/New Orleans. **Free.**

The Harp: 4935 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach, 619-222-0168. *Saturday*, 9pm — Full Moon Fever. Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers tribute. **Free.**

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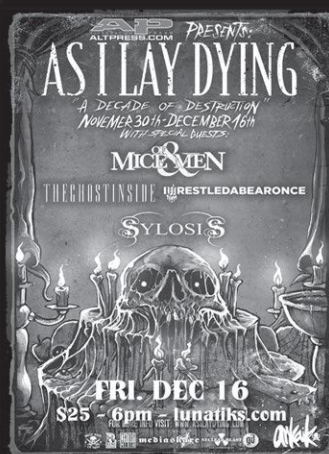


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House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-299-2583. *Thursday* — theBREAX. Hip-hop. *Saturday* — Gary Hoey. Rock.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Shelter Island, 619-224-3577. *Thursday*, 8:30pm — Shane Dwight. Blues guitar. \$10. *Friday*, 9pm — Ultra. Disco/dance. \$12. *Saturday*, 5pm — West of 5. Covers/rock. **Free.**

Jolt'n Joe's: 379 Fourth Ave., Downtown, 619-230-1968. *Friday*, 9pm — DJs BCarr, Turbo, and Girth. Hip-hop/mashups/dubstep. **Free.**

Junipero Serra Museum: 2727 Presidio Dr., Old Town, 619-297-3258. *Sunday*, 3pm — "Guitar Through the Ages." Spanish Guitar Del Mar presents holiday concert. Reservations: 619-232-6203 x129. \$10-\$15.

The Kensington Club: 4079 Adams Ave., Kensington-Talmadge, 619-284-2848. *Saturday*, 9pm — Very Be Careful and Cumbia Machin. Vallenato/electro-cumbia. \$12.

Lacey J's Roadhouse Saloon & Grille: 8861 Magnolia Ave., Santee, 619-448-8550. *Sunday*, 5pm — Sue Palmer

& Her Motel Boogie Woogie Band. Blues/boogie/swing. **Free.**

Lestat's Coffee House: 3343 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, 619-282-0437. *Saturday* — Gregory Page. Singer-songwriter.

Molly Malone's: 1270 Main St., Ramona, 760-789-9050. *Friday*, 9pm — Nemesis. **Free.** *Saturday*, 9pm — Malaki. **Free.**

Patrick's II: 428 F St., Downtown, 619-233-3077. *Thursday*, 9pm — Missy Andersen. Blues/funk/soul. **Free.** *Friday*, 9pm — Whitney Shay & the Shakedown. Jazz/blues. **Free.** *Saturday*, 9pm — 145th Street Deluxe Blues Band. Blues. **Free.**

Patrick's Irish Pub: 13314 Poway Rd., Poway, 858-486-0764.

Saturday, 9pm — Myron & the Kynptionz. Classic rock. **Free.**

Ruby Room: 1271 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-7372. *Thursday*, 9pm — Hello Fiasco, Gatsby's Fiddle, Plane Without a Pilot. Rock/punk. \$3. *Friday*, 9pm — X-mas Chaos X: Toys for Tots. With One Inch Punch, Empire State, the Suicide Chords. Free admission with toy. \$5. *Saturday* — Crews for a Cause. With Delano, Tryxx with MC Oozi, Swan Dive. DNB/dubstep/moombahtona. \$3 with a new, unwrapped toy or three cans of food; \$5 without. *Sunday*, 9pm — D.R.I., Tim

NOTE

BY DAVE GOOD

When Mickey Schiff rings from Los Angeles, I ask about his voice. If he's not using a megaphone or something like that, it sounds like it must hurt to sing. "There's no real tricks," he says. "It's just how my voice sounds." He admits that the songs on White Arrow's self-titled debut EP were recorded with faulty equipment. "There's a little bit of natural distortion because one of the tubes in the studio compressor was broken." Otherwise, it's just plain Mickey Schiff moxie. "A little bit of reverb. Maybe some delay." The EP churns with rich and sensual textures, which makes sense when you consider that Schiff was born sightless and wrote songs in his head long before he could

play an instrument.

White Arrows is another one of those bands that first came to be on the internet. When Schiff was at college, he posted his songs on YouTube, and based on the response, he couldn't wait to get back to his native Los Angeles and start a band, even if his stuff had no discernible direction. "From the beginning, everyone had a hard time pinpointing exactly what the sound was." They have direction now and describe the band on their Facebook page as "the blackest white band." It's Tom Waits fronting the Tom Tom Club, and with their use of lights and projections, a White Arrows show is like something right out of 1968.

A curious fact: Schiff got his sight gradually, and by the age of 11 he could see. Did the real world match his imagination? "The only thing that really struck me when I first saw what everybody else saw was lines. I had no concept



WHITE ARROWS

that a straight edge existed. I got really sick the first time I put on glasses because everything was really intense, and I was focusing solely on the geometry of things."

Love Inks also performs.

WHITE ARROWS: Soda Bar, Saturday, December 17, 8:30 p.m. 619-255-7224. \$7.

Find more Of Note columns online at SDReader.com/note

Raldo & The Filthy Fuks, Systematic Abuse, Holy Tyrant. \$15-\$20. *Monday*, 9pm — Wendy Bailey, Kenny Eng, Rob Dee. Midnight Oil Acoustic Series. \$4 suggested. *Tuesday*, 9pm — Tori Roze Presents: Ruby Tuesday. Female-fronted acts. \$2 suggested.

Sandbar Sports Grill: 718 Ventura Pl., Mission Beach, 858-488-1274.

Wednesday, 9pm — Hi Roots. Reggae/World.

Santa Ysabel Resort & Casino: 25575 Highway 79, Santa Ysabel, 760-787-0909. *Saturday*, 8pm — Michael Chain Band.

Shakedown Bar: 3048 Midway Dr., Midway District, 619-487-0373. *Thursday*, 9pm — Gun Fever. *Friday*, 10pm — The Bloodflowers and Hopeless Jack.

Saturday, 10pm — Voices of Ruin.

Soda Bar: 3615 El Cajon Bl., City Heights, 619-255-7224. *Thursday*, 8:30pm — Standing Shadows and Neon Cough. \$7. *Friday*, 8:30pm — Cuckoo Chaos and Jamuel Saxon. \$8-\$10. *Saturday*, 8:30pm — White Arrows. \$7. *Tuesday*, 8:30pm — Just Like Jenna and Divided by Design. \$5.

Wednesday, 8:30pm — Electric Monk and Warring States of Mind. \$5.

Soma: 3350 Sports Arena Bl., Midway District, 619-226-7662. *Friday*, 6pm — As I Lay Dying. \$25. *Saturday*, 7pm — Anaphylactic Shark. \$8.

The Stage Rock Bar & Grill: 762 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-696-9436. *Thursday*, 10pm — Seismic Dubstep. \$5. *Friday*, 7pm — 321 Stereo. CD release. With Misc. Ailments and the Vain Transfer. *Saturday*, 10pm — DJ Miss Dust. **Free.**

Sycuan Casino Showcase Theatre: 5469 Casino Way, El Cajon, 619-445-6002. *Saturday* — Eddie Money, Lou Gramm, and Mickey Thomas. Pop rock. \$45-\$55.

Tango Del Rey: 3567 Del Rey St., Pacific Beach, 858-794-9044. *Tuesday*, 9pm — Dornob, Los Bandaritos, the Afro-Jazziacs. Jazz/Persian and Afro-Arab trance. \$10.

Til-Two: 4746 El Cajon Bl., Kensington-Talmadge, 619-516-4746. *Friday* — Billy Bones and the Last Years.

Tin Can Ale House: 1863 Fifth Ave., Bankers Hill, 619-955-8525. *Friday*, 8:30pm — Pilots, Animal Eyes, Hills Like Elephants. Indie rock. \$5. *Saturday* — Blackfeet Braves and Shiva Trash. \$6.

Tio Leo's: 5302 Napa St., Linda Vista, 619-542-1462. *Friday* — Joey Harris & the Mentals. Country/blues. *Saturday* — The Stiletos.

Toma Sol Cafe: 301 W. Washington St., Mission Hills, 619-291-1159. *Friday*, 7pm — Jeffrey Joe Morin. Americana. **Free.**

Valley View Casino Center: 3500 Sports Arena Bl., Midway District, 619-224-4171.



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Thursday, 7:30pm — Magic 92.5 Quiet Storm. With Brian McKnight, Al B. Sure!, Force M.D.s, Surface, and Jon B. R&B/soul.

Winstons: 1921 Bacon St., Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822. *Wednesday, 10pm* — Ikaika Beamer. So Cal reggae/hip-hop/Hawaiian.

**UPCOMING
SHOWS**

4th&B: 345 B St., Downtown, 619-231-4343. *December 22* — Black Cherry X-Mas Party. *December 23* — Dopamaina. *December 30* — All-4-One. *December 31* — Kinky. *January 7* — DJ Quik. *January 20* — Pat Travers. *January 21* — Jackyl and Sledd. *January 28* — Nada Surf and the Soft Pack. *February 3* — Mutemath. *February 4* — Adam Ant. *February 18* — San Diego Brazil Carnival. *February 26* — McAuley-Schenker Group.

98 Bottles: 2400 Kettner Bl., Little Italy, 619-255-7885. *December 22* — Movimiento Afrojazziaacs. *December 23* — 98 Bottles Revue.

AMSDconcerts: 4650 Mansfield St., Normal Heights, 619-303-8176. *January 7* — Dave Stamey. *January 20* — Elephant Revival. *January 21* — Dave Alvin. *February 10* — Chuck Pyle. *February 23* — Gretchen Peters. *February 24* — Goitse. *March 3* — Blame Sally. *March 15* — Cheryl Wheeler. *March 21* — Ian Tyson. *March 29* — David Wilcox. *April 1* — Tom Paxton.

Anthology: 1337 India St., Little Italy, 877-828-0891. *December 23* — Hiroshima. *December 28, December 29* — Dave Mason. *December 30* — Dazz Band. *December 31* — 2012 Rockin' New Year's Eve. *January 4* — Maile. *January 5* — Meshell Ndegeocello. *January 11* — The Milk Carton Kids. *January 12* — Sista Monica Parker. *January 13, January 14* — The Pete Escovedo Orchestra. *January 15* — Maceo Parker. *January 19* — Johnny A. *January 20* — John Cruz. *January 27* — Albert Lee Band and the Farmers. *January 29* — Lucy Kaplansky. *January 31* — Richie Furay Band. *February 1* — Eric Bibb. *February 3* — Lisa Loeb and Jill Sobule. *February 5* — Cherry Poppin' Daddies. *February 10, February 11* — Eddie Palmieri and Brian Lynch. *February 15* — Ottmar Liebert & Luna Negra. *February 17* — Goapele. *February 18* — Big Bad Voodoo Daddy.

February 24 — Arturo Sandoval.

Balboa Theatre: 868 Fourth Ave., Downtown, 619-570-1100. *December 23* — Dave Koz and Friends Christmas Tour. *January 15* — David Garrett. *February 14* — Tommy Emmanuel. *February 25* — Jake Shimabukuro. *February 26* — Lila Downs.

Bar Pink: 3829 30th St., North Park, 619-564-7194. *December 23* — Bonkers! Dance Party. *December 26* — The Fire Eaters. *December 30* — Wendy Bailey. *December 31* — Beehive & the Barracudas, Christmas Island, Mrs. Magician. **Belly Up:** 143 South Cedros Ave., Solana Beach, 858-481-8140. *December 23* — Cash'd Out.

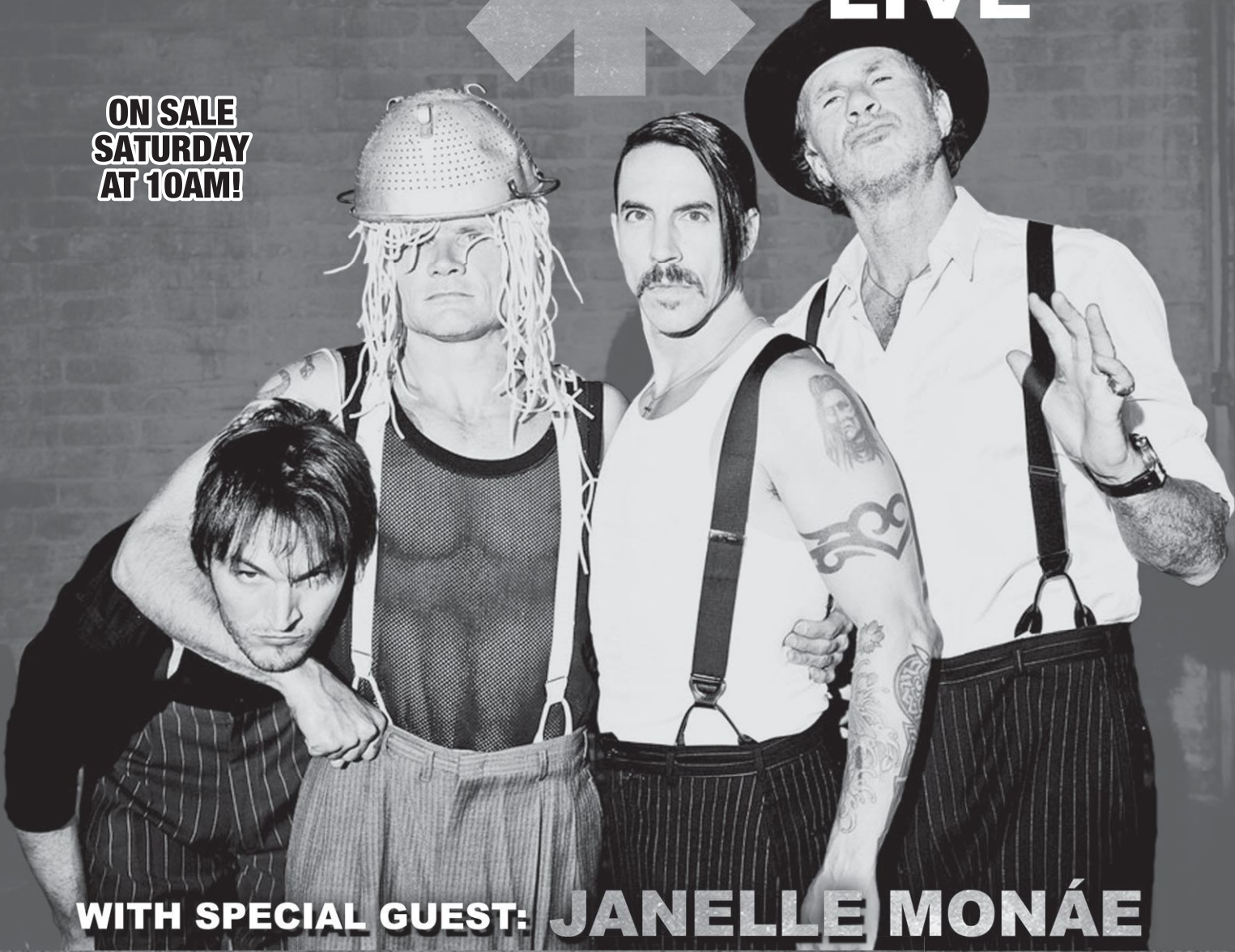
December 27 — Cracker and Camper Van Beethoven. *December 28* — Leftover Salmon. *December 30* — The Greyboy Allstars. *December 31* — The English Beat. *January 4* — Dick Dale. *January 6* — Pato Banton. *January 13* — 40 Oz. to Freedom. *January 15* — Handsome Furs. *January 20* — Agent 51 and Pivit.

January 23 — Mark Hummel's Harmonica Blowout. *January 26* — Lucinda Williams. *January 27, January 28* — Ozomatli. *February 2* — Joe Walsh. *February 3* — Keller Williams. *February 4* — Martin Sexton. *February 7* — Dr. Dog. *February 18* — Atomic Punks. *February 19* — Steve Poltz Third-Annual Birthday Bash. *February 23* — Ra Ra Riot. *February 28* — Los Lonely


Boys. *March 3* — Jackie Greene. *March 30* — Michael Rose. *March 31* — Super Diamond. *April 14* — Pine Mountain Logs. *April 21* — Cat Empire. **Brick by Brick:** 1130 Buenos Ave., Linda Vista, 619-275-5483. *December 23* — Chasing Claymores, Curt Owen, Red Ribbon Army, Lucky Wild. *January 7* — Spiders from Bars.

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January 13 — Allan Holdsworth Band.
January 19 — Total Chaos and D.P.I.
January 21 — Dive Bomber, Fuzz-Huzzi, Cory Wilkins Band, Fairfield Fats Band.

The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Bl., Little Italy, 619-232-4355.
December 23 — Phasers on Stun and the Makeup Sex.
December 24 — Exile on Kettner Blvd.
December 26 — Gran Sasso.
December 28 — Irradio, Subsurfer, the Amalgamated.
December 30 — Get Back Loretta, the Burning of Rome, Kut U Up.
December 31 — The Growlers.

Copley Symphony Hall: 750 B St., Downtown, 619-235-0804.
January 22 — Wilco and White Denim.

Dizzy's: Second Avenue & J St., Downtown, 858-270-7467.
December 30 — Daniel Jackson, Marshall Hawkins, Gilbert Castellanos, & Joshua White.

Eleven: 3519 El Cajon Bl., City Heights, 619-450-4292.
December 22 — Black Sands.
December 30 — The Suicide Chords.

House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-299-2583.
January 9, January 10 — NOFX.
January 11 — The Wailers.
January 13 — Andy Grammer.
January 20 — Dashboard Confessional.
January 22 — Eric Johnson.
January 27 — Allstar Weekend.
January 29 — The Adicts.
February 3 — August Burns Red.
February 4 — Where's the Band Tour.
February 11 — Dweezil Zappa Plays Zappa.
February 17 — The Expendables.
February 18 — Tainted Love.
February 22 — Iced Earth and Symphony X.
February 23 — Hot Chelle Rae.
February 25 — Mat Kearney.
March 6 — Flogging Molly.
March 11 — SOJA.
March 20 — Ani DiFranco.
April 11 — Katchafire.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Shelter Island, 619-224-3577.

EVERYONE'S A CRITIC

Boom Tic Boom Allison Miller

By Andrew Hamlin

As I've mentioned elsewhere, this music produced a profound spiritual experience wherein I, a proud atheist, felt an overwhelming connection to the One, something beyond space and time, in a perpetual state of being and transformation. Will this do that for you? I don't know. But I think it's worth a try. "You don't need to believe in God to believe in transcendence," Tim Quirk once said, and

I've taken that to heart, even as what I described above transcended the heart.

On a more pragmatic level, you don't need the above experience to plug into this. If you care that Miller and her bassist Todd Sickafoose logged time as Ani DiFranco's rhythm section, I'll mention that, but if you hate "chicks with guitars" the way one friend of mine does, I hope you won't bear a grudge. Miller's trio (sometimes quartet) delivers a constantly shifting sound, three (sometimes four) parts not competing for your attention, exactly, but proceeding confidently, trusting that you'll listen exactly when your head gets right. I can't think of much other current music this rich in multilayers. Living testimony to the power of the collective. If it gets you to the One on top of on the one, welcome the bonus.

BOOM TIC BOOM

allison miller



Delivers a constantly shifting sound.

Music Reviews from Our Readers

Pink Martini — Larger Than Life

By Barret Cullom

Pink Martini took the stage just after 8 p.m. The "little orchestra" filled the stage with players and beautifully restored venue with sound. Opener "Amado Mio" revealed Storm Large, the Martinis' interim lead vocalist. She looked as she sounded: tall, blonde, and ready to entice.

Flamboyant bandleader and grand pianist Thomas Lauderdale was in complete control of

the festivities throughout the evening, giving music lessons between each song.

No less than seven different languages were sung, highlighted by Malaysian singer Sean Ghazi's beautiful duets with Storm Large on "Let's Never Stop Falling in Love" and "Get Happy/Happy Days."

For the encores, the Martinis were joined by the Bonita Vista High Marching band and color guard, in full uniform, waving their colorful flags and swinging their tubas! The finale, "Brazil," looked like a Brazilian carnival onstage — larger than life.

Concert: Pink Martini

Date: November 12

Venue: Balboa Theatre

Seats: Center orchestra row S



The bandleader gave music lessons.

Up to \$100 for your concert review, \$25 for your CD review. Submit at SDReader.com/critic

December 23 — Detroit Underground.
December 24 — DJ John Phillips.

The Loft: 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-534-8497.
January 20 — Mexican Institute of Sound.
February 4 — Talkdemonic.
February 8 — Ben Russell.

Pala Casino: 35008 Pala Temecula Rd., Pala, 877-946-7252.
January 20 — Engelbert Humperdinck.
February 2 — Colbie Caillat.
February 16 — Tony Bennett.
February 17 — Glen Campbell.

Pechanga Resort & Casino: 45000 Pechanga Parkway, Temecula, 951-693-1819.
January 6, January 7 — The Fab Four.
January 21 — Aaron Lewis.
January 27 — Styx.
February 11 — Brian McKnight.
February 24, February 25 — Roger Hodgson.
March 9 — Peter Frampton.

Poway Center for the Performing Arts: 15498 Espola Rd., Poway, 858-748-0505.

January 21 — BeauSoleil.
February 14 — Crystal Gayle.
February 25 — Guitar Masters: Andy McKee, Antoine Dufour, and Stephen Bennett.

Ramona Mainstage Nightclub: 626 Main St., Ramona, 760-789-7008.
January 14 — Blacksborg.
January 21 — The Miles Schon Band.
January 22 — Uli Jon Roth, Richie Kotzen, Tony MacAlpine.
January 28 — Leatherwolf.
March 2 — Sophie B. Hawkins.

Shakedown Bar: 3048 Midway Dr., Midway District, 619-487-0373.
December 23 — Clepto, Abject, and the Scoundrels.
December 28 — Screamin Yeehaws.
December 30 — Dan Padilla, Rad Company, and Discretions.
December 31 — Nihilist.

Soda Bar: 3615 El Cajon Bl., City Heights, 619-255-7224.

December 22 — TV Girl, Tropical Popsicle, Clockart, Kynan.
December 23 — The Beaters.
December 31 — El Ten Eleven.

Soma: 3350 Sports Arena Bl., Midway District, 619-226-7662.
December 23 — Draind.
December 28 — Stick to Your Guns.
January 7 — City Delivered.
January 13 — Slightly Stoopid, the Aggrolites, Perro Bravo.
January 14 — Voodoo Glow Skulls and Authority Zero.
January 29 — The Toasters.
February 10 — Young the Giant.

Sycuan Casino Showcase Theatre: 5469 Casino Way, El

Cajon, 619-445-6002.
January 7 — Ed Kowalczyk.
February 11 — Terri Clark.
February 12 — Oak Ridge Boys.
February 19 — Juice Newton.
February 25, February 26 — Air Supply.

Til-Two: 4746 El Cajon Bl., Kensington-Talmadge, 619-516-4746.
December 31 — Grand Tarantula, Lady Dottie, the Bloody Hollies, Westside Inflection.

Tin Can Ale House: 1863 Fifth Ave., Bankers Hill, 619-955-8525.
December 22 — Skyline Union, Tracy Shedd, Kelsea Ray Little.
December 30 — Street of Little Girls.
December 31 — River City and Western Set.

Valley View Casino Center: 3500 Sports Arena Bl., Midway District, 619-224-4171.
April 10 — Kelly Clarkson.
April 28 — So Cal Reggae Festival 2012.
May 13 — Roger Waters.

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ALLIED GARDENS

Emilianos Mexican Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 2pm-6pm: \$1 off all beer; \$2 off Cadillac, strawberry, blue margaritas; \$2.50 medium regular margaritas; \$5.50 large regular margaritas. \$2 off all appetizers.

ALPINE

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.

BANKERS HILL

Avenue 5: Tuesday-Saturday, 5-8pm: \$2 off wines by the glass; \$3 drafts, wells. \$2 off bar food.

Wet Stone Wine Bar and Café: Daily, 5-7pm: \$5 big glass of select wine. \$2 small bites.

BAY PARK

Offshore: Tuesday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$2 domestics, \$3 sangria, well and micro imports, \$5 Tommy Bahama mojitos.

BONITA

Sapphire 18+ Lounge & Hookah: Tuesday-Saturday, all night: Cheap drinks. Cheap eats. 1/2-off hookahs Tuesday-Thursday 7-10pm.

CARDIFF

Chart House: Monday-Friday, 4:30-7pm: \$3 domestic drafts, \$4 premium drafts, wells, glass of wine, \$5 cocktails, \$6 martinis.

CARLSBAD

Flying Elephant: Monday, \$8 domestic pitchers during Monday Night Football. Wednesday, 4pm to close: \$9 beer pitchers, \$9 margarita pitchers. 1/2-off appetizers. Thursday, \$3 you-call-it Thursdays. Sunday, \$8 domestic pitchers all day.

Mr. Peabody's: Monday-Friday, 10am-6pm: \$2.50 domestic beer, wine, spooli shots, wells + juice. \$3.50 margaritas. Free taco bar 3pm to 6pm with drink purchase.

CARMEL MOUNTAIN

Oggi's Pizza & Brewing Co.: Tuesday-Friday, 3-7pm, 9-11pm: \$1 beer, mixed drinks. 1/2-off appetizers.

CARMEL VALLEY

Tio Leo's: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$3 domestic & Mexican pints, \$4 house margaritas & well drinks.

CHULA VISTA

El Dorado Seafood & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$2 beer, margaritas. \$1.50 tacos.

Veni Vidi Vici: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: \$1 off all drinks.

CITY HEIGHTS

Black Cat Bar: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: \$3.50 import drafts, \$2 PBR cans, \$5 martinis.

The Tower Bar: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$3 wells and import drafts.

CLAIREMONT

Boomerangs Gourmet Burger Joint: Daily, 4-7pm: Discounted draft beer. \$3.50 house wine.

Cucina Italiana: Wednesday, 1/2-off select wine bottles.

Viva Vino: Monday-Saturday, all day: \$.99 domestic beer.

COLLEGE AREA

California Kebab: Daily, 4-8pm: \$2 Heineken, Sam Adams, \$5 Coors Light pitchers, \$6 sangria carafes.

Pal Joey's: Daily, all day: \$3 personal pitchers.

Satin Lounge: Thursday, 9pm-close: \$1 Bud drafts.

CORONADO

Candelas on the Bay: Daily, 4-6pm: 1/2-off drinks & bar menu.

Chance Bistro: Monday-Friday, all day: \$4 or \$5 wine by the glass. \$7.99 burger/fries/drink.

Costa Azul: Monday-Friday, 3-6:30pm: \$3 Bud Light pints, domestic bottles. \$3.50 imported bottles, wells, house wine, sangria. \$3.75 drafts.



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elevensandiego.com

monkeypawbrewing.com

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Danny's Palm Bar: *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm: \$3 domestic drafts, \$4 wells.

DEL MAR

Zel's Del Mar: *Monday*, 4-6:30pm: \$5 "M" drinks: Moscow mules, margaritas, martinis, mojitos. *Tuesday*, 4-6:30pm: 1/2-price flatbreads. *Wednesday*, 4-6:30pm: 1/2-price bottles of wine.

DOWNTOWN

House of Blues: *Daily*, 4-7pm: \$2 domestic drafts, \$3 wines, \$3 wells, \$4 martinis. Killer happy hour menu.

Patrick's II: *Daily*, 10am-8pm: \$2.50 bottle beer, \$3 wells, Bud Light pints, \$4 calls, margaritas, bloody marys.

The Stage Rock Bar & Grill: *Daily*, 5-8pm: 1/2-off all wells, beer, wine.

Time Out Sports Bar: *Monday-Wednesday, Friday*, 3-7pm: \$2.50 16-ounce draft Time Out Lager, Bud, Bud Light. Sam Adams, \$3.50. 1/2-off appetizers. *Thursday*, all day: Thirsty Thursdays: Buy one pitcher, get second 1/2 off.

Yard House: *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm: \$3.50 domestic pints, \$4 craft/import pints, \$4.50 goblets, \$4.25 wells, \$5.75 house martinis, \$2 off wine by the glass. \$6.50 sliders, 1/2-off select appetizers & pizzas.

EAST VILLAGE

Hive Sushi Lounge: *Daily*, 5-7pm: \$2 domestic, \$4 micro, \$2.50 sake, \$3.50 well, \$4 house wine. Miso, edamame, \$.99.

Monkey Paw: *Monday-Friday*, 5-8pm: \$1 off drafts and cocktails.

EASTLAKE

Smokin' Sam's BBQ: *Monday-Friday*, 3-5pm: \$2.50 domestic pints, wine; \$3 sangria. Doggy happy hour: \$2 beef & rib bones.

EL CAJON

Flinn Springs Inn: *Monday-Friday*, 4-6pm: \$2 domestic drafts, \$2.25 domestic bottles, \$3 wells.

ENCINITAS

Blue Fin Sushi Bar: *Tuesday-Thursday*, 5-6pm: 1/2-off wine, beer, sake, select appetizers, sushi rolls.

ESCONDIDO

Vinz Wine Bar & Tasting Room: *Daily*, 5-7pm: \$6 wine, tapas; \$4.50 wells, \$3 doggie bites.

FALLBROOK

Aqua Terra: *Monday-Friday*, 4-6:30pm: \$3 domestic, \$9 pitcher; \$4 imported, \$12 pitcher; \$1/2-off sushi rolls (no sushi on Monday).

GOLDEN HILL

Turf Supper Club: *Friday-Sunday*, noon-4pm: \$1 off all beer/wine/spirits. \$5 lunch: 1/2-lb. burger, chicken sandwich, or two Louisiana hot links + chips.

GRANTVILLE

JT's Clubhouse Pub & Grill: *Monday*, 11am-7pm: \$3 domestic pints. 11am-4pm: 25¢ wings. *Tuesday*, 11am-7pm: \$3 domestic pints. 11am-4pm: \$1 tacos. *Wednesday*, 11am-7pm: \$3 domestic pints. 11am-close: \$1 sliders. *Thursday-Friday*, 11am-7pm: \$3 domestic pints. \$5.25 1/2-lb. burger with fries. *Saturday*, 11am-7pm: \$3 domestic pints. 4-8pm: 1/2-off all food. *Sunday*, 11am-7pm: \$3 domestic pints.

Tio Leo's: *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm: \$3 domestic & Mexican pints, \$4 house margaritas & well drinks.

HARBOR ISLAND

The Boathouse: *Daily*, 2:30pm-5pm: \$1.99 margaritas, \$3 Cuervo margaritas, \$3 Karl Strauss, \$4 mojitos.

HILLCREST

The Alibi: *Daily*, all day: \$3 dipper, wells.

Tre Porcellini: *Daily*, 4-7pm: \$3 domestic bottles, \$3.50 drafts and house wine.

Wine Steals: *Tuesday*, 5:30-7pm: \$5 wine tasting. *Saturday*, 4-6:30pm: \$10 wine tasting.

IMPERIAL BEACH

Club Bananas at Lydia's Café: *Daily*, open-10pm: \$3 wells & domestics.

KEARNY MESA

Pampas Argentine Grill: *Tuesday-Saturday*, 4:30-7pm: \$3 wells, \$3.50 drafts, \$4 wine specials. Discounted empanadas and appetizers.

Rayo Grill: *Daily*, 4:30-7pm: \$4 drafts, wines; \$3 domestic bottles.

Shogun Kobe Restaurant: *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm: At sushi bar: 30% off sushi and rolls (excludes sea urchin, giant clam, toro), 30% off sake and beer.

Tajima Sushi & Japanese Tapas: *Monday-Thursday*, 5:30-7pm: 1/2-off house sake/drafts.

KENSINGTON-TALMADGE

Til-Two: *Daily*, 4-7pm: \$3 wells and imported drafts.

LA JOLLA

La Jolla Brew House: *Tuesday-Thursday*, noon-7pm: \$2 off craft beer; \$3 wells and house wines; \$3 off appetizers. *Friday-Saturday*, 10pm-close: \$2 off craft beer; \$3 wells and house wines.

Su Casa: *Monday-Friday*, 5-7pm: 1/2-off wells and appetizers (excludes seafood & guacamole).

LA MESA

Casa de Pico: *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm: Free appetizer with purchase of bar drink. \$3.95 margarita.

Hoffer's Cigar Bar: *Monday-Saturday*, 11am-7pm: \$2 off all beer, \$1 off wine. *Sunday*, 1-7pm: \$2 off all beer, \$1 off wine.

LAKESIDE

Coach Stop: *Monday-Friday*, 9am-noon, 4-7pm: \$2.50 large drafts, domestic bottles. 7-11pm: \$1.50 12-oz. drafts, \$6.50 60-oz. pitchers.

LEMON GROVE

Dirk's Niteclub: *Monday-Saturday*, 4-7pm: \$.50 off all drinks \$4.50 or less. *Sunday*, 6am-2pm: \$1 off bloody marys.

LEUCADIA

Bar Leucadian: *Daily*, 4-7pm: \$2.75 wells, \$2.50 beer of the month, shot special.

The Calypso Café: *Daily*, 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

Tio Leo's: *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm: \$3 domestic & Mexican pints, \$4 house margaritas & well drinks.

LITTLE ITALY

Anthology: *Tuesday-Friday*, 5:30-7pm: \$6 wells, wine, featured beer, martinis, margaritas.

El Camino II: *Monday-Friday*, 5-7pm: \$3 margaritas, sangria, Corona, Corona Light. 1/2-off quesadilla & nacho plates. *Sunday*, 10am-4pm: \$1 mimosas.

Fat City Steakhouse: *Monday-Friday*, 4-7pm: \$2 drafts, \$3 wells, \$4 wine. 1/2-off appetizers.

Puerto la Boca: *Daily*, 4:30-7:30pm: \$3 house wine, \$3.50 drafts, wells, \$6 house martini. 30% off appetizers.

MIDWAY DISTRICT

Brazil by the Bay Restaurant and Sports Bar: *Monday-Friday*, 4-7pm: \$2.50 drafts, \$8 pitchers, \$2.50 French fries, \$4.50 chicken wings.

Brick Alley Bar & Grill: *Daily*, 3-7pm, 9pm-close: \$1 off pints, \$2 off tall beers.

Wine Steals: *Wednesday*, 5:30-7pm: \$5 wine tasting. *Saturday*, 4-6:30pm: \$10 wine tasting.

MIRA MESA

A Taste of Boston: *Daily*, 3-7pm: \$2.25 Bud draft, \$2.75 bottled beer (except Guinness), \$3 drafts, \$3.75 all wine. Discounted appetizers.

Bamboo Hut: *Daily*, 3-6pm: Buy large beer, get small house sake free. \$2.75 small beer, \$3.25 house wine.

MIRAMAR

The Filling Station: *Monday*, 7pm-close: \$4 margaritas. *Tuesday*, 7pm-close: \$2 kamikazes. *Wednesday*, 7pm-close: \$3.50 premium drafts. *Thursday*, 7pm-close: \$2.50 wells, domestic beers; \$7.50 domestic pitchers. *Saturday*, noon-7pm: \$3 mimosas. *Sunday*, noon-7pm: \$3 bloody marys.

MISSION BEACH

Guava Beach Bar & Grill: *Monday-Friday*, 4-7pm: Two-for-one cocktails, beer, shots.

MISSION HILLS

The Aero Club: *Daily*, 2pm-2am: \$.50 off beer and wells.

Bar Dynamite: *Monday-Saturday*, 5-9pm: \$2 domestics bottles and drafts, \$3 wells. Free food from Lucha Libre Taco Shop.

Starlite: *Monday-Saturday*, 5-7pm: \$3 drafts, wells, \$1 off other. *Sunday*, all night: \$5 mules. \$15 off wine bottles.

MISSION VALLEY

The Amigo Spot at Kings Inn: *Monday*, 4-7pm: \$3 Gold margaritas, house wine, \$2 drafts, \$3.50 wells. *Tuesday, Saturday*, 4-7pm: \$3 house wine, \$2 drafts, \$3.50 wells. *Wednesday*, 4-7pm: \$5 any martini, \$3 house wine, \$2 drafts, \$3.50 wells. *Thursday*, 4-7pm: \$3 house wine, wells, \$2 drafts. *Friday*, 4-7pm: \$1 off any tequila shot, \$3 house wine, bottled beer.

NATIONAL CITY

Buster's Beach House and Longboard Bar: *Daily*, 2-7pm: \$2.25 Bud drafts; \$3.50 mai tais, Long Beach tea, margaritas.

Pier 32 Waterfront Grill: *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm: \$2 domestic beer, \$3 import & local beer, \$4 house wine. *Saturday-Sunday*, all day: \$4 mimosas, bloody marys.

NESTOR

Baja Oyster Bar: *Monday-Thursday*, All day: \$.99 fish tacos. 3-6pm: Two-for-one domestic bottle, discounted special roll.

NORMAL HEIGHTS

Bourbon Street: *Monday-Friday*, 5-8pm: \$3 domestic pitchers, \$4 well drinks, \$5 imported pitchers.

Live Wire: *Daily*, 5-8pm: \$1 off drafts and cocktails.

NORTH PARK

Bar Pink: *Monday-Friday*, 4-8pm: \$1 off drafts and calls.

Lips Restaurant: *Sunday*, all night: Industry Night, \$3.50 wells, \$5.50 calls, 25% off entrées & appetizers. Must show employee ID or pay stub.

U-31: *Tuesday*, 5-8pm: \$2 drafts, tacos. *Saturday*, noon-6pm: \$3 you-call-its, burgers. *Sunday*, noon-6pm: \$2 Buds, mimosas.

OCEAN BEACH

3rd Corner Wine Shop & Bistro: *Tuesday-Saturday*, 3-6pm: \$4 sangria, \$4 glass of wine, \$5 specialty craft beers.

Blue Parrot: *Monday-Friday*, 2-6pm: All drinks and appetizers 1/2-price (all day Monday).

OCEANSIDE

Aryana at Holiday Inn: *Daily*, 5-7pm: \$2 domestics, wells; \$3 premiums, glass of wine. Appetizer specials.

P's & Q's Sports Pub & Grill: *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm: \$2 domestic pints, \$3 premium pints. \$3 chicken wings.

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**12/17 - Neon Beat with
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Mr. Vaughn Avakian**

**12/19 - Monday Mass with
DJs Buddha and Duse**

**12/20 - Tiki Tuesday with
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OLD TOWN

Casa Guadalajara: *Monday-Friday, 4-7pm:* Free appetizers. \$3.50 well drinks, margaritas, drink specials.

Cosmopolitan Hotel and Restaurant: *Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 3-6pm:* \$3 wells, house wine, and drafts.

Harney Sushi: *Wednesday, 5pm:* specialty cocktails.

Old Town Mexican Café: *Monday-Friday, 3-7pm, 11pm-close:* Drink & beer specials. \$2 Taco Tuesday (chicken, beef, fish, carnitas); \$2.50 margaritas, Tecate, tequila.

PACIFIC BEACH

Pacific Beach Ale House: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$3 drafts, wells, house wines. 1/2-price appetizers.

SD Tap Room: *Monday-Friday, 3-7pm:* \$1 off drafts, \$2 off appetizers. \$3.50 wine and sake.

Sinbad Café: *Daily, 4-8pm:* \$1.50 drafts, \$2 wells, shots, \$2.50 imports. 11am-8pm: \$12-\$15 hookahs.

Tony Roma's: *Daily, 1-4pm:* \$3 wells, drafts. \$3 off appetizers.

POINT LOMA

Jimmy's Famous American Tavern: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* 1/2-off all appetizers, drafts, wells, and select house wine.

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.

POWAY

Kaminski's BBQ & Sports Bar: *Monday, Wednesday-Friday, 3-6pm, 9-11pm:* \$1 off all wells, drafts, bottles, wine.

RAMONA

Boll Weevil Restaurant: *Monday-Friday, 3-5pm:* \$2 off all pitchers.

RANCHO BERNARDO

Bernard'O Restaurant: *Monday-Saturday, 4:30-7pm:* \$4 wells, \$2.75 domestic, \$3.50 imported/specialty, \$4.75 house margarita, \$5 house wine.

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: *Daily, 3-7pm:* 1/2-price drafts, wells, discounted bar-menu food.

Carvers Steak & Chops: *Monday-Friday, 2-6:30pm:* 1/2-off drinks. \$3-\$4 off appetizers.

Kelly's Public House: *Monday-Friday, 3-7pm:* \$2 domestic drafts, \$8 pitchers, \$3.50 wells, house wines.

RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS

Deli Stop Sports Pub: *Daily, 4pm-7pm:* \$1 off all beer; \$3 Corona, \$3 wine; \$1 off all appetizers.

RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Cottonwood Golf Club Bar & Restaurant: *Daily, 4-6pm:* \$2 drafts. 1/2-off all appetizers including pizza, quesadillas, wings, calamari.

RANCHO SANTA FE

Delicias: *Daily, 4-6pm:* \$5 draft beers, house wines, wells.

SAN MARCOS

Back Alley Grill: *Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-9pm:* \$2.50 drafts, \$4.50 imports and house wines. \$1 Taco Tuesday,

50¢-a-Wing Wednesday, \$1 off pitchers Thirsty Thursday.

SANTEE

Landre's Sports Bar & Grill: *Daily, 4-7pm:* \$1 off all drinks. \$5 appetizers: potato skins, garlic/bacon fries, shrimp cocktail, more.

SCRIPPS RANCH

Stone Flats: *Daily, 3-5pm, 7-9pm:* \$1 Bud/Bud Light; 1/2-off all other beer/wine.

SERRA MESA

Channel 1 Sports Bar and Grill: *Sunday, 2-5pm:* mind erasers, kamikazes. \$3.50 mimosas, bloody marys.

SHELTER ISLAND

Blue Wave Bar & Grill: *Daily, 4-7pm:* \$1 off drinks; \$3-\$5 appetizers, including jumbo shrimp cocktail and crispy fried calamari.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club: *Daily, 5-7pm:* 1/2-off all drinks & menu items (excludes holiday/concert nights).

SOLANA BEACH

Chief's Burgers and Brew: *Tuesday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$2.50 domestic, \$3.50 microbrew. 1/2-off appetizers.

SORRENTO VALLEY

Ali Baba's Cave: *Daily, 3-7pm:* 22-oz. beer \$4 (including tax). \$12 hookahs, \$5 refills.

Karl Strauss Brewing Company: *Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm:* \$3.50 beer.

SOUTH PARK

Alchemy: *Monday-Friday, 4-6pm:* \$2 off wells, including Skyy, Seagram's,

Jim Beam, Sauza Gold, \$2 off wines/glass, draft.

Hamilton's Tavern and Café: *Daily, 5-8pm:* \$1 off local drafts.

SPRING VALLEY

California Comfort: *Daily, 4-7pm:* \$2.50 domestic pints, wells, house wine.

TIERRASANTA

Bellagio Ristorante & Bakery: *Monday, 4-7pm:* 10% off for military. \$2 drafts. *Wednesday, 4-7pm:* 1/2-off select wine bottles. *Friday, 4-7pm:* \$10 wine flights.

JP's Pub: *Monday-Friday, 3-5pm:* \$2.50 wells, domestic drafts, \$3.25 house wine.

UNIVERSITY CITY

Apollonia Greek Bistro: *Daily, 3:30-6:30pm:* \$3 ouzo apéritif, \$2 bottled beers, \$3 wine by the glass.

Michael's Lounge in the Hyatt Regency: *Daily, 5-7pm:* \$4 drafts and well cocktails.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

Apertivo Italian Tapas & Wine Bar: *Daily, noon to 6 pm:* \$3 beer, wine, and sangria.

Small Bar: *Monday-Friday, 5-8pm:* \$1 off drafts and cocktails.

VALLEY CENTER

Casa Reveles Mexican & Seafood Restaurant: *Monday-Friday, 2-6pm:* \$2 domestic. \$3 imports, wells. Discounted appetizers.

VISTA

Chili Coast Burgers: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$.50-\$.75 off tap beer.



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Rewind the Clock

He's nostalgic for something that's gone, not hopeful for what could be.

Jacob Marley's isn't the only Ghost of Christmas Past. Everyone probably has a few. They may not arrive in chains, shaking a bony finger at the void, and whispering "beware." In fact, they may be recollections so fond they're painful. The season conjures the ghosts of seasons past. That's the premise behind *Some Lovers*, a world premiere musical by Burt Bacharach (music) and Steven Sater (book and lyrics) — that and you can't "rewind the clock."

Molly met Ben 20 years ago on Christmas Eve. She was a waitress in an Italian restaurant where he played a piano. Something clicked. Suddenly Ben's writing all kinds of songs, each inspired by Molly, including the hit that puts his name, briefly, in lights. But it's clear from the start that Ben needs Molly more than he wants her: she's his muse first, then his beloved, and always plays second fiddle to his composing.

Flash-forward 20 years. Ben and Molly have separated. He's unable to compose without her. She's had hard financial times and must leave New York. As she faces the end of an era, they recall a holiday tradition: Christmas Eves at the Plaza Hotel, where they read O. Henry's "Gift of the Magi" to each other.

In the story, Della and James are so poor their furnished flat almost qualifies for the "mendicancy squad." The "two foolish children" sell their greatest treasures — his watch chain and locks of her hair — to buy gifts for each other: pure tortoise shell combs, and The Watch. O. Henry says their extreme sacrifices make them as wise as the magi.

As in a play by Alan Ayckbourn, *Some Lovers* takes place in multiple dimensions. Young Ben and Molly share the stage with older Ben and Molly. They become, for each other, Ghosts of Christmas Past and Future.

Della and James make almost a third couple, since their story unfolds, a section at a time, during the 95-minute, intermissionless musical.

Sater, who wrote the book and lyrics for the Tony Award-winning *Spring Awakening*, makes good use of the cross-referencing, at first. The young lovers look at what they've become and comment. The older ones look back. They recall the sparks of love and conflict. The technique gives the older Molly a line you'll never hear in real life. She tells her younger self, "God, you're boring. No wonder he left me."

Burt Bacharach is 83. Burt Bacharach is 83. Burt Bacharach is 83 — so where did he find



(from left) Jason Daniele as Ben, Jenni Barber as Young Molly, Michelle Duffy as Molly, and Andrew Mueller as Young Ben in *Some Lovers*

Some Lovers, music by Burt Bacharach, book and lyrics by Steven Sater

Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park


Directed by Will Frears: cast: Jason Daniele, Michelle Duffy, Andrew Mueller, Jenni Barber; scenic design, Takeshi Kata; costumes, Jenny Mannis; lighting, Ben Stanton; sound, Leon Rothenberg; orchestrations, Jonathan Tunick

Playing through December 31; Tuesday through Sunday at 7:00 p.m. Matinee Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 619-234-5623

the energy and the imagination to write such a rich score? Is 83 the new 63? Even so, how many 63-year-olds can compose 18 songs that circle the zodiac of love, from sprightly infatuation to hard,

jaded truths, to the possibility of love reborn?

And how many can weave them into what feels, in some ways, like a single song, or *Goldberg Variations* on a theme? The songs both break



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SOME LOVERS
A WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL



TICKETS START AT \$35

On Christmas Eve, estranged lovers Molly and Ben are haunted by visions from long ago. Over the course of one unforgettable night, past and present collide as the ghosts of their former selves help them find forgiveness and fall in love again. Featuring a new score by Bacharach, *SOME LOVERS* is a love story for today.

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away from and then echo each other. In effect, they do what the book does: pit then against now, musically, and the differences resonate.

Bacharach gives each performer at least one knockout number. Young Ben (Andrew Mueller) gets the rocker, "Welcome to My World"; Young Molly (Jenni Barber) picks up on the Christmas Past and Future theme in "Living with a Ghost"; Ben (Jason Daniele), "A Thousand Things That Were You"; and Molly (Michelle Duffy) gives the showstopper "Just Walk Away" a hint of Dionne Warwick.

(In an interview, Bacharach said *Some Lovers* isn't autobiographical — but, in the story, Young Molly complains that Young Ben writes only for “that girl,” who is by far the best interpreter of his songs; for years, “that girl” for Bacharach was Dionne Warwick.)

Because the music often references itself, especially the beginnings of songs, parts tend to feel repetitive. That said, the score, much more often than not, is a wonder. The problem is: the characters aren't worthy of the music.

Look past Sater's ingenious double-pairing and Ben and Molly are little more than generic types: whether young or old. He hasn't changed in 20 years, yet we're supposed to believe he finally will? Does he want an adult relationship or just to "rewind the clock"? The music almost convinces that he might want the former, but his pattern of behavior — music first, Molly a distant second — suggests otherwise. He's nostalgic for something that's gone, not hopeful for what could be.

And Molly? Take away the “Gift of the Magi” stuff, which feels tacked onto the narrative (and reeks of guilt on his part), and one wonders how she could give Ben near-unconditional love for so long. They had a neurotic interlock, not reciprocated love. The music and Sater’s strongest writing build a convincing case against their reconnecting. Too many of her observations (“nothing left but the tears”; “who we had to become to make room for each other”; “he killed Christmas”) suggest she should cut bait and head to Michigan after all. ■

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 Child's Christmas in Wales
Point Loma Actors Theatre stages Dylan Thomas's memory play about "those years around the seacoast corner and out of all sound except the distant speaking of the voices I sometimes hear a moment before sleep."
POINT LOMA ASSEMBLY, 3035 TALBOT ST., POINT LOMA. 619-225-0044. 7:30PM FRIDAY AND SUNDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 18.

A Christmas Carol: The Radio Show
Sound effects wiz Scott Paulson performs David Albert's new one-person adaptation of the Dickens classic in 1940s radio style.
CARLSBAD VILLAGE THEATRE, 2822 STATE ST., CARLSBAD. 760-720-2460.
7:30PM THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, 4PM AND 7:30PM SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.

Actors Who Write
This site-specific theater project presents a concert reading of original material based on secrets and lies. The ensemble includes actor/writers from each decade - 20's to 60s.
ENCINITAS LIBRARY, 540 CORNISH DR., ENCINITAS. 760-753-7376. 6PM
FRIDAY.

An Irish Christmas
The Balboa Theatre hosts a celebration of Christmas in Ireland “music, song, traditional dance, storytelling.”
BALBOA THEATRE, 868 FOURTH AVE.,
DOWNTOWN. 619-570-1100. 7:30PM
FRIDAY.

Camelot
King Arthur, Sir Lancelot, and Queen Guinevere enact their tragic triangle at Vista's Avo Playhouse.
AVO PLAYHOUSE, 303 MAIN ST., VISTA.
760-724-2110. 8PM SATURDAY, NOON SUNDAY.

Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol
The old curmudgeon's in Julian for the holidays, where he'll find the true meaning of life and love amid horse-drawn carriages, strolling carolers, and spiced cider.

JULIAN TOWN HALL, 2129 MAIN ST., JULIAN. 760-765-1857. 7PM FRIDAY, 1:30PM AND 7PM SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 18.

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas

There's a new Grinch in town and he's a hoot. Steve Blanchard's nasty enough to inspire trepidation but establishes an instant rapport with his audience and cements the connection with laughter. It's clear early on that the Grinch's heart isn't just "full of unwashed socks." Along with the traditional holiday show, the Old Globe carries on another one: it hires local actors, among them Steve Gunderson (terrific as Old Max the dog), Geno and Nancy

Snow Carr, Randall Dodge, Phil Johnson, and eight-year-old Caitlin McAuliffe, who alternates as Cindy Lou Who with Remy Margaret Corbin. Robert Morgan's candy-stripe costumes combine with John Lee Beatty's set — snowdrifts that resemble giant marshmallows — to create the appropriately cartoon-like stage picture. *Worth a try.*

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623.
7PM TUESDAYS THROUGH FRIDAYS;
11AM, 2PM, AND 5PM SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 31.

Emilia's Sugarplum Nightmare
Fifteen-year-old Emilia romps through history "and all the way to the North Pole" in this "Vaudeville-flavored comedy."
LIBERTY HALL THEATER AT PARADISE VILLAGE, 2700 EAST 4TH ST., NATIONAL CITY. 8PM THURSDAYS, 8PM SATURDAYS, 7:30PM SUNDAYS, 8PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 22.

Greetings
And “greetings” to Mira Mesa Theatre Guild — doing its first full-length play in a decade: Tom Dudzick’s “boy bring’s fiancé home” holiday comedy.
EPICENTRE, 8450 MIRA MESA BL., MIRA MESA. 858-271-4000. 7PM FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 17.

It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play

Cygnnet Theatre presents its extremely popular holiday show. In this staged version of the movie, you now only watch the familiar story of George Bailey, you see how it's made in a 1947 radio studio: announcers, actors reading lines, flashing applause signs, even a commercial for Lux soap. The story's still a grabber: what would life be like without George, whose selfless generosity abandoned his dreams for others? The show boasts, among other features, Tom Andrew's Craig Noel-winning performance as George. Worth a try.

CYGNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. 7:30PM TUESDAYS THROUGH THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 3PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 31.

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol
Oceanside Theatre Company presents Tom Mula's tale about what happens to Ebenezer Scrooge's business partner after his death. Christopher Williams directed.
SUNSHINE BROOKS THEATRE, 217 N. COAST HWY., OCEANSIDE. 760-529-9140. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 2PM AND 7:30PM FRIDAYS, 7:30PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 24.

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Jesus Christ Superstar
Big, splashy on the outside, humble and personal within, Des McAnuff's *Superstar* has taken the pranksterism out of the original. The show is much more reverent than ir-. And everyone's fallible, including the Nazarene. The leads — Paul Nolan (Jesus), Josh Young (Judas), and Chilina Kennedy (Magdalene) — belt songs with verve and ease. And so does everyone else. The musical is “through-composed.” Songs follow songs with almost no dialogue. You could say the production is “through-directed.” Scenes evolve with near constant movement. Time speeds up. Days become hours become minutes. The theatricality is extraordinary.

Critic's Pick.
LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DR., UCSD. 858-550-1010.
8PM THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS, 2PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM TUESDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 31.

Jingle Bell Rock
Welk Resort Theatre presents the Alley Cats' new Christmas show, singing popular holiday songs in a doo-wop, a cappella style.
WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WALK DR., ESCONDIDO, 888-802-7469. 1PM AND 8PM THURSDAYS AND SATURDAYS, 1PM SUNDAYS, 1PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 31.

La Pastorela de Valor
In Teatro Mascara Magica's 21st annual holiday show (the longest running in San Diego), the Prince of Darkness hassles shepherds on their way to Bethlehem. Little

does he know that the Archangel Michael's keeping a close eye on their journey. William Virchis directed.

LYCEUM THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN. 619-544-1000. 7:30PM TUESDAYS THROUGH FRIDAYS, 2PM AND 7:30PM SATURDAYS, 7:30PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 24.

Lamb's Festival: The Spirit of Christmas Present
Kerry Meads set her annual Christmas story "somewhere uptown," today. Neighbors isolated from each other come together and experience the play's title: "The Spirit of Christmas Present." The outcome is never in doubt. What propels the production are terrific musical arrangements (Jon Lorenz and Leonard Patton) and *real* close to the vest harmonies. Kathi Gibbs Woods heads the cast as Mrs. Riley, a homeless, mystical woman able to forge unsuspected links. Jeanne Reith's excellent costumes range from chic to hand-me-down.

Worth a try.

LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-437-0600.
7:30PM TUESDAYS THROUGH THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 4PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 6PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 30.

Late Nite Catechism
Welk Resorts Theatre presents the popular comedy in which "Sister" conducts a catechism class with no holds barred.
WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860
LAWRENCE WELK DR., ESCONDIDO.
888-802-7469. 8PM FRIDAY, THROUGH
DECEMBER 16.

Learn to Be Latina

Enrique Urueta's equal opportunity

offender has toured the country. But *Diversionary's* iffy production makes one wonder why it's getting so much play. In order to advance her career, execs tell Hanan Mashaiani, a promising young singer, that she isn't marketable. She must drop her Lebanese heritage and pose as a Latina (she must "keep the West and drop the rest"). *Diversionary's* staging, by an uncredited director, has sketchy scenes, languid pacing, and uninspired choreography. It becomes clear that the script needs externals — offensive racial slurs, an obnoxious hand puppet — to prop up a flimsy story line. Along the way, the playwright dabbles with the politics of gender, identity, and sexual preference. But they linger in the wings, more than anything else, as pseudo-validations of the story.

DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-220-0097. 8PM THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 18.

Life of a Sofa
Vista's Broadway Theatre hosts the world premiere of Randall Hickman's vignettes about the various owners of a sofa over 100 years. Each takes place at Christmas.
BROADWAY THEATRE, 340 EAST BROADWAY, VISTA. 760-806-7905.
7:30PM THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, 2PM AND 7:30PM SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 18.

Little Women

Patio Playhouse stages Peter Clapham's dramatic adaptation of the Louisa May Alcott novel about sisters growing up in Civil War America.

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PHOTOGRAPH BY J.T. MACMILLAN

Memory triggers zip past in Mixtape's revue of 1980s music.
Ends Sunday at the Horton Grand.

PATIO PLAYHOUSE, 201 EAST GRAND AVE., ESCONDIDO. 760-746-6669. 8PM FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 18.

Martinis N' Mistletoe

The ReddTones, a Las Vegas lounge act, present "a wacky mix of traditional holiday music, popular songs, and special Broadway selections."

MOXIE AT ROLANDO THEATRE, 6663 EL CAJON BL., SUITE N, COLLEGE AREA. 858-598-7620. 2PM SUNDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 18.

Mistletoe, Music, and Mayhem

Now in its second year at North Coast Rep, this wacky satire of Yuletide doings could become a tradition for the company. Creators Matt Thompson and Phil Johnson have added new material and filled out last year's effort to 90 minutes. Some bits are funnier than others (among them a 12-year-old from hell who sits on Santa's lap and gives him what for; and ornaments that watch love bloom before their eyes). What's consistent all evening is the performers' versatility. Jacques Wilke, Tony Houck, Kevin Koppman-Gue — household names in theater circles — and new faces Heather Paton and BJ Lawrence Rolodex through dozens of characters, accents, and costumes, always with admirable precision. NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. 8PM THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 18.

Mr. Scrooge & Mr. Dickens

PowPAC presents the traditional *A Christmas Carol*, but with Charles Dickens reading sections from his manuscript. POWPAC, POWAY'S COMMUNITY THEATRE, 13250 POWAY RD., POWAY. 858-679-8085. 7PM FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 18.

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 AND SATURDAYS, OPEN-ENDED RUN.

Night Stage to Big Shaft

Peggy Sue Productions presents a dinner-theater show set in 1853. "When a new mine and a dead lawyer are discovered, everyone becomes a suspect." MIKKI'S CAFE, 1639 EAST VALLEY PARKWAY, ESCONDIDO. 7:30PM FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS, OPEN-ENDED RUN.

Santaland Diaries

New Village Arts presents David Sedaris's story of an out-of-work actor who takes a job as an elf at Santaland. Samuel Sherman directed. Daren Scott reprises his role as the actor/elf. NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B STATE ST., CARLSBAD. 760-433-3245. 8PM THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS, 3PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 21.

Some Lovers

The Old Globe Theatre presents the world premiere of a new musical by Steven Sater (book and lyrics) and Burt Bacharach (music). Will Frears directed the piece, a re-imagining of O. Henry's "The Gift of the Magi." OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 7PM TUESDAYS THROUGH FRIDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 31.

The Dinner Detective North San Diego

An interactive and improvised comedic murder mystery set in the present day. None of our performers are dressed in costume, but instead are dressed just like everyone else; therefore, the audience doesn't know who's a part of the show and who isn't. CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS, ESCONDIDO, 340 NORTH ESCONDIDO BL., ESCONDIDO. 760-839-4138. 6:15PM SATURDAY.

The Messiah

Community Actors Theatre presents a musical drama, adapted and directed by Jennie Hamilton, about "a story that can never be told too many times."

COMMUNITY ACTORS THEATRE, 2957 54TH ST., COLLEGE AREA. 619-264-3391. 7PM THURSDAY, 8PM FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 3PM SUNDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 18.

The Musical "Annie"

Star Theatre stages the popular musical about never giving up hope. Songs include "It's the Hard-Knock Life," "Easy St.," "N.Y.C." and the ever-optimistic "Tomorrow." STAR THEATRE, 402 N. COAST HWY., OCEANSIDE. 760-721-9983. 7:30PM THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, 2PM AND 7:30PM SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY.

You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown

Scripps Ranch Theatre presents the Tony Award-winning musical about a day in the life of Charlie Brown and cartoonist Charles M. Schulz's *Peanuts* gang. Joey Landwehr directed. SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 10455 POMERADO RD., SCRIPPS RANCH. 858-578-7728. 8PM FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 17.

miXtape

Jon Lorenz and Colleen Kollar Smith, creators of this revue of 1980s music, say that favorite songs "mark your memories." *miXtape* is performed with rampant energy and polish by an eight-person cast. Memory-triggers zip past: Pet Rocks, Pac-Man, Nelson Mandela, AIDS. Most of the songs are actually song-bites. But backed by Andy Ingersoll's versatile band and under Kerry Meads's feisty direction, *miXtape* is always entertaining — and memory-provoking. (Note: Lamb's Players has extended the run several times.) 619-437-0600. Worth a try. HORTON GRAND HOTEL, 311 ISLAND AVE., DOWNTOWN. 800-542-1886. 7:30PM THURSDAY, 8PM FRIDAY, 4PM AND 8PM SATURDAY, 4PM SUNDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 18.

Oddball Charmer

An impeccable spirit of devotion to old show biz and to our imagination.

Glad tidings, of coming holiday gifts:

The Artist

"I won't talk!" silently mouths an actor in the silent movie being made inside *The Artist*, a film that is itself almost entirely silent in speech. Soon after, a studio sign says: Please Be Silent.

But you will be hearing the humming sound of your own thoughts, along with laughs, as you submit happily to Michel Hazanavicius's film.

Like the best parts of Martin Scorsese's *Hugo*, this strange new film is in love with movie love. The French director, whose clever but corny Bond parody *OSS 117* did not prepare me for this, has made a silky valentine to silent Hollywood. Come Oscar time,

the buzzing hive of modern Hollywood may respond with a prize or two (I personally nominate the lead actor). This black-and-white film has an impeccable spirit of devotion to

old show biz and to our imagination of what it once was. It doesn't have to be wildly funny or perfectly plotted to sustain its power of artful silence (words are heard only near the end, and the simple story requires few on-screen dialogue cards).

The ace card is the casting of Jean Dujardin as American star George Valentin, whose popularity withers as sound comes in. His old-style Brillantine hair and "pencil moustache" are often braced by a huge grin. He looks terrific in costumes or, even better,



***The Artist* is a triumph, marching blithely to its own, silent drummer.**

a three-piece suit. He loves life, and movies, and women, and mirrors, and his dog Jack, a virtual clone of Asta in the *Thin Man* series (he is played by three Jack Russell terriers: Uggie, Dash, and Dude). As jaunty George

grins, poses, and wanders, his sad wife droops like a potted palm (Penelope Ann Miller had more fun as Edna Purviance, Charlie's favorite costar, in 1992's *Chaplin*).

George's bounding gusto recalls

Douglas Fairbanks Sr., the Hollywood "king" (before Clark Gable) who aged quickly after sound came in. He looks like the forgotten '30s star Warren William, and he soulfully echoes John Gilbert, another major moustache and a gifted actor who was ruined less by talk than the control mania of the Mayer-Thalberg regime at MGM. Despite the devoted support of Greta Garbo, Gilbert became a truly painful figure, and Hazanavicius was smart not to overdo the comparison.

San Diego Film Critics Society Announces 2011 Nominations

By Scott Marks — Dec. 12, 11:27 a.m.

Texas Instruments Predicts All-Digital Projection by 2015

By Scott Marks — Dec. 8, 4:28 p.m.

A Closer Look at the Trailer for Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close

By Matthew Lickona — Dec. 8, 12:10 p.m.

Part 6: Famous Movie Poster Rejects You've Never Seen (Exclusive)

By Jay Allen Sanford — Dec. 8, 12:49 a.m.

New Poster for The Dark Knight Falls, er, Rises

By Matthew Lickona — Dec. 12, 11:41 a.m.

A Closer Look at the Trailer for The Three Stooges

By Matthew Lickona — Dec. 8, 7:49 a.m.

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IN THEATERS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

Calendar MOVIES

Resisting sound, George produces a silent film (a bomb), and then sulk and drinks, gives up the mansion, auctions his treasures, even sadly fires his devoted servant (James Cromwell, almost as loyal as the dog Jack). Through it all, Dujardin has great dignity, is hugely likeable, and pulls off touches of comic poignancy not far from Chaplin's.

As Peppy Miller, who grabs the golden ring of sound and whose love for George stalls for a while in wistful friendship, Bérénice Bejo is certainly committed (in life she is Hazanavi-

cius's partner). She sure is peppy, though female stars of the era had more flesh; the skinny gals rose up later, with Ida Lupino, Lauren Bacall, and Veronica Lake. Bejo, who looks like a prettier Carol Burnett, is a plot device to bring on the smiles, kisses, and meet-cutes. She is what that era would have called "swell."

Dujardin's true costar is the immaculate design, the old devices (spinning headlines, dissolves, wipe-cuts, well-dressed crowds), the not-too-computerized vistas of classic L.A. — above all, the lovely tonalities of gray and silver, which are mostly quite close to what old movies looked like. The actors (Cromwell, Miller, Ed Lauter, Malcolm McDowell, and,



Carnage — Marginal Polanski, yet with an infallible equilibrium of actors

as the studio boss, John Goodman) fold into the atmosphere like pale, mute ghosts of themselves. The film murmurs delicate echoes of *A Star Is Born* and silent comedies and that great, joyful lie about the coming of sound, *Singin' in the Rain*. You don't need to be a buff to feel the pleasure.

Guillaume Schiffman's photography rivals Gordon Willis's for *Zelig*, Woody Allen's tricky comedy about '20s celebrity mania. The wittiest touch is that George so loves his silent-but-virile world of movie heroics that he seems to think and dream in silence. In a nightmare, he hears simple bathroom devices making noises, like subversive imps. Talk threatens his complacently happy posturing as a star, though he is never a dumb ditz like Jean Hagen in *Singin' in the Rain*. (But is George really an artist? His films seem pretty bad.) The retro clichés are not stale — as Hazanavicius has said, the "grammar of the movie is to play with clichés, and the clichés protect each other."

In the later, 1932 segment of the film, the official portrait of President Calvin Coolidge in a public building is several years too late, and the use of yearning music from Hitchcock's *Vertigo* is 26 years too early (and rather impudent). But that pilferage works surprisingly well and is clearly Hazanavicius's tribute to a greater artist. Less witty than *Zelig*, less rich in Depression emotion than *Pennies from Heaven*, less stunningly stylized than Kerry Conran's *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow*, this oddball charmer is still a triumph, marching blithely to its own, silent drummer. Dujardin, so much more than a nos-

talgia moustache, gives it the heart of a star.

The Artist opens December 23 at Landmark's Hillcrest and La Jolla Village Cinemas.

★★★★

Carnage

If you want a talkie — All Talking! All Snapping! All Bitching! — the motor mouth is *Carnage*. The mouth comes with a good body, for no one in the past 20 years has made movies more lucidly designed or crisply controlled than has Roman Polanski. Consider *Bitter Moon*, *The Ninth Gate*, *The Pianist*, *Oliver Twist*, and *The Ghost Writer*. This is hardly surprising, for back in 1973 Polanski directed what may be the most handsomely packaged narrative film of the modern era, *Chinatown*.

Carnage, another fine-looking job, is an effectively filmed play. Yasmina Reza's Tony-winning drama *The God of Carnage* is in go-for-the-jugular, theatrical debt to Edward Albee and his two-couple spin of squirming and laceration, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Yep, the Woolf is at the door again. The revelation, by now fairly redundant, is that every sophisticated adult has a child inside, screaming to get out and make a mess.

Alan (Christoph Waltz) and Nancy (Kate Winslet) come to the tasteful Brooklyn flat of Michael (John C. Reilly) and Penelope (Jodie Foster) to apologize for their son having injured the other couple's boy in a rage (the kids are barely seen; one is played by Polanski's son, Elvis). It doesn't take long for nervous but gracious maturity to quiver, crack, and fly apart in

verbal ambushes, lubricated by deluxe scotch. Proud adulthood, symbolized by Penelope's precise stacking of her art books, sinks into recrimination and gender hostility.

The acting marathon is adroitly blocked and paced by Polanski and impeccably shot by Pawel Edelman. We can relish the mommy-lady control wires of Foster as she turns into a crass shrieker; the Euro-hauteur of Waltz (the Nazi marvel of *Inglourious Basterds*) as he spears everyone with sly zings — when he's not on his cell phone, compulsively arranging a corporate cover up; the blunt, amiable guyness of Reilly, who finds his meatball gravity in the line "They don't give a shit!" Above all, the flaking composure of Winslet as she disintegrates into disgust and ballistic vomit (funny, if you remember her surviving *Titanic*).

This is marginal Polanski from a minor play, yet it has an infallible equilibrium of actors. The verbal and emotional pinballing is worthy of directors Mike Nichols and Robert Altman in high form. The sense of a vain, shallow society exposing its brittle bones is fairly comical, though finally less *Virginia Woolf* than *Who's Afraid of Neil Simon?* This is your chance to witness the drowning of a cell phone as a symbolic castration, and a hissy fit of hysteria caused by the violent emptying of a purse. Such vulnerable dopes, such silly seriousness.

Carnage opens December 23 at Landmark's Hillcrest Cinema.

★★★

Reviewed in the movie capsules: *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows*, *The*

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Calendar

MOVIES

and then must buy, steal, or gamble time to keep living. Justin Timberlake is the cocky but time-short rebel, and doe-eyed Amanda Seyfried the spoiled princess who, Patty Hearst-like, joins his revolt against the pampered plutocrats led by her father. It's a true Hollywood fantasy about a world forever young, yet also a nightmare about our current capitalist malaise. A few slippery details should not spoil your fun. 2011. — D.E.

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

J. Edgar — Under the stone-slab “classical” direction of Clint Eastwood, Leonardo DiCaprio dutifully plays J. Edgar Hoover as an anal-retentive power freak and mama’s boy (Judi Dench is mom). Building the FBI, he strikes fierce poses but remains a weak, petty neurotic. Writer Dustin Lance Black (*Milk*) never digs very far, and Edgar’s dithering, germ-phobic crush on wry, slightly swish agent Tolson (Armie Hammer) is stuck in an empty closet where they fuss and feud, becoming old maids bound by sexless devotion. This blend of history and gossip is well photographed, seems official in a vaguely insolent way, and lingers over the Lindbergh kidnapping case. The small gasps of life are from old Cagney clips. Eastwood has added this new wing to his sprawling movie museum, and Hoover might as well be a statue. 2011. — D.E.

★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION VALLEY 20; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Jack and Jill — A film about the perils of success. Watch Al Pacino do his damndest to shed his legacy (and goof on his beloved Shakespeare while he’s at it). Watch Adam Sandler take the lash to himself for getting rich via crass hackwork. Watch them both pretend that what they really want is to get back to their humble roots. And see it all wrapped in the terrifying package that is Sandler in drag. Also starring Katie Holmes and fart jokes. 2011. — M.L.

● (FASHION VALLEY 18; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14)

Like Crazy — A loosely tossed romance, with hand-held camera work almost trying to hold our hands. Felicity Jones is the young Brit student in L.A., Anton Yelchin

the aspiring furniture maker wowed by her. Their love hits a snag with her visa problems and other issues, but director Drake Doremus keeps it humming, perhaps appealing to the same crowd that loved *Once* and *Before Sunrise*, though without the deft stylishness of those charmers. With Jennifer Lawrence, Alex Kingston, Ben York Jones. 2011. — D.E.

★★ (HILLCREST; LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

London Boulevard — Colin Farrell, all grown up and polished smooth, plays a roughneck ex-con trying to escape the unsavory associations of his past (greasy Ben Chaplin) and embrace the associations of his decidedly brighter future (reclusive actress-in-need-of-protection Keira Knightley). The story? Hoary. But the cast is masterful, especially Ray Winstone as a kinky, frightening crime boss and David Thewlis as a drugged-up hanger-on with an earnest streak under all his world-weary posturing. 2011. — M.L.

★★ (GASLAMP 15)

Machine Gun Preacher — Gerard Butler plays the life-based Sam Childers, an ex-con hellraiser who catches some gospel piety from his wife (Michelle Monaghan). He hauls the family to Sudan, where children are being brutalized (or doing the brutalization), and in the name of God he puts his violent skills to work as a rescuer. Marc Forster’s film has two opposing elements that prop each other uneasily: Christian piety and hard-action realism. But the actors (notably Michael Shannon as an addict getting a new chance) provide some pulpy conviction. 2011. — D.E.

★★ (GASLAMP 15)

Margin Call — Not bad, if you want the 2008 financial collapse reduced to an adrenalized ego showdown in f-wordy debt to David Mamet. Kevin Spacey is the greed pig who squishes best. Jeremy Irons is the predator who heads the investment firm, seeming to welcome disaster with a shark’s appetite. Writer-director J.C. Chandor makes high-rises feel like cold coffins, and unhappy occupants include Simon Baker, Paul Bettany, Zachary Quinto, Stanley Tucci, Demi Moore. In this glib, involving cartoon of complex truths, are we truly meant to feel for lonely Spacey because he mourns his dog? 2011. — D.E.

★★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE)



The Muppet Christmas Carol 1992. This musical comedy adaptation of the Dickens story stars the Muppets and Michael Caine as Ebenezer Scrooge. **Wednesday, December 21, 6 p.m.**

LATINO FILM SERIES

MiraCosta College - San Elijo 3333 Manchester Avenue, room 204, Cardiff 760-944-4449 x7782

Boulevard Nights 1979. Actor Richard Yñiguez will be on hand for screening of this film in which he played a young Chicano who finds himself repeatedly drawn back into gang life. **Friday, December 16, 6 p.m.**

EPIC MOVIES

98 Bottles 2400 Kettner Boulevard suite 110, Little Italy 619-255-7885

Die Hard 1988. Bruce Willis plays a NYPD officer, Bonnie Bedelia is his estranged wife, and Alan Rickman is nefarious thief Hans Gruber in this flick. **National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation** screens as well. **Wednesday, December 21, 6 p.m.**



Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked — Animation joins live action on a tropical isle

Melancholia — At a swank European estate that is mainly a golf course, bored heirress Kirsten Dunst wanders, frets, bathes, and has sex in a sand trap (but not with her dull new groom). Her impish father (John Hurt) steals silver spoons. Kiefer Sutherland has tantrums, Charlotte Rampling is bitter, Charlotte Gainsbourg is a sadly sane sister, and Stellan Skarsgård is a crude, obnoxious billionaire. Oh, and a rogue planet is approaching Earth. We pray for the collision to end this debacle by master-of-art-tedium Lars von Trier. It’s like an Ingmar Bergman parody stuck at a cheap sci-fi convention. Since Von Trier scandalized Cannes by saying he might be a Nazi, is it possible to convene a trial for aesthetic crimes? 2011. — D.E.

● (HILLCREST)

The Muppets — Any similarities between Jim Henson’s antron-fleece assemblage and hack-screenwriter Jason Segel’s fleece job are coincidental. Bright lights, brittle colors, forced cheer, and production numbers lifted from a Dr. Pepper commercial (and backed by a knitting-needles-through-your-ears score) combine for a fatal dose of nostalgia. In the past, at least we had high-powered celebrity cameos to bank on. This time, the best they can muster is James Carville, Judd Hirsch, and Jack Black. 2011. — S.M.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; HORTON PLAZA 14; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; MISSION VALLEY HAZARD CENTER 7; OCEANSIDE 16; OCEANSIDE MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18;

TEMECULA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

My Week with Marilyn — A gossipy peekaboo based on Colin Clark’s memoir as an assistant on the English set of 1957’s *The Prince and the Showgirl*. He has a crush on Marilyn Monroe, who reciprocates voluptuously (this may be mostly imagined), while costar and director Laurence Olivier fumes. Eddie Redmayne is appealing as coltish Colin, and Kenneth Branagh impersonates Olivier rather well. But Simon Curtis’s slight, engaging movie belongs to Michelle Williams. As Marilyn Monroe, she mixes the famous sizzle with catty, canny vulnerability as a natural star who doesn’t believe in her talent but can manipulate males. She rescues Marilyn from her image as a controlled dummy. With Zoë Wanamaker as Paula Strasberg, as cuddly as a blowtorch. 2011. — D.E.

★★★ (GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MISSION VALLEY 20)

New Year’s Eve — Another holiday slaughtered, processed, shrink wrapped, and shipped to market by director Garry Marshall (*Valentine’s Day*). Another massive cast (Ashton Kutcher as the world’s prettiest grubby hipster, Katherine Heigl as a jilted caterer, etc.), another whirlwind of plotlines and significances: birth, death, first kisses, dreams come true, marriage, romance. Was anything left out? If so, it wasn’t for lack of trying. Why, there’s even a horny grandpa! Michelle Pfeiffer provides perhaps the film’s only honest moments as a disappointed doormat with a list of resolutions. 2011. — M.L.

● (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; MISSION VALLEY HAZARD CENTER 7; OCEANSIDE 16; OCEANSIDE MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; RIVER VILLAGE 6; TEMECULA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Puss in Boots — The DreamWorks cartoon team spins off the Hispanic macho cat from the *Shrek* series for his own adventure. Kids may take it hard when

FILM FESTIVALS

FILM FORUM

San Diego Central Library

820 E Street, East Village • 619-236-5800

Troop 1500 2005. Ellen Spiro’s documentary follows “a unique Girl Scouts of the USA troop which unites mothers and daughters monthly behind the bars” of a Texas prison. **Monday, December 19, 6:30 p.m.**

Angel Face 1952. Otto Preminger’s black-and-white film noir stars Robert Mitchum and Jean Simmons. **Wednesday, December 28, 6:30 p.m.**

DIVE-IN THEATRE

Pearl Hotel

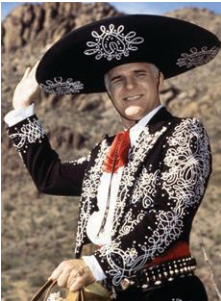
1410 Rosecrans Street, Point Loma 619-226-6100

National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation 1989. Enjoy a Christmas comedy following the misadventures of the Griswold family with Chevy Chase, Beverly D’Angelo, and many others. **Wednesday, December 21, 8 p.m.**

THE WORLD ON A STRING

Carlsbad Library

1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad • 760-602-2026



find a way to live up to that reputation.” Program includes **The Princess Bride** (1987). **Wednesday, December 28, 6 p.m.**

SUNDAY MATINEE

San Diego Central Library

820 E Street, East Village • 619-236-5800

Sunday Bloody Sunday 1971. John Schlesinger’s film starring Murray Head, Glenda Jackson, and Peter Finch follows “a free-spirited young bisexual artist and his simultaneous relationships with a female recruitment consultant and a male Jewish doctor.” **Sunday, December 18, 2 p.m.**

Three Amigos

1986. Chevy Chase, Steve Martin, and Martin Short are “silent film stars who are mistaken for real heroes by a small Mexican village and must

SAN DIEGO CHRISTIAN FILM FESTIVAL

San Diego Marriott La Jolla

4240 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla 877-457-7732

Hardflip 2012. A young skateboarder “struggles through a number of difficult life situations to find faith and re-unite with his father.” Festival promises nearly 100 films, including music videos, shorts, full-length dramas, comedies, and documentaries. **December 27-30.**

TALKING PICTURES

San Diego Central Library

820 E Street, East Village • 619-236-5817

Strangers on a Train 1951. “A psychotic socialite confronts a pro tennis star with a theory on how two complete strangers can get away with murder...a theory that he plans to implement.” **Friday, December 16, 2:30 p.m.**

Rebecca 1940. Alfred Hitchcock’s “first American project” was a psychological noir thriller starring Laurence Olivier and Joan Fontaine. **Friday, December 23, 2:30 p.m.**

MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Sun & Mon: 11:00 AM, 1:45, 7:30, Tue: 11:00 AM, 1:45, 7:30, 10:15; **The Muppets** (PG) Fri & Sat: 10:00 AM, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30, Sun & Mon: 10:00 AM, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, Tue: 10:00 AM, 12:30, 3:00

UPTOWN

Landmark Hillcrest
3965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236)
Shame (NC-17) Fri, Mon – Thu: (2:00), (4:30), 7:15, 9:50, Sat & Sun: (11:30), 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50; **The Skin I Live In** (R) Fri – Thu: (1:30), (4:20); **The Descendants** (R) Fri – Thu: 7:00, 9:40; **Shame** (NC-17) Fri, Mon – Thu: (3:15), 6:00, 8:30, Sat & Sun: 12:45, 3:15, 6:00, 8:30; **The Descendants** (R) Fri, Mon – Thu: (2:20), (5:00), 8:00, Sat & Sun: (11:40), 2:20, 5:00 8:00; **Like Crazy** (PG 13) Fri, Mon – Thu: (4:40), 10:00, Sat & Sun: (11:20), 4:40, 10:00; **Melancholia** (R) Fri – Thu: (1:40), 6:50; **Carnage** (R) Opens Friday, December 23; **The Artist** (PG-13) Opens Sunday, December 23

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center
1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233)
Call theater for program information.

EAST COUNTY

EL CAJON

Regal Parkway Plaza
405 Parkway Plaza (619-401-3456)
Call theater for program information.

LA MESA

Reading Grossmont
5500 Grossmont Center Drive (800-326-3264 #2710)
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chip-wrecked (G) Fri, Sun. (10:55, 11:55, 1:05, 2:05, 3:15) 4:15, 5:25, 6:25, 7:30, 8:30, 9:35, 10:35; **The Descendants** (R) Fri, Sun. (11:40, 2:10) 4:45, 7:20, 10:00; **Happy Feet**

Two (PG) Fri. (1:00p.m.) Sat, Sun. (10:40, 1:00); **Hugo** (PG) Fri, Sun. (11:25, 2:15) 7:50; **Hugo 3D** (PG) Fri, Sun. 5:05, 10:30; **The Muppets** (PG) Fri, Sun. (3:20) 5:45; **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) Fri, Sun. (11:10, 1:50) 4:30, 7:10, 8:10, 9:45, 10:45; **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** (PG-13) Fri, Sun. (10:30, 11:30, 1:20, 2:20) 4:10, 5:10, 7:00, 8:00, 9:50, 10:50; **The Sitter** (R) Fri, Sun. (11:45, 1:55) 4:05, 6:15, 8:20, 10:25; **Special Event** (Not Rated) Fri, Sun.; **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1** (PG-13) Fri, Sun. (11:50, 2:25) 5:00, 7:40, 10:15

RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Regal Rancho San Diego
2951 Jamacha Road (800-326-3264)
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chip-wrecked (G) Fri. (11:15, 11:40, 12:15, 1:30, 1:55, 2:30, 3:50, 4:20, 4:50) 6:45, 7:15, 7:45, 9:45, 10:15 Sat, Sun. (11:15, 11:40, 12:15, 1:30, 1:55, 2:30, 3:50) 4:20, 4:50, 6:45, 7:15, 7:45, 9:45, 10:15; **Arthur Christmas** (PG) Fri. (11:05, 1:35, 4:05) 6:35 Sat, Sun. (11:05, 1:35) 4:05, 6:35; **The Descendants** (R) Fri, Sun. (11:55, 3:40) 6:50, 9:50; **Immortals** (R) Fri, Sun. 10:05p.m.; **Jack and Jill** (PG) Fri, Sun. 9:35p.m.; **The Muppets** (PG) Fri. (11:05, 1:45, 4:25) 7:05, 9:55 Sat. (11:05, 1:45) 4:25, 7:05, 9:55 Sun. (1:45) 4:25, 7:05, 9:55; **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) Fri, Sat. (11:00a.m.); **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** (PG-13) Fri. (11:00, 11:30, 1:40, 2:00, 3:30, 4:35, 5:00) 6:30, 7:30, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30, 11:00 Sat, Sun. (11:00, 11:30, 1:40, 2:00, 3:30) 4:35, 5:00, 6:30, 7:30, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30, 11:00; **The Sitter** (R) Fri. (12:05, 2:15, 4:40) 7:55, 10:50 Sat, Sun. (12:05, 2:15) 4:40, 7:55, 10:50; **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1** (PG-13) Fri, Sun. (11:50, 3:40) 7:50, 10:45

SANTEE

Santee Drive In
10990 Woodside Avenue (619-448-7447)
Call theater for program information.

SOUTH BAY

CHULA VISTA

AMC Palm Promenade
770 Dennerly Road (888-262-4386)
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chip-wrecked (G) Fri. 8:45p.m.; **Arthur Christmas; Happy Feet Two; Hugo; The Immortals; Jack and Jill; Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol: The IMAX Experience** (PG-13) Fri, Sat. (9:45) 1:05, 4:20, 7:45, 11:10; **The Muppets; New Year's Eve; Puss in Boots; Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** (PG-13) Fri. 7:15p.m.; **The Sitter; Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1**

Regal Rancho Del Rey
1025 Tierra del Rey (off East H Street) (619-216-4707)
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chip-wrecked (G) Fri. (11:15, 2:05, 4:25) 6:55, 9:15; **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** (PG-13) Fri. (11:15, 2:10, 5:05) 8:00, 10:55

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Olivia's Wintertime Cheer (G) Sat & Sun: 10:30 AM; **In Time** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: 11:00 AM, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:30, Sun: 11:00 AM, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, Mon & Tue: 4:30, 7:15; **Paranormal Activity 3** (R) Fri & Sat: 11:45 AM, 2:00, 4:15, 7:00, 10:00, Sun: 11:45 AM, 2:00, 4:15, 7:00, Mon & Tue: 4:15, 7:00; **The**

Three Musketeers (PG-13) Fri & Sat: 11:30 AM, 2:15, 5:00, 7:30, 10:15, Sun: 11:30 AM, 2:15, 5:00, 7:30, Mon & Tue: 5:00, 7:30; **Foot-loose** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: 5:45, 8:15, 11:00, Sun - Tue: 5:45, 8:15; **The Thing** (R) Fri - Sun: 2:30, 7:45, Mon & Tue: 7:45 PM; **Real Steel** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: 11:00 AM, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00, Sun: 11:00 AM, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, Mon & Tue: 5:00, 8:00; **50/50** (R) Fri & Sat: 11:45 AM, 4:45, 10:00, Sun - Tue: 4:45 PM; **Dream House** (PG-13) Fri - Sun: 2:15, 7:15, Mon & Tue: 7:15 PM; **Dolphin Tale** (PG) Fri - Sun: 12:15, 3:00, Mon & Tue: 3:00 PM; **Rise of the Planet of the Apes** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30, Sun: 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, Mon & Tue: 3:00, 5:30, 8:00; **Cow-boys & Aliens** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: 12:00, 5:00, 10:15, Sun: 12:00, 5:00, Mon & Tue: 5:00 PM; **Midnight in Paris** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: 5:45, 8:15, 10:45, Sun - Tue: 5:45, 8:15; **Kung Fu Panda 2** (PG) Fri - Sun: 11:15 AM, 1:30, 3:30, Mon & Tue: 3:30 PM

EASTLAKE

AMC Otay Ranch
Eastlake Parkway (at Olympic) (888-262-4386)
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chip-wrecked (G) Fri, Sun. (10:15, 11:30) 12:45, 2:00, 3:15, 4:30, 5:45, 7:00, 8:15, 9:30, 10:35; **Arthur Christmas** (PG) Fri, Sat. 12:05, 2:30 Sun. 2:30p.m.; **Arthur Christmas 3D** (PG) Fri, Sun. 5:00, 7:30, 9:55; **Happy Feet Two** (PG) Fri, Sun. (11:20) 1:50, 4:35, 7:05, 9:35; **Hugo 3D** (PG) Fri, Sun. (10:20) 1:05, 4:05, 6:50, 9:50; **The Muppets** (PG) Fri, Sun. (11:00) 1:55, 4:40, 7:15, 9:55; **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) Fri, Sat. (10:00, 11:10) 12:35, 2:10, 3:25, 4:50, 6:15, 7:40, 9:05, 10:30 Sun. (11:10) 12:40, 2:10, 3:25, 4:50, 6:15, 7:40, 9:05, 10:30; **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** (PG-13) Fri, Sun. (10:00) 12:10, 1:15, 3:20, 4:20, 6:35, 7:25, 9:40, 10:40; **The Sitter** (R) Fri, Sun. (10:45) 1:00, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:05; **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1** (PG-13) Fri, Sat. (10:05) 12:50, 3:35, 6:20, 9:10 Sun. 12:50, 3:35, 6:20,

9:10

IMPERIAL BEACH

South Bay Drive In
2170 Coronado Avenue (619-423-2727)
Call theater for program information.

NATIONAL CITY

AMC Plaza Bonita
3030 Plaza Bonita Road (888-262-4386)
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chip-wrecked (G); **Arthur Christmas** (PG); **Happy Feet Two** (PG); **Hugo** (PG); **The Immortals** (R); **Jack and Jill** (PG); **The Muppets** (PG); **New Year's Eve** (PG-13); **Puss in Boots** (PG); **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** (PG-13); **The Sitter** (R); **Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn — Part 1** (PG-13)

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The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) Special Engagement; No Passes Allowed, Tue: 7:00, 10:30; **Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol** (PG-13) Special Engagement; No

Passes Allowed, Tue: 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00; **Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked** (G) Discounted UNTIL 4PM Tues & Thu, Fri & Sat: 10:00 AM, 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:15, 9:45, Sun & Mon: 10:00 AM, 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:15, Tue: 10:00 AM, 12:15, 2:30, 5:00; **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** (PG-13) Special Engagement; No Passes Allowed, Fri & Sat: 10:15 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:15, 4:15, 5:00, 7:15, 8:00, 10:15, Sun - Tue: 10:15 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:15, 4:15, 5:00, 7:15, 8:00; **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) Fri - Tue: 10:15 AM, 1:00, 3:30, 6:15, 9:00; **The Sitter** (R) Discounted UNTIL 4PM Tue & Thu, Fri & Sat: 10:30 AM, 12:45, 3:00, 5:30, 7:45, Tue: 10:30 AM, 12:45, 3:00, 5:00; **Olivia's Wintertime Cheer** (G) Sat & Sun: 10:30 AM; **Arthur Christmas** (PG) Fri & Sat: 10:15 AM, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45,

8:30, 10:45, Sun - Tue: 10:15 AM, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30; **Hugo** (PG) Fri - Mon: 10:00 AM, 3:45, 9:00, Tue: 10:00 AM, 3:45; **Hugo 3D** (PG) 3D Upcharge Applies, Fri - Mon: 1:00, 6:25, Tue: 1:00 PM; **The Muppets** (PG) Fri & Sat: 10:30 AM, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30, Sun & Mon: 10:30 AM, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, Tue: 10:30 AM, 1:30, 4:30, 6:50; **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1** (PG-13) Fri & Sat: 10:45 AM, 1:45, 2:15, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30, 10:45, Sun - Tue: 10:45 AM, 1:45, 2:15, 4:30, 7:30; **Jack and Jill** (PG) Fri & Sat: 1:30, 6:00, 10:45, Sun - Tue: 1:30, 6:00; **Tower Heist** (PG-13) Fri: 11:00 AM, 3:30, 8:15, Sat - Mon: 3:30, 8:15, Tue: 11:00 AM, 3:30, 8:15

VISTA

Krikorian Vista Village
Highway 78 at Vista Village Drive (760-945-7469)
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri.-Sun. (10:15, 10:50, 11:45, 12:30, 1:25, 2:10, 2:55, 3:50, 4:35, 5:20) 6:15, 7:00, 7:45, 8:40, 9:25, 10:20; **Arthur Christmas** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (12:10, 2:40, 5:00) 7:25, 9:45; **The Descendants** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 1:45, 4:25) 7:10, 10:00; **Happy Feet Two** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:40, 1:20); **Hugo** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (10:30, 1:30); **Hugo 3D** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (4:30) 7:35, 10:30; **The Muppets** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 1:55, 4:35) 7:15, 9:55; **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:35, 2:20, 5:05) 7:50, 10:30; **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:15, 10:45, 12:20, 1:10, 1:50, 3:25, 4:15, 4:55) 6:30, 7:20, 8:00, 9:30, 10:25, 11:00 Sun. (10:15, 10:45, 12:20, 1:10, 1:50, 3:25, 4:15, 4:55) 6:30, 7:20, 8:00, 9:30, 10:25; **The Sitter** (R) Fri.-Sun. (10:55, 1:05, 3:15, 3:55, 5:25) 6:05, 7:40, 8:15, 9:50, 10:25; **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:20, 2:00, 4:40) 7:20, 10:00; **Young Adult** (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:50, 2:25, 4:50) 7:30, 10:05, 11:00 Sun. (11:50, 2:25, 4:50) 7:30, 10:05

NORTH COASTAL

CARLSBAD

Moviemax Plaza Camino Real
2385 Marron Road (760-729-7469)
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:00, 1:05, 3:10) 5:15, 7:20, 9:25; **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (12:00, 2:30, 5:00) 7:30, 10:00; **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (10:50, 1:35, 4:15) 7:00, 9:35; **The Sitter** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:20, 1:25, 3:30) 5:35, 7:45, 9:45

ENCINITAS

La Paloma
471 South Coast Highway 101 (760-436-7469)
Moneyball (PG-13) Fri. 6:00, 9:00 Sat. (3:00) 6:00, 9:00 Sun. (4:00) 7:00; **The Rocky Horror Picture Show** (R) Fri. 12:00a.m.

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DRIVER WITH MOTORCYCLE needed for medical marijuana delivery. Call 619-303-8919.

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CAREGIVERS/ COMPANIONS. Home care agency has immediate openings for compassionate and experienced Caregivers in the El Cajon, Lakeside, Granite Hills, Bostonia, Rancho San Diego, Alpine and Julian areas. Must have 2+ years' healthcare experience, valid CA driver's license and reliable transportation. Background check required. Visiting Angels, 619-987-4910.

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SUPPORT PROVIDERS. Aya Living Inc. seeking motivated and committed support providers who can teach and facilitate various objectives regarding activities of daily life, advocacy, and community involvement. Experience required, preference for those with relevant combination of experience and education. Fax resume: 619-866-6163.

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DONATE QUALIFIED PLASMA, earn money every week. Requirements: 18-65 years old, good health, proof of Social Security number, proof of current residence—postmarked within the last 30 days, current photo ID. Bring in this ad and receive a \$5 bonus after your first donation! OctaPharma Plasma, 3232 Duke Street, San Diego (off Midway), 619-758-9278. www.octapharmaplasmadon.com.

EARN MONEY EVERY WEEK for qualified plasma donations. Requirements: 18-65 years old, good health, proof of Social Security number, proof of current residence—postmarked within the last 30 days, current photo ID. Bring in this ad and receive a \$5 bonus after your first donation! OctaPharma Plasma, 3232 Duke Street, San Diego (off Midway), 619-758-9278. www.octapharmaplasmadon.com.

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APPOINTMENT SCHEDULER: B2B Appointment Scheduler/ Phone Marketing. \$15/ hour base pay plus bonus. Setting appointments business-to-business via phone, no selling. Morning hours Monday- Friday, part

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SALONS

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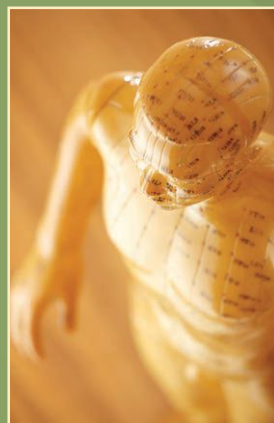


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Central San Diego

DEL CERRO CONDO. 2BD+2BA, 1139 sqft condo for sale. Fixer upper. Priced to sell! \$128k-\$134k. Community pool, spa, laundry. Agent: Stella Biggs, 619-384-1945.

Real Estate Miscellaneous

HOTEL OWNER WILL BUY property anywhere. Small houses, big houses, condos, apartments, commercial, vacant land and notes. Call 619-204-0610, Bkr.

ROOMMATES

Beaches

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1000. 1BD+1BA large master bedroom. Private entrance, prime location in PB. Dogs OK upon approval, no cats. Large, fenced yard. Call Troy, 760-450-4299.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$700. 1 bedroom, own full bath, walk-in closet. Crown Point, close to the bay. 1/2 utilities. Laundry in unit. No pets. 858-232-7641.

POINT LOMA, \$450. Room for rent. Ocean close in Ocean Beach. RN or LVN student or graduate. Private. Microwave. Refrigerator. Parking. Laundry. Available 12/18. 619-226-4010.

POINT LOMA, \$650. Unfurnished bedroom, shower, Internet. Nonsmoker. DirecTV. No pets. Upstairs. New appliances. \$650/ month, 1/3 utilities, \$300 deposit. Available 1/1. 619-523-1015. lorenzoflorenzo@yahoo.com.

Central San Diego

ALLIED GARDENS, \$400. Furnished bedroom in quiet home, shared bath. TV/ cable included, kitchen/ laundry use, pool, no smoking/ pets. 1/3 utilities. Male, senior preferred. 619-583-7915.

BAY PARK, \$550. 1 bedroom, upstairs in trilevel. Wooden floors. Furnished 1 bed, TV; or unfurnished. On quiet cul-de-sac. No drugs, nonsmoking. \$500 security deposit. 858-272-1594.

CLAIREMONT, \$590. Large, nice room; big closet with mirrored doors. Internet, TV, cable and all utilities included. Nice, quiet, clean house. Available now. Leave message, 858-598-5282.

COLLEGE AREA, \$440 & UP. Sober house. Nicest in town. Separate men's and women's houses. Children accepted. Single and shared rooms. Starting \$440/ month, no deposit, no drama. Must use public transportation. Daniel, 619-368-0686.

COLLEGE AREA, \$600. Utilities included, \$300 deposit. Unfurnished room available. Clean, quiet home. No drugs, drama, or smoking. Housekeeper. Month-to-month lease. Available now. 619-302-3530.

SAN CARLOS, \$650. Roommate wanted male or female to share nicely furnished 2BD+2BA home. Utilities included. Close to everything. Street parking or driveway. Nonsmoking. No pets. 619-582-7333.

East County

LA MESA, \$475. 15 minutes to SDSU. \$75 utilities. Deposit. Share house. Hardwood floors, skylights, piano. Remodeled bath/ kitchen. Laundry. Cable, Internet. Big yard. Nice area. 1 person only. 619-466-7500.

Old Town & Uptown

NORMAL HEIGHTS. Roommate wanted, female preferred. I'm staying now at hotel. Looking to rent apartment. Seek roommate to pay half of rent cost. Jack, 619-261-6403.

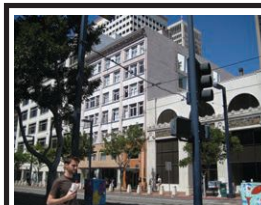
NORTH PARK, \$625. Love nature? This is your place. Spacious bedroom, ceiling fan, hardwood flooring, shared bath, kitchen, veranda. Deposit/ utilities. 619-318-9018, focus@pacbell.net.

RENTALS

Commercial Rentals



DOWNTOWN, \$150-650. Gaslamp art space! 100-600 square feet. Artists, painters, sculptors, writers, photographers, clothing, designers. High ceilings, tall windows. Gallery venue for shows. Uniquely affordable. 402 Market Street. 619-239-1639 x2. www.HughesManagement.net.



DOWNTOWN, \$250-495. Artist work spaces: Office or work spaces and retail available. 636 C Street, 92101. Inquire inside (C Street Inn front desk) or call 619-234-4165 or 619-269-9076. www.jspropertymanagement.com.

NORTH PARK, \$90. Large storage garage located at 4145 Texas St. Spacious and clean garage with alley access. \$90 per month. innoreventerprises.com. 858-568-0081.

OTAY MESA, \$800. Industrial/ Office \$800 per month. 1300 sqft. Warehouse/ office, large open space available. Private office upstairs. Great location. 10055 Marconi #2442. Call Jeff at 619-713-1044.

SHERMAN HEIGHTS, \$39. Storage sheds in Grant Hill. Brand new. Spacious. Several sheds available. 510 Dodson. Drive by first, then call Amanda, 619-324-9376. www.innoreventerprises.com.

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LA JOLLA, \$1075.
1BD+1BA. 7621 Eads Avenue, La Jolla. For appointment call Heidi at 858-459-8254.

LA JOLLA, \$1095.
1BD+1BA upstairs front apartment in quiet Bird Rock area. Stove, refrigerator, microwave, coin laundry, shared courtyard. Near many quaint shops, restaurants and public transportation. Cat OK with extra deposit. Available 1/1/12. 415 Colima. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. 858-270-2071. www.delsolpm.com.

LA JOLLA, \$1195.
1BD+1BA apartment. Near Windansea! Very clean. Fresh paint and new carpet. Laundry. 434 Rosemont St. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

LA JOLLA, \$1250.
1BD+1BA condo with loft. Washer and dryer hookups, off- street parking, pool. 4080 Porte La Paz #13. www.sdforrent.com. 619-640-7530.

LA JOLLA, \$1395.
2BD+1BA small downstairs apartment in the Bird Rock area. Private patio, 2nd bedroom is small but perfect for an office. Stove, refrigerator, microwave, shared courtyard, parking. Near many quaint shops, restaurants and public transportation. Cat OK with extra deposit. Available now. 415 Colima. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. 858-270-2071. www.delsolpm.com.

LA JOLLA, \$2595.
2BD+1BA plus den, wood floors, breakfast nook, fireplace, A/C, washer/ dryer hookups, parking, courtyard. Pets OK. 1121 Torrey Pines Road. 619-384-9219.

MISSION BEACH, \$1095.
Upper 1BD apartment. Near bay. Very clean, stove, fridge, dishwassher, parking. No pets. 847 Jamaica Ct. Shore Management, 858-274-3500, shoremgmt.com.

MISSION BEACH, \$1550.
2BD+2BA condo. Mission Beach South. 1 garage. No pets. New appliances. Top floor. Beach/ park view. Clean. Laundry facilities. 2999 Mission Blvd. 619-275-3455.

MISSION BEACH, \$1750.
2BD+2BA apartment. Steps to beach. 1- year lease. New carpet. New paint. Includes gas, water, trash, parking. No dogs. 858-488-1759.

MISSION BEACH, \$815.
Studio, large. Mission Bay. No pets. Paid SDG&E. Parking. Appliances. Large closet/ cabinet. Clean. Nice. Laundry facilities. 3431 Del Rey Street. 619-275-3455.

MISSION BEACH.
\$249 & up motel weekly rates. Full kitchens, cable TV, furnished. Santa Clara Motel, 839 Santa Clara Place, San Diego, 92109. 858-488-1193.

OCEAN BEACH, \$1000.
1BD+1BA cottage with 1 garage. 2010 Cable Street. No pets. 619-200-1657 or www.bkbinc.com.

OCEAN BEACH, \$1250.
Studio+1BA, large studio, partially furnished. At the Ocean Beach Pier. Ocean views, completely renovated. No pets. 5067 Niagara. 619-224-4215.

OCEAN BEACH, \$1350.
2BD+1BA large apartment, upstairs. \$300 OFF first month's rent. 5112 Muir Ave. Garage. No pets. 619-200-1657 or www.bkbinc.com.

OCEAN BEACH, \$1350.
2BD+1BA downstairs apartment. 2 blocks to beach! All garage available. 4826 Santa Cruz. Call 619-224-4215; Manager: 619-962-9549.

OCEAN BEACH, \$1400.
2BD+2BA large apartment. \$300 Off first month's rent. 4714 Point Loma Ave. Laundry, parking. No pets. Tenant pays all utilities. 619-200-1657 or www.bkbinc.com.

OCEAN BEACH, \$1525.
2BD+2BA, apartment. One block to beach. All amenities. Pool, laundry, fireplace, parking. 4825 Del Mar Street. 619-298-0859 or 619-224-0306.

OCEAN BEACH, \$1795.
3BD apartment. Across street from beach. Parking. Large private patio area. Laundry facilities. 5183 West Point Loma Blvd. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

OCEAN BEACH, \$2495.
3BD+3.5BA condominium. Canyon view! 2-car garage. Upgraded flooring, cabinets, appliances. Fireplace. Washer/dryer. Pets considered. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

OCEAN BEACH, \$895.
1BD+1BA apartment. 5108 Muir Ave. 1 block to beach. No pets. 619-200-1657 or www.bkbinc.com.

OCEAN BEACH, \$950 & UP.
1BD+1BA apartments from \$950 and 2BDs from \$1280 per month. Close to beach/ shopping and freeway access. Call today to view your new home! Jami at 858-268-5004.

OCEAN BEACH, \$960.
1BD+1BA apartment. \$200 off 1st month! \$500 deposit OAC. No application fee. Blocks to the beach! Clean. Parking. Laundry. No pets. Includes water and trash. Seacoast Apartments, 5030 Lotus. Call Doris, 619-204-1651, 619-224-0759.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1525.
2BD+1BA in very attractive property. Partial bay view. Steps to Sail Bay. *Open house Saturday, 12/17, 10:00-11:00.* 3803-1/2 Riviera Drive. TPPM, 858-699-3851, www.torreypinespm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1095.
1BD+1BA, large downstairs apartment in North Pacific Beach. Stove, refrigerator. Garage space, coin laundry. Cat OK with extra deposit. 2.5 blocks to ocean. Available 1/15/12. 959 Chalcedony. Del Sol Property Management, broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1095.
1BD+1BA apartment. *Open house Saturday, 12/17, 11:30-12:30.* Half block to Sail Bay. Great location! Close to restaurants and shopping. 3825 Riviera Drive #12. TPPM, 858-699-3851, www.torreypinespm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1100.
1BD+1BA apartment. Off-street parking. Laundry on site. No pets. Available now! 4451 Haines Street. Chris, 858-270-4492 x203 or CDunphyPacwest@san.rr.com.

RENTALS REGION MAP

BEACHES

La Jolla • Mission Beach • Ocean Beach
Pacific Beach • Point Loma

DOWNTOWN

Balboa Park • Banker's Hill • Downtown
East Village • Golden Hill • Little Italy
Logan Heights • Sherman Heights
South Park • Stockton

EAST COUNTY

Alpine • Borrego Springs • Boulevard
Campo • El Cajon • Imperial Valley • Jamul
Julian • La Mesa • Lakeside • Lemon Grove
Mount Laguna • Potrero • Ramona
Rancho San Diego • Santee
Spring Valley • Warner Springs

CENTRAL SAN DIEGO

Allied Gardens • Bay Park • Clairemont
College Area • Del Cerro • Grantville
Kearny Mesa • Linda Vista • Mira Mesa
Miramar • Mission Valley • San Carlos
Serra Mesa • Sorrento Valley • Tierrasanta • UTC

NC COASTAL

Cardiff • Carlsbad • Carmel Valley • Del Mar
Encinitas • Leucadia • Oceanside • Solana Beach

OLD TOWN & UPTOWN

City Heights • Hillcrest • Kensington-Talmadge
Mission Hills • Normal Heights • North Park
Old Town • University Heights

NC INLAND

Bonsall • Carmel Mountain • Escondido
Fallbrook • Poway • Rancho Bernardo
Rancho Peñasquitos • Rancho Santa Fe
San Marcos • Scripps Ranch • Temecula
Valley Center • Vista



SOUTH BAY

Bonita • Chula Vista • Coronado
Imperial Beach • National City • Otay Mesa
Paradise Hills • San Ysidro

SOUTHEAST SD

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San Diego Reader December 15, 2011 115

A puzzler and a writer?

THE READER PUZZLE :

RULES OF THE GAME

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) Submit the correct answers to one of the puzzles along with your name and a brief message (**20** 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.

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.

NEW RULES

Starting with the issue of May 12, we will award writers of the best messages, among those who correctly solve the puzzle, one of the famous *Reader* baseball caps or T-shirts. And we will print the winning messages in the paper. Puzzle winners with rankings will still be posted online at SDReader.com.

Across

- 1. ATM entry
- 4. "That ____ fact!"
- 7. Beats
- 14. Funnywoman Sedaris
- 15. Hook (up)

- 16. Visits a restaurant
- 17. Really noisy part of an aviary?
- 19. The "C" in ASPCA
- 20. Chefs Ducasse and Dutournier
- 21. Duped
- 22. Hubbub
- 23. Hall of fame
- 24. Style a notorious gangster's hair?
- 27. Probes
- 28. 1994 Jodie Foster title role
- 29. Say no to
- 30. Comprehend
- 31. Tarzan's love
- 32. Sharer's word
- 33. No one wants to hang out with a cleric?
- 38. Special treatment, for short
- 39. Jabba the ____ of "Star Wars"
- 40. Like Mozart's Symphony No. 10
- 42. Jessica once named Esquire magazine's "Sexiest Woman Alive"
- 44. Round containers
- 45. Entr' ____
- 46. Truism regarding a "South Park" character at the end of many episodes?
- 48. In plain sight
- 49. NATO member
- 50. Frequently, to a bard
- 51. Armada activity
- 52. "It's a ____!"
- 55. Common phrase on a wedding invitation ... or this puzzle's theme
- 56. Pet shelter visitor, perhaps
- 57. Palooka
- 58. Sony rival
- 59. Puts on the stove again
- 60. 10 Downing St. figures
- 61. Kenan's TV pal

Down

- 1. Evening dress
- 2. Hit song on "Beatles '65"
- 3. A-Rod, e.g.
- 4. It may be tragic
- 5. "Deadly" septet
- 6. Coming of ____
- 7. Bring to mind
- 8. Croc's head or tail?
- 9. "____ Mama Tambien" (2002 film)
- 10. Mao ____-tung
- 11. "Wait!"
- 12. Rebellion on the briny
- 13. "Gypsy" composer
- 18. Teens might try to hide them
- 21. Oscar winner who played Murray's daughter on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"
- 24. DNA element
- 25. Not for children
- 26. Spanish "but"
- 28. DEA agent
- 31. Kid's sandwich staple
- 32. Feedbag fill
- 34. Powerful engine
- 35. Beach sight
- 36. "Good job!"
- 37. Admission
- 41. "Quit dreaming!"
- 42. Near
- 43. One after another
- 44. Fetching ones?
- 45. Actress Gardner and others
- 46. Harold's title pal of film
- 47. Jewish folklore creature
- 48. French hens produce them
- 51. Insult harshly
- 53. Therapists' org.
- 54. NFL snapper
- 55. Top 40 genre

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15				16						
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49					50			51						
52			53	54				55						
56								57				58		
59								60				61		

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We cannot accept your entry without the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Personal Message: _____

Please check one:

Hat: _____

T-shirt: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

G	E	T	S		M	A	N	A	N	A		H	A	D
A	M	O	K		I	N	A	B	O	W		A	L	E
L	O	U	I	S	A	A	D	A	M	S		R	A	M
		C	R	O		M	I	R	A			A	M	M
		L	A	U	R	I	E	A	N	D	E	R	S	O
G	U	N	N	E	R				S	W	E			
L	E	S	S		M	A	Z	E		A	S	N	E	R
A	G	A		L	A	W	O	M	A	N		E	V	E
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L	A	V	E	R	N	E	A	N	D	R	E	W	S	
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I	N	S		L	A	U	R	A	A	S	H	L	E	Y
N	E	T		O	D	D	I	T	Y		I	F	W	E
S	R	A		U	S	E	D	O	N		Z	E	E	S

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS:

(All winning entries will be screened for plagiarism.)

☛ **Carolyn Clark, Lakeside, 1.** *My evil twin refused to be born, so I get blamed for everything!*

☛ **Robert Crumrine, San Diego, 1.** *Winning isn't everything, but losing everything is.*

☛ **Gayle Studer, Mission Valley, 1.** *If evolution went backwards, would we all be fish?*

☛ **Dale Thompson, San Diego, 1.** *You can get there late, but you can't get there dead.*

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1125.

1BD+1BA, The Plaza. Private patio, garage, tennis, controlled access 24-hour security, gym. No pets. 4600 Lamont. 619-279-0031, akamazas@yahoo.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1145.

1BD+1BA upstairs apartment. 5 blocks to ocean. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave. New carpet. Coin laundry. Parking. Nice, shared courtyard area. Private balcony. No pets. Available now. 1180 Grand Ave. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1145.

1BD+1BA apartment in pristine, perfectly located property. Two blocks to bay, the bay- front boardwalk, Rocky's and Crest Deli. On-site laundry, parking. Rent today! 3803 Jewell Street. TPPM, 619-933-7400, www.villallaplaya.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1165.

1BD+1BA, downstairs remodeled apartment in North Pacific Beach. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave. Coin laundry, pool. Cat OK with extra deposit. Two blocks to ocean. Available 12/27/11. 812 Tourmaline. Del Sol Property Management, broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1175.

1BD downstairs front unit. Remodeled with stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, coin laundry, pool, parking, no pets. Available 1/19/12. 1433 Oliver Avenue. Del Sol Property Management, broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1195.

1BD+1BA, 700 sqft apartment. Heated pool, 2 Jacuzzis, 2 basketball courts, 5 lighted tennis courts, clubhouse, barbecue area, business center, on-site laundry facilities, heat, A/C. Cats/ dogs welcome. Close to freeways and more! Bay Pointe Apartments, 3866 Ingraham. 888-451-8713. baypointe@progressmanagement.net; www.baypointeapartmenthomes.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1195.

2BD+1BA apartment. Laundry. Near bay/ ocean. Available 1/1. 1258 Pacific Beach Drive. No dogs. 858-699-8022.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1195.

1BD+BA apartment. Near Ocean and Bay. One parking space. Available mid-December approximately. No pets. Call Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1200.

1BD+1BA upper-level apartment. 3 blocks to beach. Assigned off- street parking. On-site laundry. No pets. 1050 Hornblend. Available now. 858-270-4492 x203.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1225.

1BD+1BA. Beautiful, newly remodeled apartment. Dishwasher, laundry, parking. Gated. Lovely courtyard, heated pool. Quiet. Cat friendly. One-year lease. 858-272-4398.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1325.

2BD+1BA apartment. Custom interior colors, pool, barbecue, great value. One block to Vons Shopping Center. 1930 Emerald Street. TPPM, 858-273-9370, www.torreypinespm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1350.

2BD+1BA. *Move-in Special!* Freshly updated apartment! New carpet, tile flooring, paint, and more. Convenient central location. *Open house Saturday, 12/17, 2:30-3:30.* 2065-C Diamond Street. TPPM, 858-699-3851, www.torreypinespm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1395.

2BD+1BA apartment. *Open house Saturday, 12/17, 1:00-2:00.* Excellent location near Ski Beach. Recently remodeled. Corner unit with excellent light. 1536 Pacific Beach Drive #1. TPPM, 858-699-3851, www.torreypinespm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1400.

2BD+1BA downstairs apartment. Laundry, parking. Available December 22. 1536 Moorland Drive #1. www.AMGSD.com. 619-295-1165.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1445.

2BD+1.5BA townhome. 4 blocks to ocean. Excellent condition. Dishwasher, stove, refrigerator. Security gates. 2 parking spaces. Laundry. 1150 Grand Ave. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1495 & UP.

2BD+2BA, 1000 sqft apartment. Heated pool, 2 Jacuzzis, 2 basketball courts, 5 lighted tennis courts, clubhouse, barbecue area, business center, on-site laundry facilities, heat, A/C. Cats/ dogs welcome. Close to freeways and more! Bay Pointe Apartments, 3866 Ingraham. 888-451-8713. baypointe@progressmanagement.net; www.baypointeapartmenthomes.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1495.

2BD+1BA large downstairs front apartment in North PB. Stove, refrigerator, shared garage, coin laundry, 2-1/2 blocks to ocean. Cat OK with extra deposit. Available 12/20/11. 959 Chalcedony. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1535.

2BD+1BA. Large apartment. Garage, laundry. Water/ gardener paid. No dogs. 4982 Cape May Avenue. Open House Saturday, 12/17, 10-11 am! 619-224-7583.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1600.

2BD+2BA apartment. Off-street parking. Laundry on site. No pets. Available January! 4451 Haines Street. Chris. 858-270-4492 x203 or CDunphyPacwest@san.rr.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1600.

2BD+2BA walk to Pacific Plaza! Spacious, upgraded, private patio, storage, parking. No pets. 4640 Jewell at Emerald. 619-286-3400.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1650.

2BD+2BA upper level apartment. Hardwood floors and carpet. Shared roof deck/ patio. Off- street parking. On-site laundry. No pets. 1455 Garnet St. 858-270-4492.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1650.

2BD+1BA upper-level apartment. 3 blocks to beach. Assigned off- street parking. On-site laundry. No pets. 1050 Hornblend. Available now! 858-270-4492 x203.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1795.

2BD+2BA large condo. 2 garage. No pets. Fireplace. Laundry hook-up. Balcony. Appliances/ microwave. Skylight. Nice. 1552 Chalcedony St. 619-275-3455.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1875.

2BD+2.5BA townhome in North Pacific Beach. All appliances plus laundry hookups, large private patio, attached garage plus parking space, fireplace, one block to ocean, no pets. Available 1/19/12. 831 Chalcedony. Del Sol Property Management, broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1895.

2BD+2BA apartment with one parking space. Shared laundry. Central Pacific Beach. No pets. Available mid-December approximately. Call Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

by Scott Meyer ©2011

A four-panel comic strip titled "BASIC INSTRUCTIONS: How to Understand Men's Fashion" by Scott MEYER. The comic depicts a woman's frustration with men's fashion choices, from team logos to color schemes and the lack of coordination between clothing items.

BASIC INSTRUCTIONS

How to Understand Men's Fashion

by Scott MEYER

There are three basic strategies that men use when choosing clothes. One is to choose lots of sports team logo wear.

Do you really have to wear a Seattle Mariners shirt and Seattle Mariners sweat pants too?

Yes. That's the whole point! If the team logos match, the clothes match.

It's like Garanimals for men.

A more timeless approach is to dress more formally, relying heavily on suits.

You should pay a little more attention to your wardrobe. Buy some suits!

Yeah!

The pants and jacket are the same material. They can't not go together!

He did say "a little" more attention.

Some men will develop a personal uniform, selecting a look they like and varying it little from day to day.

Do you own anything but black t-shirts?

I own shirts in many colors.

Dark charcoal. Ultra-dark blue. X-treeme gray.

Your closet must look like a rainbow, re-imagined by Tim Burton.

No matter what method he chooses, a man's goal when selecting his ensemble is always the same.

You're all pathetic!

But we're pathetic on our own terms.

So you're deliberately failing and calling it strength of character. What kind of way to live is that?

The manly way.

© 2011: Scott Meyer

basicinstructions.net

PACIFIC BEACH, \$2500.
3BD+3BA townhouse with 3- car garage. Fireplace, washer/ dryer, patio, deck. Clean, fresh paint. No pets. 1839 Grand Avenue. 858-270-4492x203 or CDunphyPacwest@san.rr.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$2595.
3BD+2BA house in Crown Point area.
Stove, refrigerator, laundry hookups,
2-car garage, no pets. Water, trash,
gardener paid. Available 12/15/11.
3970 Honeycutt. Del Sol Property
Management, broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$2700.
3BD+3BA townhouse. Clean, airy. 2-car garage. Fireplace. Washer/dryer, patio, deck. No pets. 1523 Hornblend. Available January. 858-270-4492x203 or CDunphyPacwest@san.rr.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$3350.
3BD+2BA. Bright, spacious house.
Centrally located close to bay and
beach. www.cal-prop.com. 858-768-
4355.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$3600.
4BD+3.5BA townhome in North Pacific Beach. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, washer/dryer in unit. Garage with opener, fireplace, patio, private balconies. Cat OK with extra deposit. One block to ocean. Available 1/4/12. 856 Felspar. Del Sol Property Management, broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$3995.
6BD+4BA house. 3 blocks to ocean.
Fits 7. Complete kitchen. Washer/
dryer. Garage and street parking. Call
Dan, 310-930-1739, or email staff@
ewhizinc.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$775 & UP.
1BD+1BA apartment. Great values.
Nice, convenient, multiple Pacific
Beach locations. Studios from \$775.
1 bedrooms from \$1025. 2 bedrooms
from \$1395. Some buildings with
gated entry, pool and/ or deck,
parking, laundry. No pets. 858-483-
3796.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$900.
Studio+1BA, downstairs studio. 3
blocks to beach. Assigned off- street
parking. On-site laundry. No pets.
1050 Hornblende. Available January!
858-270-4492 x203.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$925.
1BD+1BA apartment. Garden setting, easy- access location. Pool, recreation room, no pets. **Ask about move-in special!** 2710 Grand Avenue. TPPM, 858-273-8657, www.bavinnapts.com.

RENTALS

PACIFIC BEACH, \$950 & UP.
Studio+1BA, 700 sqft apartment.
Heated pool, 2 Jacuzzis, 2 basketball courts, 5 lighted tennis courts, clubhouse, barbecue area, business center, on-site laundry facilities, heat, A/C. Cats/ dogs welcome. Close to freeways and more! Bay Pointe Apartments, 3866 Inghram. 888-451-8713. baypointe@progressmanagement.net; www.baypointeapartmenthomes.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$995.
1BD+1BA. 600 sqft. Upstairs unit in quiet Pacific Beach complex. Bike to beach and bay! www.cal-prop.com. 1468 Missouri Street #6. 858-768-4322.

POINT LOMA, \$1049 & UP.
 1BD+1BA apartment for \$1049.
 2BD+2BA apartment for \$1299.
 3BD+2BA for \$1649. Move-in specials
 from up to \$400 off 1st month's rent!
 Centrally located in sunny Point Loma.
 Pet friendly. Clubhouse. Fitness room.
 Jacuzzi. Business center. Tennis
 courts. Heated pool. Convenient
 parking. Close to beach and shopping.
 Stonewold Gardens, 3889 Midway.
 866-791-9948.

POINT LOMA, \$1150.
2BD+1BA downstairs apartment.
Cozy, stove, refrigerator, new paint.
On-site laundry. Small pet welcome
with additional deposit. Great location
3751-1/2 Udall St. 619-298-7724.

POINT LOMA, \$1200. Beautiful apartment homes starting at \$1290! **\$0 deposit, OAC.** City/ bay views, stainless steel gourmet appliances, custom cabinetry, bamboo laminate floors. Barbecue, fire pit/ lounge, resort-style pool, oversized hot tub, brand-new fitness center. Pet friendly. Gables Point Loma, 3811 Marquette Place #2N. 619-223-6577. **Gables.com.**

POINT LOMA, \$1250.
2BD+2BA condo. New carpet/
refrigerator. Luxury appliances/
cabinets/ countertops. Washer/ dryer
in unit. Balcony. Pool/ spa. Near all.
3140 Midway. 858-200-7511.

POINT LOMA, \$1495.
2BD+1BA apartment. Brand- new
building. Washer/ dryer in unit, tiled
and carpeted floors. New stainless
steel appliances. All new amenities.
2727 Camulos. 858-270-4674; 619-
224-0306.

POINT LOMA, \$1550.
2BD+1BA at Sunset Cliffs. Steps to the ocean. Ocean view. New paint. Hardwood floors. Utilities included. Pets OK. 4833 Orchard Avenue. 619-222-6020.

POINT LOMA, \$915 & UP.
Studios starting at \$915!* 1BD+1BA
apartments starting at \$975!* \$0
deposit OAC.* Close to ocean. Off-
street parking, spa area, on-site
laundry. Cats/ dogs 20lbs. OK.
*Limited time offer, OAC, see manager
for details. 2449 Soto Street, Apt.
#102, San Diego, CA 92107. 619-224-
1973. Or visit us on our website at
www.sdrenting.com.

POINT LOMA, \$950.
1BD+1BA apartment, garage and parking space, laundry, near sub base, no pets, at 317 Rosecrans Street. Agent, 619-299-8515.

Downtown

BANKERS HILL, \$1175.
1BD+1BA, 750 sqft apartment. Air conditioning/ central heat. Secure parking. On-site laundry. Pet OK! Call Greg, 619-239-7313.

BANKERS HILL, \$1450.
2BD+2BA, 900 sqft apartment, newer flooring. Air conditioning/ central heat. Secure parking. On-site laundry. Pet OK! Call Greg, 619-239-7313.

DOWNTOWN, \$1595.
1BD+1BA. 777 LOFTS. Incredible loft.
\$500-off 1st month's rent! Gaslamp's
best rental loft/condominiums one block
to Downtown's popular 5th Avenue.

Washer/dryer, dishwasher, granite counter tops, air conditioning, polished concrete floors. Parking. Small pet considered with additional deposit. A must see! **Open house Saturday, 12/17, 1:30-3:30.** 777 Sixth Avenue #211. TPPM, 619-296-8802 or 858-699-3851. www.torreypinespm.com.

DOWNTOWN, \$399. Studio+1BA, clean, furnished apartments. **Pay by the week or month!** First month= \$399*. Free utilities! Local phone, Microwave/ refrigerator, television/ HBO, housekeeping, on-site parking, laundry, patio, Wi-Fi lobby, gated entry. 940 Park, call: 619-239-0101. 901 F Street, call: 619-233-1100.

SERVICES

\$35/60 min. **Body Massage**

With coupon. Reg. \$40

Cajon Spa

619-888-3999
6506 El Cajon Blvd., #A
Between College Ave. &
70th Street, San Diego
(Behind Crown Buffet) sign

Open 7 days a week · 10am to 11pm

MESA SPA

(858) 277-6666
4089 Genesee Ave.
San Diego
Behind CHOL'S Shopping
(At Balboa Ave)



\$10 off
1-hour OR
30 min massage

Deep tissue
Aromatherapy
Swedish
Shiatsu • Thai

Touch of Health
651 E. Grand Ave.
(corner of Fig & E. Grand)
760-432-0083

Visa & Mastercard accepted. Lic. #162807
Open 7 days 9am - 9pm

\$35 / 60 min. **Body Massage**

With coupon. Reg. \$40

Cajon Spa

619-888-3999
6506 El Cajon Blvd., #A
Between College Ave. &
70th Street, San Diego
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MESA SPA

(858) 277-6666
4089 Genesee Ave.
San Diego
Behind CHOL'S Shopping
(At Balboa Ave)

Open 7 days a week · 10am to 11pm



Need an apartment short term?

As low as \$300 / week plus tax




\$300/week plus tax for 1 queen bed
\$350/week plus tax for 2 double beds
Month to Month lease starting at \$1,295

6 month or 1 year lease available
starting as low as **\$950*** / month



California Suites Hotel
Apartment prices with hotel perks

Free extended continental breakfast buffet

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- Microwave • Refrigerator • Easy freeway access
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(just west of the 805) San Diego , CA 92117
888-264-4729
[**www.californiasuiteshotel.com**](http://www.californiasuiteshotel.com)

*Some hotel amenities included. Please call for details.

A woman with long brown hair is lying down, receiving a facial massage. Her eyes are closed, and she has a relaxed expression. Two hands are visible, gently massaging her forehead and temples. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white.

\$15 Off
1 Hour Massage
\$10 Off 45mins • **\$5 Off** 30min
Choose from Deep Tissue, Swedish, Thai
or Acupressure Massage with table shampoo.
Now offering Jacuzzi & Sauna
San Diego's Finest Oriental Massage
with the Magic Touch
Friendly Spa
200 W. El Norte Pkwy., #200 • Escondido
760-294-1764 • Open 7 days 9:30 am-9:30 pm
Visa • MC • Discover • License #165277

A puzzler and a writer?

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) Submit the correct answers to one of the puzzles along with your name and a brief message (**20** words or less, no URLs or phone numbers). Clearly mark the puzzle that you want to enter this week by crossing off the other completed puzzles. All puzzles that are

cut into pieces will be disqualified. Entries must include a message. This is a great way to express yourself. You may submit a new message weekly. We reserve the right to edit or reject inappropriate text.

- 3) The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year!
- 4) Entries must be faxed to **619-233-7907** or mailed to *Reader* Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803, or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy, or scanned and e-mailed to: Sudoku@sdreader.com. Submissions by e-mail must be attached in JPG format, 800 by 800 pixels, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed.

- 5) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
- 6) Late entries will not be considered.
- 7) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
- 8) Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.

NEW RULES

Starting with the issue of May 12, we will award writers of the best messages, among those who correctly solve the puzzle, one of the famous *Reader* baseball caps or T-shirts. And we will print the winning messages in the paper. Puzzle winners with rankings will still be posted online at SDReader.com.

EASY:

	2			1				
3			6	7	9			4
1		6	5		3	7		
7	1	9		4				
	8						9	
			8		4	7	1	
		1	2		5	8		7
2			1	9	8			6
				3			1	

MEDIUM:

	4		3					
		9				1		7
			1	9	8	5		
1	9				5			4
4		2				8		5
5			4				1	6
		5	8	7	6			
6		7				2		
				1		6		

HARD:

	4			8				
1								2
	2		7		6			8
		6			4		5	
	7	1		5	3			
	3		8			9		
7			9		3		8	
2								9
				5			3	

EVIL:

	9							
3		7			6			
6				3	2	1	8	
4		2						
9	7						1	4
						8		6
		5	4	7	6			8
			4			7		5
							3	

We cannot accept your entry without the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Personal Message: _____

Please check one:

Hat: _____

T-shirt: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

EASY:

6	2	9	8	1	7	3	5	4
5	8	7	4	2	3	1	6	9
1	3	4	6	5	9	7	2	8
3	7	2	9	6	1	8	4	5
9	5	8	2	7	4	6	1	3
4	1	6	5	3	8	9	7	2
7	4	5	3	8	6	2	9	1
8	9	1	7	4	2	5	3	6
2	6	3	1	9	5	4	8	7

MEDIUM:

5	6	4	3	8	9	1	7	2
9	2	8	1	6	7	4	5	3
7	1	3	4	5	2	9	6	8
2	5	9	8	1	3	6	4	7
1	8	7	6	9	4	3	2	5
3	4	6	7	2	5	8	1	9
8	9	5	2	4	6	7	3	1
6	7	1	5	3	8	2	9	4
4	3	2	9	7	1	5	8	6

HARD:

3	9	6	7	2	5	8	4	1
4	1	5	8	6	9	7	3	2
2	7	8	1	3	4	9	6	5
5	2	1	3	9	8	6	7	4
6	3	9	4	7	2	1	5	8
7	8	4	6	5	1	2	9	3
9	4	2	5	8	6	3	1	7
8	5	7	9	1	3	4	2	6
1	6	3	2	4	7	5	8	9

EVIL:

8	1	2	3	9	6	5	4	7
5	9	7	4	1	2	6	3	8
3	4	6	7	8	5	1	9	2
6	8	9	2	5	7	4	1	3
4	2	3	1	6	8	9	7	5
7	5	1	9	4	3	8	2	6
1	3	8	6	7	4	2	5	9
2	6	4	5	3	9	7	8	1
9	7	5	8	2	1	3	6	4

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 WINNERS:

(All winning entries will be screened for plagiarism.)

🏆 **Robert Crumrine, Downtown, 1.** *Old car, old house, old clothes, old lady. Time to get some new things.*

🏆 **Larry Clark, Clairemont, 1.** *Treat a house guest like royalty, but after two days hand them a broom.*

🏆 **Hiroshi Miyazaki, Normal Heights, 1.** *If beauty is in the eyes of the beholder, is noise in the ears of the listener?*

🏆 **Larry Redner, UTC, 1.** *Sign in F Street's front window this week: "Merry XXXmas."*



DOWNTOWN, \$500 & UP.
Studio+1BA. Rooms \$500/ up. Studios \$650/ up. Clean and quiet. Includes utilities and free cable, on-site laundry, elevator. Excellent location, convenient to all. No pets. Arlington Apartments, 701 7th Ave. and G St. 619-231-2385. www.HughesManagement.net.



DOWNTOWN, \$500-600.
Large, furnished rooms with high ceilings, tall windows. Includes utilities and cable. On-site laundry and kitchen. No pets. Excellent location across from Horton Plaza. Windsor Hotel, 843 4th Avenue. 619-231-2385. www.HughesMangement.net.



DOWNTOWN, \$550-800.
Price meets function. Spacious studios and rooms with private bathroom. Utilities included, on-site laundry. Some parking available. Near City College

and trolley. Mitchell Apts., 901 10th Avenue at E Street. 619-235-6068. www.HughesManagement.net.



DOWNTOWN, \$625 & UP.
Gaslamp quarter. Furnished rooms. Community bath/ showers. Cable TV, WiFi Internet. Laundry facility on site. Utilities included. Call Victor, 619-962-8000.



DOWNTOWN, \$650 & UP.
Best deal in East Village! Spacious units in small complex with gated courtyard. Utilities included. No lease. No pets. Tenth Avenue Apts. 743 10th Avenue. 619-239-1639 x2. www.HughesManagement.net.



DOWNTOWN, \$825-1095.
Studio+1BA, 1BD+1BA. 1/2 off 1st! Upper. New carpet, ceiling fans, wood blinds, built-ins, on-site laundry. All utilities paid! 1747 5th Avenue #31/ #34. 619-804-3325.

DOWNTOWN, \$850.
Studio+1BA, large. Move-in special! All utilities included! Laundry, street parking. No pets. Near Balboa Park. 1758 6th Avenue. 619-298-7724.



DOWNTOWN, \$650 & UP.
Historic Beaumanoir, unique urban mini lofts in the Gaslamp. Several sizes, 12' ceilings, brick walls, hardwood floors, minutes walk to San Diego Bay, Balboa Park, entertainment and daily shopping. Hardwood furniture available. Paid cable, electric, water. Most include sleeping decks. Refrigerator/ microwave included. On-site laundry, barbecue deck, indoor and outdoor kitchens. Impeccable renovation. No pets. 927 6th Avenue. Michael, 619-232-1517. beaumanor927@yahoo.com.

DOWNTOWN, \$650 & UP.
Studios/ rooms, furnished. Free utilities, new paint, hardwood floors, on-site laundry, newly renovated. 646 A Street. Call Bill, 619-239-3950.



DOWNTOWN, \$700-900.
The best of Downtown at your doorstep! Updated studios and one bedrooms with Petco Park, Gaslamp and Horton Plaza. Air conditioned units include utilities

and free cable. On-site laundry. Arthur Hotel at 728 Market Street. 619-239-1639 x2. www.HughesManagement.net.

DOWNTOWN, \$795.
Studio+1BA. Cortez Hill. Charming, quiet residential neighborhood. Keyed access. Utilities paid, on-site laundry. No pets. 619-299-8746.

DOWNTOWN, \$800 & UP.
Little Italy efficiency apartments with laundry. Private bath, cable TV, microwave, refrigerator. Utilities included. Secure, quiet, charming. Near trolley/ bus lines, blocks from harbor. On-site manager. Villa Caterina, 1654 Columbia Street. 619-232-3400.

DOWNTOWN, \$965.
1BD+1BA, large apartment, second floor. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, parking, coin laundry, private balcony, elevator. Cat OK with extra deposit. 2 blocks to Little Italy, with quaint shops and restaurants. Easy freeway access. Available now. 215 West Grape. Del Sol Property Management, broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

DOWNTOWN.
From \$125 weekly. Las Flores Hotel. Small, quiet. Four- week minimum. Color TV with basic cable. Refrigerator in most rooms. Secure. 619-235-6820.

DOWNTOWN.
From \$140/ week. Brand- new rooms near City College. Singles with kitchenettes. Deposit (long-term). Includes utilities/ cable. Quiet, secure. Shared bath/ laundry. Hotel Mediterranean. 619-231-8656. www.hotelmed-sd.com.

DOWNTOWN.

From \$199 weekly. Studio. Premier location. Furnished, full baths. Award-winning buildings. 24- hour staff, gyms, laundry rooms, sun decks. Free wireless Internet. Island Inn: 202 Island Avenue (Second/ Island), 619-232-4138. J Street Inn: 222 J Street, 619-696-6922. www.affordablehousingdsd.com.

DOWNTOWN.

Studio. Fully furnished studios with utilities included. Rates start at \$165/week. Free wireless Internet and exercise room. Baltic Inn: 521 6th Avenue. 619-237-0687. www.affordablehousingdsd.com.

DOWNTOWN.

Starting at \$175 weekly. Furnished rooms. Beautiful building, new. Refrigerator, microwave, TV, cable. 920 Beech Street. Call 619-234-1952.

GOLDEN HILL, \$675.

Great studio apartments in a great neighborhood. Upstairs unit has a private balcony. Laundry and parking located on site. Hardwood flooring, tile and carpet. 2627 C St. innoreventerprises.com. 858-568-5081

GOLDEN HILL, \$795 & UP.
Studio and 1BD+1BA. Laundry! Parking. Available in December. 2470 B Street. www.AMGSD.com. 619-295-1165.

GOLDEN HILL, \$825-1100.
1BD+1BA. On-site laundry, assigned parking, laundry, patio. Beautiful street. No pets. 2449 A Street. 619-549-9542 or 858-278-6135.

GOLDEN HILL, \$825.
1BD+1BA. On-site laundry, assigned parking, close to hospital, park, restaurants and freeway exits. 2580 C Street. Contact Iram at 619-255-8172.

GOLDEN HILL, \$875.

1BD+1BA. Renovated with patio, gated community, on-site laundry, assigned parking, close to parks, hospitals, restaurants and freeway exits. 2720 Broadway. Contact Elizabeth at 619-677-0026.

LITTLE ITALY, \$745.

Studio with small kitchen. Balcony. Cute. Laundry on site. No pets. 2311 Union #J. 619-501-2311, 619-228-4184.

SHERMAN HEIGHTS, \$620.

Studio+1BA. Deposit \$434. Street parking. Upgraded. Available to move in 12/25. 322 sqft. 532 21st Street, #6. 619-663-5369; sr@sdcpm.net.

East County

ALPINE, \$775 & UP.

1BD+1BA and 2BD+1.5BA, \$1095. Move-in-Special OAC! Spacious townhouse. Heat and air conditioning. Pool, small pet welcome. Call 619-445-0805. www.sdapbtbrokers.com.

EL CAJON, \$925 & UP.

2BD+1BA spacious apartments from \$925. **\$899 Moves You In!** Private patios. Great cul-de-sac location with controlled access, on-site parking and laundry. Easy freeway access. 441 Dominguez Way. TTPM, 619-405-4500. www.dominguezwayapts.com.

EL CAJON, \$1150.

2BD+1.5BA spacious townhome. Central heat/ air conditioning, covered patio/ balcony. Pool/ spa. Off- street parking. On-site laundry. 619-447-7386. www.sdapbtbrokers.com.



EL CAJON, \$1875.
3BD+2BA house, plus office. Lake Jennings, El Cajon. Very clean, quiet neighborhood. Large 2- car garage. RV parking. Fenced yard. Available now. 619-303-1512.

EL CAJON, \$480-850.
Trailers. Gated community park. Each unit has a little yard. Conveniently located, close to trolley, bus, shopping. No pets. 619-933-5189.

EL CAJON, \$765.
1BD+1BA apartment. *\$799 Moves You In!* Attractive, well-maintained property with beautiful courtyard. Gated access and quiet location. 340 Orlando Street. TPPM, 619-818-9939, www.northwindsapts.com.

EL CAJON, \$765.
1BD+1BA apartment. El Cajon's best maintained property with beautiful courtyard and sparkling pool. You will be proud to call Four Winds your home. Great manager, great service, great value. Rent today! No pets. 1072 E. Madison Avenue. TPPM, 619-444-1614, www.fourwindsapts.info.

EL CAJON, \$775.
1BD+1BA and 2BD+2BA, \$1010. Spacious apartments. \$400 deposit. Large kitchen. Pool, Jacuzzi, barbecue, on-site laundry. Off- street parking. Credit check. Section 8 OK. 619-440-5258.

EL CAJON, \$775.
1BD+1BA, \$77. New carpet, vinyl, air conditioning, dishwasher, patio with storage. Pool, Jacuzzi. Gated community. Water, sewer, trash included. Call 619-444-5799. www.sdaprbrokers.com.

EL CAJON, \$795.
1BD+1BA. Beautifully maintained apartments with sparkling pool. No pets. 234 West Park Avenue. TPPM, 619-850-9722. www.palmtowers.com.

Typo Patrol Results

Issue of December 8, 2011

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Blurt

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p.76 Alphabet *should be* Alphabet

Marvin Wager (Clairemont) \$40

Dining review

p.62 buerre *should be* beurre

Ian DeFanti (North Park) \$10

Restaurant blogs

p.68 was bit *should be* was a bit

Frances Puente (Normal Heights) \$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 baseball cap (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).

EL CAJON, \$800-900 & UP.
1BD+1BA and 2BD+1BA apartments. 1/2 off 2nd month OAC! Appliances, A/C, on-site laundry, off- street parking, pool, lush landscaping. No pets. 294 Ballantyne. On- site manager: 619-715-8243 or 619-334-7334. If no answer, try 619-994-7392.

EL CAJON, \$850 & UP.
1BD+1BA and 2BD. Luxury garden apartments. Central heat, A/C, patios/ balconies with storage. Pool and spa. Sorry, no pets. 619-593-1070.

EL CAJON, \$925.
2BD+1BA. 1/2 off 1st! Lower, A/C, closet space, shared BBQ/ picnic area, on-site laundry, parking. Section 8 OK. 798 McClure Street #4. 619-804-3325.

EL CAJON, \$925.
2BD+1BA. 1/2 off 1st! New carpet/ wood blinds/ vinyl, mirrored closet doors, 2 parkings, on-site laundry. Pets OK. Section 8 OK. 632 W. Washington #C, #D. 619-804-3325.

EL CAJON, \$950 & UP.
2BD+1BA spacious apartments with backyard, \$1000. Available now! Pool, on-site laundry, tile, assigned parking, freeway close. Small pets welcome. Anabel Court Apartments, 303 East Madison Avenue. 619-579-5640.

EL CAJON, \$950.
2BD+1BA, large 900 sqft apartment with new carpet. Swimming pool, assigned parking, on-site laundry. Close to shopping and freeway. 619-444-1876.

LA MESA, \$1195.
2BD+2BA. Super large upstairs corner unit. Close to downtown La Mesa. Parking, pool. www.cal-prop.com. 858-768-4355.

LA MESA, \$1199.
3BD+1BA apartment. Also available 3BD+2BA apartment, \$1299. Espaciosos. Aire acondicionado. Lavanderia. Garage. Balcones. Picina. Mascotas OK. Espanol. 619-646-8670.

LA MESA, \$1199.
3BD+1BA apartment. Also available 3BD+2BA apartment, \$1299. Welcome to Mt. Helix! Spacious. Air conditioning. Laundry. Garages. Balconies. Pool. Hablo Espanol. 619-646-8670.

LA MESA, \$1250.
2BD+2BA apartment. Parking, pool, laundry on site. Cat OK. 990 sqft. 4905 73rd Street. Call Myra, 619-697-8458.

LA MESA, \$1275.
3BD+2BA. Downstairs spacious unit. Centrally located. Short walk to Mt. Helix School, University Avenue and trolley. www.cal-prop.com. 858-768-4355.

LA MESA, \$1550.
2BD+1BA house, patio, front porch, hardwood floors, heat. In the heart of beautiful La Mesa. Need to see to appreciate. 619-490-9577.

LA MESA, \$895.
1BD+1BA apartment. Lake Murray area. Balcony, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, A/C, laundry room, parking. No pets. 7490 Collins Avenue #3. Agent, 619-232-6811.

SERVICES

\$20 OFF 1 Hour
\$10 OFF ½ Hour
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Aria Spa
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Massage
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Jacuzzi
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Includes your choice of hot tub, Jacuzzi or table shower. Featuring Deep Tissue, Swedish and Thai massage.
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At College Ave. Plenty of parking in back.
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Visa • MasterCard • Amex • Disc • ATM
Open 7 days 9am-10pm

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Massage
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One Hour
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FREE TABLE SHOWER & HOT TUB
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Oriental
Chi Spa
\$20 off
1-hr. massage
\$10 off
½-hr. massage
• Therapeutic Jacuzzi
• Body Shampoo
• Stress Reduction & Relaxation
6786 University Ave.
(near SDSU)
619-265-8500
Lic. #00012847

NEW in Escondido
GOLDEN SPA
\$10 Off
½ Hour Massage
with this ad
Swedish • Deep Tissue • Table Shower Available
1500 East Valley Parkway, Suite A
(Across the street from Home Depot and Auto Zone)
Hablamos Espanol License #166200
760-291-0399 • Open 7 days a week 9am-9pm

\$10 off
1 hr Massage
Saturday & Sunday
Jacuzzi Shower
Walk-ins Welcome
Best Oriental Massage
In Town!!!
We invite you to experience one of the best massages by professional staff!!!
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Open 7 days • 9am - 9pm
License #152498
15 FWY. Escondido Blvd.
8th St.
9th St.

Brainstorms

by Don Rubin

Watch it!

Creating puzzles is our day job. We do our serious work as a night watchman at a flea market.

Grab a flashlight and tell us which of the following items are on the table.

- ___ pliers

___ India ink

___ dustpan

___ trumpet

___ hatchet

___ plunger

___ stapler

___ toaster

___ wok

___ cake pan
- ___ Walkman and headphones

___ juicer

___ colander and spoon

___ electric mixer

___ two batteries

___ sewing machine

___ pencil sharpener

___ camera (and flash)
- ___ fire extinguisher

___ dish drainer

___ four dishes

___ tape dispenser

___ measuring cup

___ rolling pin

___ pepper mill

___ steam iron

___ turntable

___ chainsaw
- ___ percolator

___ accordion

___ desk lamp

___ clarinet

___ flashlight

___ candlestick

___ typewriter

___ golf club

We cannot accept your entry without the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Personal Message: _____

Please check one:

Hat: _____ T-shirt: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____

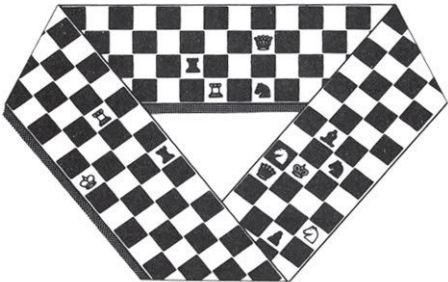
SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:

Checkmaze

- White

Black
1. QxNch

KxN
2. RxQ mate



BRAINSTORM PUZZLES:

RULES OF THE GAME

- 1) Submit one completed puzzle to the *Reader* each week for entry into another 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) Submit the correct answers to one of the puzzles along with your name and a brief message (**20** 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: [Puzzles@sdriver.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) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.

- 6) Late entries will not be considered.

7) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.

8) Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.

NEW RULES

Starting with the issue of May 12, we will award writers of the best messages, among those who correctly solve the puzzle, one of the famous *Reader* baseball caps or T-shirts. And we will print the winning messages in the paper. Puzzle winners with rankings will still be posted online at [SDReader.com](#).

THIS WEEK’S WINNERS:

(All winning entries will be screened for plagiarism.)

LA MESA, \$995 & UP.
1BD+1BA, \$995; 2BD+2BA, \$1250 & up. Apartments/ townhouses. Remodels available. Yards/ decks. Deposit \$500, OAC. Move- In Specials. No pets. Gym. Quiet garden community. 5810 Amaya Drive, vistaamaya@gmail.com. 619-697-3285.

LA MESA.
1BD+1BA and 2BD+1BA spacious apartments. **\$99 Move in Special!** Pool, laundry, lots of parking. Dishwasher, air conditioning. 619-466-6149.

LA MESA.
2BD+2BA. Very spacious 1 and 2 bedroom apartments. Central heating/ air, park- like setting, pool, views. Near 94, 125, 8 Freeways. Pets welcome. 619-204-0610. [palmspringapartments.com](#).

LAKESIDE, \$715.
1BD+1BA apartment. **Move- in special: 1/2 off 1st month!** Near shopping. Easy freeway access. Off- street parking. On-site laundry. 12369 Lakeshore Drive. [Northcuttproperties.com](#). Agent, 858-505-1300.

LEMON GROVE, \$1695.
3BD+1BA private house. Huge fenced yard. Quiet alley. 2- car garage, private driveway. Large, enclosed patio. Pets OK. Available 1/15. 7105 Central Ave. 619-825-5504.

LEMON GROVE, \$470-710.
Sundance Trailer Park. Trailer space rental, \$470 monthly. Trailer with space, \$670-\$700 monthly. Upgraded shower facilities available. On-site coin laundry. Peaceful. Front- secured electric gate. Near trolley/ freeway. Lease. Deposit. No dogs; cats considered. Manager, 619-463-0902.

LEMON GROVE, \$740
Unfurnished studio. Deposit required. 2- person occupancy. Pool/ laundry. Rent includes free dish TV, Wi-Fi. Close to Highway 94, buses/ trolley. Furnished unit: \$790. 619-461-0909 or 760-522-5312.

LEMON GROVE, \$995.
1BD+1BA charming cottage. Utilities included! Huge fenced yard. Quiet alley. Private driveway. Pets OK. Available 1/15. 7105 Central Ave. 619-825-5504.

SPRING VALLEY, \$675 & UP.
1BD+1BAs. Senior Citizens. Available now! Quiet and friendly community for independent, active, nonsmoking seniors. Call today! Linda, 619-697-8435.

SPRING VALLEY, \$925.
2BD+1BA, freshly painted and cozy duplex. Private rear yard. No pets. Good references, credit required. By appointment. 619-585-9471.

Central San Diego

BAY PARK, \$1100.
2BD+1.5BA, upstairs and downstairs, refurbished apartments. View! 2 blocks to USD. Laundry, cats OK. 5946 Lauretta Street. 619-296-6699. [www.centrecity.net](#).

BAY PARK, \$1150.
2BD+1BA, downstairs apartment. Washer/ dryer, microwave, gated, parking, view, 2 blocks to USD. 5919 Mildred Street. 619-296-6699. [www.centrecity.net](#).

BAY PARK, \$925 & UP.
1BD+1BA and 2BD+1BA, \$1150. Pristine apartments in Bay Park's best maintained property with beautiful courtyard and sparkling pool. Perfect Mission Bay location with easy freeway access. No pets. 2520 Chicago Street. TTPM, 619-405-7200, [www.debonairapts.com](#).

CLAIREMONT, \$1190 AND UP.
2BD+2BA, \$1295. 2BD+1BA, \$1190. Move-in Special! Pets welcome. Water/ trash included, pool, barbecue, on-site laundry. Garages for \$75. Bay Ridge Apartments, 3010 Cowley Way, 619-276-3222.

CLAIREMONT, \$1800.
3BD+2BA plus family room. Remodeled house, all appliances, A/C, garage plus driveway parking, gardener paid, must see master bath. Small pet OK with extra deposit. 6 month lease or month to month. Available 1/15/12. 4910 Almayo Court. Del Sol Property Management, broker. [www.delsolpm.com](#). 858-270-2071.

CLAIREMONT, \$950.
Studio+1BA. 1 year/ 6 month lease. Basic rates: \$950/ month for queen bed, \$1050* for 2 double beds. Expanded rates: \$1195/ month for queen bed or \$1295* for 2 double beds that also includes: weekly cleaning service, daily continental breakfast, all utilities, cable (HBO), heated pool/ spa, on-site laundry. High-speed Internet available for additional charge. (*Rates subject to change/ tax.) California Suites Hotel, 5415 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. 1-888-264-4729. [www.californiasuiteshotel.com](#).

COLLEGE AREA, \$1150 & UP.
2BD+1BA large apartments. Water/ sewer/ trash paid. Small complex. Off-street parking. Laundry facilities. Close to all. County and City Section 8 OK. Pets? 858-455-5956.

COLLEGE AREA, \$1150.
2BD+2BA. On-site parking. New carpet and paint. Close to all. Clean, quiet, secure. If you can find one better... rent it! 5450 University Avenue. Call Rachael, 619-804-1044, or Jeff, 619-713-1044.

COLLEGE AREA, \$1175.
2BD+2BA apartment. Move-in special! Fireplace. Central heat/ air. Microwave, dishwasher. Balcony. Gated. 4828 Art Street. 619-298-7724.

COLLEGE AREA, \$1395.
2BD+2BA condo with parking. Laundry in unit. Near SDSU. Open floor plan. Balcony. No pets. Call Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

COLLEGE AREA, \$750.
1BD+1BA apartment. Newly decorated. Small, quiet complex. Assigned parking, laundry, beautiful patio. No pets. 4444 49th Street, 619-549-9542, 619-501-0585, 619-761-1972, 858-278-6135.

COLLEGE AREA, \$750.
1BD+1BA downstairs apartment. Newer carpet and vinyl, off- street parking, on-site laundry. Call 619-287-2282. www.sadaptbrokers.com.

COLLEGE AREA, \$850.
1BD large apartment. Move- in special on approved credit. Dishwasher, disposal, wall A/C. Permit parking, laundry on site, no pets. Water/ trash included. 858-483-5111.

COLLEGE AREA, \$950.
2BD+1BA. New paint and carpet. On-site laundry. Close to all. Clean, quiet, secure. If you can find one better... rent it! 7240 El Cajon Boulevard. Call Lynette at 619-602-0959, or Rachael, 619-804-1044.

DEL CERRO, \$1450.
3BD+2BA condo. December Free! Vaulted ceilings, balcony, storage, 2 parking, near trolley/ freeway/ shopping. Community pool. 5533 Adobe Falls Rd. 619-460-5746, 619-892-1641.

LINDA VISTA, \$1095 & UP.
2BD+1BA townhomes, \$1095 and \$1195; bungalows, \$1120 and \$1245. Ask about the deposit special. 619-249-9585.

LINDA VISTA, \$1096.
3BD+1BA, 918 sqft townhouse. Deposit \$767. Upgraded. Street parking only. Available 12/31. 6540 Kelly Street. 619-663-5369. sr@sdcpm.net.

LINDA VISTA, \$1350.
2BD+2BA, apartment. Upstairs, quiet complex. Laundry. 5530 Riley Street #4. Available now. 858-514-8201.

LINDA VISTA, \$1404.
3BD+2BA bright and airy upper units with vaulted ceilings. Minutes to shops and freeways. On bus line. Section 8 OK. No application fee. Sorry, no pets. For info, call Ana at 858-771-1550.

LINDA VISTA, \$695-1325.
Studio+1BA, 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms. Utilities included (studios/ 1 bedrooms). \$400-\$800 deposit! No pets. Move-in special on 3BD+2BA at Ulric 45: 1st month just \$800! 2249 Ulric Street. 858-565-6400.

MISSION VALLEY, \$1000 & UP.
1BD+1BA, large, 660 sqft. 2BD+1BA, 750 sqft. Huge walk-in closets. Dishwashers. On-site parking. Balcony. No dogs. Other pets considered. 5720 Gaines Street. 619-299-3477.

MISSION VALLEY, \$1495.
2BD+1.5BA townhouse with parking. Laundry in unit. Pool, no pets. Available mid- December. Call Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

MISSION VALLEY, \$1650.
2BD+2BA Fashion Valley condo, "The Courtyards." Upstairs corner unit. Central heat/ air, fireplace, 2 balconies, washer/ dryer, pool, spa, tennis. 619-279-0031. akarnazes@yahoo.com.

MISSION VALLEY, \$975.
1BD+1BA condo. Great location! Mission Valley East. Tile floors, wooden floors in bedroom. Garage, pool and Jacuzzi. No pets. Available now. Call 619-977-8861.

SAN CARLOS, \$1425-1695.
2BD+1.5BA townhouses, \$1425, 3BD+1.5BA, \$1695. Super special! Stove, dishwasher, garage, large patio, pools, laundry facilities. Lakewood Villa Townhomes, 8492 San Carlos Drive. Available now. Call 619-469-3585; 619-944-0671.

SERRA MESA, \$1000 & UP.
2BD+1BA from \$1000. Patio Village Apartments. Bright and airy units with ceiling fans, carport with storage close to unit and remodeled laundry room on site. Centrally located within minutes to the 15, 163 and 805 freeways. Close to park and shopping. Penny, 888-205-1388.

UTC, \$1650.
2BD+2BA large condo. 1st month free with lease! Downstairs, washer/ dryer, patio, pool, rec room, 2- car garage. Small pet OK with deposit. 4444 Eastgate Mall. 619-298-7724.

UTC, \$1995.
2BD+2BA plus bonus room. Granite counters, washer and dryer, ground floor with patio. Complex has swimming pool, hot tub, exercise room and much more. 9293 Regents Road. www.cal-prop.com. 858-768-4311.

UTC, \$1995.
2BD+2.5BA large townhouse. UCSD. 2- car garage. Laundry, large patio, over 1600 sqft. Fireplace. Open floor plan. Available mid-December. Call Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

North County Coastal

CARLSBAD, \$1295.
2BD+1BA, large. Fenced yard, storage closet, laundry hookups. Close to beach, shopping, Coaster. Deposit. No pets. 760-729-6840.

CARLSBAD, \$945.
Studio+1BA. Large studio with balcony. Side-by-side closets in bedroom. Laundry facilities on grounds. Close to beach, shopping, parks, Coaster. \$800 deposit. 760-729-6840.

DEL MAR, \$1700.
1BD+1BA. Top floor with ocean view and garage. Available now. Heated pool, spa, fitness center, close to beach. Call 858-755-4721.

DEL MAR, \$2075-2395.
2BD+2BA apartments with ocean view, \$2075+. 3BD+2BA, \$2195+. Some with washer/ dryer. Pool, spa. 201 Fourth Street. Los Arboles, 858-481-9585; mikeatla@aol.com. www.summerpacific.com.

ENCINITAS, \$895 & UP.
Sick of roommates? Cozy beach trailers in quiet park. Near beach, Coaster, restaurants, shops. 152 North Coast Highway 101. No pets. 760-753-4101.

LEUCADIA, \$2500.
3BD+2BA furnished townhouse in Sea Bluff, gated community. Beach access, community pools and spa. 1717 Aldersgate Road. \$2500 plus utilities. Leasing Unlimited, Lic#00976056, 760-436-7273.

OCEANSIDE, \$1125 & UP.
1BD+1BA apartment, \$1125- \$1155. 2BD+2BA, \$1595. Granite countertops, wood floors. Balcony/ private yard selected units. Pool, laundry, parking. Cat OK. www.casavistaapartments.com. Move-in special! 760-439-5728.

OCEANSIDE, \$950.
1BD+1BA duplex. 209 Surfrider Way #A. All utilities included! Parking. No pets. 619-200-1657 or www.bkbinc.com.

North County Inland

ESCONDIDO, \$1285-1535.
2BD+2BA and 3BD+2BA mobile homes. Washer/ dryer, backyard, deck, storage, parking, pool. 2 weeks free rent! No pets. 1924 Sheridan Avenue. Emilia, Vista Verde Estates, 760-745-1677.

VISTA, \$730.
Studios. Coin laundry and parking. Close to Palomar College. No pets. 1924 W. Drive. Call Randy at 760-805-7317.

Old Town & Uptown

CITY HEIGHTS, \$1131.
2BD+2BA. Two units just became available! New, spacious apartments. A/C, granite countertops, laminate and carpeted floors, spacious closets, underground parking. Section 8 welcome. Sorry, no pets. 4395 El Cajon Blvd. Call Ana to view: 858-715-1770.

CITY HEIGHTS, \$1250.
3BD+2BA townhouse. Approximately 1100 sqft. New paint, balcony off dining area, wall A/C. Assigned parking, coin-operated laundry, available now. 3820 40th St. #D. www.stevenleproperties.com. 619-295-5525.

CITY HEIGHTS, \$695.
Furnished studio alcove apartment. Complete living room, bedroom and kitchen furniture. No SDG&E deposit or hookup fee required. Near 52nd and University. 5101 Towle Court. Close to SDSU. Laundry room. Off- street parking. Low deposit. Call 619-281-9451.

CITY HEIGHTS, \$700.
1BD+1BA fourplex. Azalea Park area. Fenced yard, security gated. Off- street parking. No pets. Some utilities paid. 4251 Poplar Street. Available now. 858-219-3023.

CITY HEIGHTS, \$795.
1BD+1BA. Large, newly remodeled. Reserved parking. Gated. Ceiling fans. Laundry. Close to freeway, shopping, restaurants. No pets. 4027 34th Street. 619-279-0031.

CITY HEIGHTS, \$895.
2BD+1BA apartment. Water/ sewer/ trash included. Community laundry room. 4363 and 4363-1/2 49th Street. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400. peoplehelpingothers.com.

CITY HEIGHTS, \$950.
2BD+2BA, 4275 Chamounie Ave. almost corner with El Cajon Blvd. across from KFC, built like townhouse, living and kitchen downstairs, bedrooms and bathrooms upstairs. New flooring, new stove, new dishwasher. Laundry room, Plenty of parking, not assigned. No pets, Section 8 OK. Phillips Realty. Pablo, 619-249-2770.

HILLCREST, \$1100.
2BD+1.5BA apartment. 3843 Park Blvd. #3, second floor. One extra room could be bedroom or studio. Newly renovated, carpet, gas stove, A/C, heating, laundry room shared with tenants, street parking. We offer parking lot first come first served. No pets. Phillips Realty, 619-291-6686, or call Pablo, 619-249-2770.

HILLCREST, \$1125.
1BD+1BA, downstairs, near Balboa Park, built-in bookshelves, laundry, cats OK. 1224 Pennsylvania Ave. 619-296-6699. www.centrecity.net.

HILLCREST, \$1150.
2BD+1BA apartment, 3807 Park Blvd. behind Numbers. Lovely cottage, fenced, front and back decks, laundry room shared with tenants, street parking. We offer parking lot first come first served. No pets. Phillips Realty, 619-291-6686, or call Pablo, 619-249-2770.

HILLCREST, \$1395.
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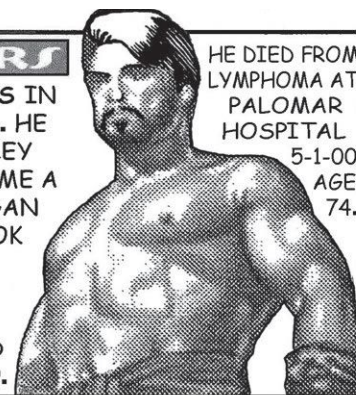
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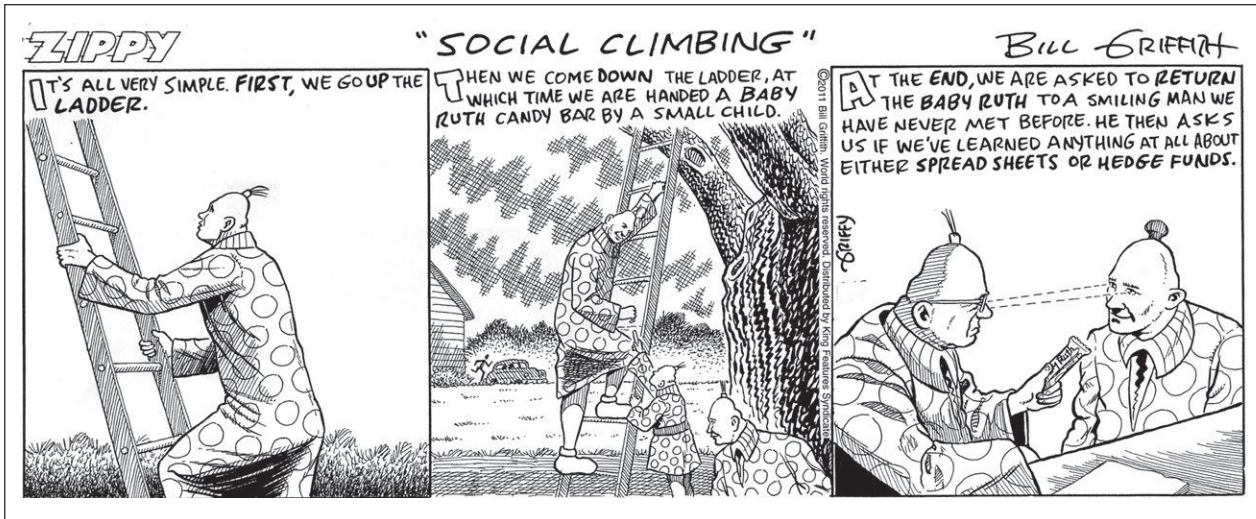
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OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE Anonymous. 12-step meeting for people with OCD/ interested others. Free. Mondays. 6-7pm. Department of Health Services Complex, 3851 Rosecrans Street, Harbor Room. ocasandiego@hotmail.com.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Is food a problem? Binge or purge? No dues or fees. Contact Overeaters Anonymous: 619-521-2538. www.OASandiego.org.

PROBLEMS TORMENTING YOU? Relationship setbacks, addiction, anxiety, stress, pain, falling apart. Impact your life with spiritual solutions. 858-272-3246.

PROFOUND PRAYER HEALS problems. Discover freedom, wellness, balance, peace. Impact your life. Eliminate chronic disease, pain, fear, depression, addiction. 858-272-3246.

SHOP ONLINE—20% TO CHARITY! Place your Avon orders online, choose the event or charity you want to support, and 20% of gross proceeds will be donated. Fundraising available for your group. www.youravon.com/kennis.

SMALL BOX FOUND containing pieces of fine jewelry on bus from San Diego to LAX to connect flights to and from the Philippines. Must be able to describe box and contents. found921@yahoo.com.

SUFFER ANXIETY, depression, panic, mood disorders, anger, or obsessions? Our group can help. Daily meetings open to the public. For schedule: ALSHSSandiego@gmail.com or 619-275-0364.

TWELVE STEPS NOT WORKING for you? Try a self-empowering, skill-building approach with S.M.A.R.T. Recovery. Free support groups. www.practicalrecovery.com.

UNDERDOG DAY. Friday, December 16. Find the cat or dog that thinks you're #1! Visit Rancho Coastal Humane Society, 389 Requeza St., Encinitas. www.sdpets.org. 760-753-6413. Or make a tax-deductible donation, volunteer, donate food and supplies or buy a Tribute Tile on the Wall of Honor.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Help popular website with: content, getting mail list out, promotion, organizing nonprofit fundraiser. Dinner On A Dollar Org. Inc. www.dinneronadollar.org. Free eNewsletter serves all. gracep@dinneronadollar.org.

WRITERS looking for short, uplifting stories of homeless "Rescued Pets" by people who did. to be published with photos, if possible, please. 858-693-3939, pet7@writersetc.com.

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6-cyl. & 8-cyl. extra, some oil filters extra.

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+ \$8.25 Certificate of Compliance (most cars). Bring DMV Notice. Model years 1976 - 1995 \$10 extra for Evap Test. RV's: call for details.

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Fuel Injection Service
3-Step — \$109⁹⁵*

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FISHING MACHINE, 17' Wellcraft, center console, 115HP Johnson outboard, power trim and tilt, under 80 hours. Stable, wider, strongly built boat, on Zieman trailer, registered 2011. \$3950/ best. 858-568-2769.

GOLF BALLS. Like new. Titleist Pro V, \$20 dozen. Penta, Srixon, Callaway, \$15-\$18 dozen. Miscellaneous name brands, \$7 dozen. Titleist, Nike, Pinnacle. Kenny. 619-398-7017; 619-582-1408.

PROJECT BOAT, 45', Ketch Saab diesel, windless with chain, stove, power panel. More info, call 530-355-0522.

SOFTBALL SHORTSTOP and left fielder wanted for our men's slow pitch team. 619-517-5791.

SOFTBALL TEAM. Needs 2 outfielders and second baseman. Men's slow pitch. 619-517-5791.

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Trucks extra
Replace up to 5 quarts & filter

Tune-Up & Oil Change
\$39⁹⁵ 4-cyl.
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126 San Diego Reader December 15, 2011

Factualities

curious actualities

compiled by Louis R. Biro

Friday, December 12, 1941

44th & Broadway, Times Square, New York City

Sign Designer Douglas Leigh and Artkraft Strauss unveiled the new Camel cigarette billboard featuring a huge man's face blowing gigantic smoke rings into the air. It remained for over 25 years, and became a landmark in an area defined by its spectaculars and animated advertisements. This sign is considered one of the most famous advertising displays of the 20th century.



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PORTABLE DVD PLAYER, RCA 7" LED, 2011, \$35. Paper shredder, cross-cut fine shred, \$10. RF modulator, \$5. Downtown. 619-261-6403.

SPEAKERS. Stereo, turntables. Boston Acoustics, Polk audio, Sony, Bose, Kenwood, Pioneer Technics, and Sanyo. Take choice or combine. \$5-\$75. 619-670-8356.

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DAYBED, FUTON. Bunk bed, captain's bed, loft bed, diversified item, excellent condition. \$80. 619-670-8356.

DRESSER, 64"Lx29"x16"D, oak, 3 drawers, both sides, middle cabinet, good condition, \$205. 619-794-6490.

DRESSER, chest of 4 drawers and two matching nightstands, early 1960s style, medium brown finish, Bassett furniture, dovetail drawers, dresser 43"Hx34"Hx18"D, \$100. 619-465-4434.

END TABLE, large, burl wood finish, 3'x4', a steal at only \$45. Call Kevin, 858-232-9271.

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NORTH PARK. Huge \$1 parking lot sale! Clothing, DVDs, CDs, LPs and more. Saturday and Sunday. 3939 Iowa St.

MISCELLANEOUS

ARCADE GAME collection. Galaga, Ms. Pacman, Operation Wolf, Super Cobra, Asteroids, Pong, Arabian and Commando. Can separate or all for \$3500. Please leave message. 619-670-8356.

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CARPET, brand new, 20 cents per square foot, large sections and remnants, chocolate brown color. 619-315-6581.

CHEFMATE, \$40. Charles, cell 619-799-7392.

CHRISTMAS TREE, 6-1/2' fir with lights. Used once, 10 sets of lights, 12 boxes ornaments, 3 new boxes icicles and lots more. All \$125. 760-599-0249.

CORNER SHELF UNIT, very good condition, \$150 firm. Automotive hydraulic floor jack, works, \$70. Automotive distributor, V8, points type, \$95. Call John, leave message for call back. 619-223-5029.

DOG BED, new designer, leopard print, box shape with entrance, black inside, very cushy and padded. Cats will love this too! \$25. Spring Valley, 619-466-8663.

DOUGH MIXER, restaurant. Varimixer W40P mixer, 40- quart capacity, for use in pizzerias, bakeries and restaurants, used. \$2800. 760-746-7209.

DRESSES, ladies' fancy party dresses, sweaters, faux long coat, toaster, grill, juicer, coffee maker, waffle iron, office chair, \$5. Nightstand, TV cart, bookcase, surfboard, drum pedal. 858-270-0565.

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HAWAII, BIG ISLAND, 3 acres, \$22K cash/ \$27K terms, 8000 sqft, \$10K/ \$13K. By owner financed, no credit check/ qualifying. \$300 down, \$200 month. 808-951-9909.

LAWN MOWER ENGINES. My private collection of 20 years. 17 assorted, 3-4 horsepower, B&S. All good, some as new, many free extras. A steal, \$17 each, must buy all. 760-732-1315.

LEATHER JACKET, black, men's extra large, Joshua Ross brand, \$40. Suede jacket, black body, brown sleeves. Letterman style, men's extra large, \$30. 619-523-1782.

MATTRESS COVER/ PAD, new, high end and quality, waterproof, padded cloth, deep pockets, paid over \$60. Never used, sell \$30. Spring Valley, 619-466-8663.

MISCELLANEOUS. Surfboards, bicycles, household items. Please leave message. 619-296-4065.

PURSE, ladies', leather, beautiful, \$30. Mr. Coffee coffee maker, \$10. 4 arm chairs, comfortable office or living room, \$30 each. Antique corner lamp, \$150. 619-582-0096.

SEWING MACHINE, Singer de Luxe, 2006, made in Great Britain, in cabinet, stylist, modern stitches, book, extra parts, bobbins, \$250. 619-445-5898.

SOFA BED, queen size, dark blue denim, washable cushion covers, very clean, only \$55. 619-275-6658.

SWISS WATCH, men's Swiss Army watch, all Swiss, all stainless, stored 3 years, worn 2 years, silver dial, good condition, in original box. \$30. 619-261-6403.

TREADMILL. Merit treadmill model 730T, folds up easily, barely used, like new. Sell for \$225/ best offer. Call Mary at 760-745-8126. Free delivery depending on location.

WASHER/ DRYER, Kenmore, front loading, gas dryer, \$600. Double- door refrigerator with ice in the door and water, \$600. Craftmatic queen- size adjustable bed, \$1500. 619-261-6484.

WELBILT CONVECTION OVEN, collectibles on Marilyn, Brigitte Bardot, Elizabeth Taylor, Sophia Loren, Jean Harlow, Marlene Dietrich, Lucille Ball, many more. 619-420-1028.

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