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Diane Keltner, president of San Diego’s Synergy Electric, the contractor that assembled the project: “Once it’s up and people see what’s going on here, I think the phone will be ringing.” Kyocera Solar, a San Diego–based subsidiary of the Japanese electronics firm, supplied the solar panels and related hardware.

County can afford Fords Public budgets are said to be tight, but San Diego County is in the market for 26 new 2012 Ford Taurus SEL, four-wheel-drive sedans for its general service fleet, according to a November 29 request for bids. Colorwise, four are to be Ebony Black, eight Sterling Gray, nine Ingot Silver, and five White Suede, all with Charcoal Black interiors. Only authorized Ford dealers need apply, says the solicitation. A top policy staffer to Illinois Democratic congressman Danny Davis spent two nights at San Diego’s Bayfront Marriott Hotel in September, thanks to the American Dietetic Association. According to a congressional travel disclosure form recently filed by Davis, “I paid $2,490 for lodging at $371.80 a night, $371.80 in travel and $68.60 in meals, along with $62 in cab fares. The aide was ‘invited to

Hang On Tight
By Don Bauder

The stock market is like Pavlov’s dogs. It starts to salivate at the thought of a juicy meal, long before it gets one. (About a century ago, Russian scientist Ivan Petrovich Pavlov found that if he rang a bell before he gave the dogs meat powder, pretty soon they would salivate at the ringing of the bell.) With the world in a funk (Europe on the brink, the United States growing only moderately), stocks have dipped a bit but done surprisingly well this year, largely because central banks have kept interest rates so low. It’s hard for stocks to go down much when banks — even foreign banks — can borrow money from the Federal Reserve for a very low interest rate.

For more than a year, stocks have soared whenever world leaders announced another plan to rescue Europe’s sick puppies — and the euro currency — with a snort of liquidity. American stocks zoomed 4 percent on the announcement that under a coordinated program, foreign financial institutions will have an easier time borrowing United States dollars from their central banks, which in turn would get the money from our Federal Reserve.

On Thursday, December 8, stocks plunged on fears of less liquidity. The next day they soared on expectations of more juice. The following Monday they plunged, continuing the weakness last week and through this Monday.

There will almost certainly be another flood of liquidity; our Federal Reserve says more juice could be forthcoming. So, like Pavlov’s dogs, the markets will salivate at the thought.
History Along the Line

By Dorian Hargrove

Mike Harris drives his blue Ford Ranger pickup south on Hollister Street, through the Tijuana River Valley, toward the border. He stops the truck on the shoulder and calls the Border Patrol to tell a supervisor that he is out on one of his tours and will be, as he calls it, “riding the line.”

Then he heads west on Monument Road. The pavement eventually turns to dirt. He makes a left at the gated entrance to Border Field State Park and continues on to Friendship Park, where weeds have overrun the concrete benches. He drives onto a sidewalk and comes to a halt at the ocean overlook. This is Harris’s first stop on the Riding the Line border tour.

Harris, 57, began giving tours after retiring from the Border Patrol in 2006. He spent much of his 26-year career as a field agent, the last 3 years as a supervisor.

But business has been slow. Since launching his tour company, Edgeline Productions, in 2007, he’s given only three or four tours per year.

“I first thought of the tour as a niche market that I would enjoy working in after retirement. The niche is not very big,” admits Harris. The tour lasts four hours and costs $75 per person. It consists of Harris driving sightseers, usually in a rented van, to the park and then east along the border five and a half miles to the San Ysidro Port of Entry. When they reach the Tijuana River channel, passengers can pose for pictures while straddling the yellow painted line that marks the border.

Harris says the tour provides riders a glimpse of life for immigrants and agents.

“I hope people get a more in-depth understanding of just how the border operates, the obstacles the aliens must overcome and what the agents must endure. It is a drama involving real people, real smugglers, real issues.”

At Friendship Park, Harris talks as a construction crew on a makeshift pier replaces sections of the landing-mat fence in the water. On this rainy day, the only other activity comes from Border Patrol jeeps bouncing along the narrow dirt roads.

During Harris’s time as an agent, the San Diego Sector, a 66-mile stretch, was one of the busiest areas in the country for illegal immigration, accounting for more than 40 percent of apprehensions. The Imperial Beach Station, responsible for more than 40 percent of apprehensions...continued on page 46
LETTERS

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December 23 - 26th
$130 Tandem Skydive
($249 value)

49% off Sushi Making
Sushi on a Roll
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December 21 - 26th
$49 Sushi Making Experience ($100 value)

50% off Food & Drinks
Elijah’s Deli
on sale
Thursday - Friday
December 22 - 23th
$10 for $20 in Food and Drinks

71% off Mexican Getaway
Playa del Carmen or Nuevo Vallarta
on sale
Friday - Friday
December 23 - 30th
$199 5-day, 4-night Getaway to Playa del Carmen or Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico ($687 value)

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

It’s Lies, All Lies!
Regarding Elizabeth Salaam’s article “The Unkindest Cut” (Cover Story, December 15). She has no MD or DO interviewed, she references Drugs.com about Pitocin (all on the internet is not truth!), she mentions a few handpicked “studies” done years ago that she probably googled (and misses more recent studies that were well-publicized and even on Good Morning America that say epidurals don’t lead to more cesareans!). Very slanted. I practice OB anesthesia (not at Sharp Mary Birch), and I support any birth the mother wants and don’t push my services (as many of us do).

Her data is straight wrong: most labor floors nationwide do not allow you to eat during labor; that is labor floors that are current in their safety practice. Did she even call the hospitals to ask? Isn’t talking to both sides a hallmark of good journalism?

I am not defending Sharp Mary Birch; I do not work there. I am defending the idea of getting your facts straight. Lives are saved because of the fireman-sensitivity to our concerns. Did she follow the protocol at another hospital, where they followed the protocol described in your article: Pitocin, epidurals (that’s plural — they gave my wife three doses), and then a pitch for a C-section. We objected, and so instead they used suction, which we later discovered caused our son to live in distress and pain for the first 20 months of his life. I wrote a memoir (published this year) about everything that arose from that experience.

Some years later, in 2000, I found myself in a delivery room at Mary Birch, and I have to say that the level of sensitivity to our concerns was far greater than at the first place. The staff at Mary Birch did kind of want to do suction delivery, but based on the previous experience there was no way in hell we were going to permit that, and they relented. Everything turned out fine that time.

The final birth was indeed a C-section, done under emergency conditions. It wasn’t what we hoped for, but again the long-term result was what counts.

There’s nothing wrong with wanting a sweet, storybook experience in the delivery room. I do think hospitals and providers should try hard to be receptive to the wishes of their consumers. On the other hand, delivery is a potentially scary event, and

Elizabeth Salaam responds:
I was unable to find a doctor or an administrator at Mary Birch who was willing to talk to me.

We’ve Been There
Your article on C-sections is very interesting, especially the news that one local hospital is more likely to perform the procedure than others (“The Unkindest Cut,” Cover Story, December 15). My three kids were born in three different San Diego hospitals, including Mary Birch, so I have some basis for comparing the treatment offered.

My first son was born at another hospital, where they followed the protocol described in your article: Pitocin, epidurals (that’s plural — they gave my wife three doses), and then a pitch for a C-section. We objected, and so instead they used suction, which we later discovered caused our son to live in distress and pain for the first 20 months of his life. I wrote a memoir (published this year) about everything that arose from that experience.

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continued on page 48
HOLIDAY SPECIALS!

ORTHO DELUXE
7" Thick - Medium Firm

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TENDER REST
8" Thick - Budget Firm

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AVALON EURO PLUSH
8" Thick - Budget Plush

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CLOUD 9 PLUSH PILLOWTOP
13" Thick-Plush Euro top Design

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CHRISTELLE LATEX PILLOWTOP
14" Thick-Individual Pocket Coil Construction, Latex Memory Foam & Natural Organic Fabric

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San Diego Reader December 22, 2011

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Sets include mattress and box foundation! Mattress only also available at comparable savings!

Egg Plant Sofa
Matching Pieces Available

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Bar Stool

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Leather Office Chair

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Modern End Table

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61" Black Media Console

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Espresso Cocktail Table

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CHRISTELLE LATEX PILLOWTOP

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Tufted Leather Storage Ottoman

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Lexi Sofa

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Galaxy Cocktail Table

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Mirrored Jewelry Stand

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Convertible Sofa-Chaise
Black or Ivory

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White or Black Futon Sofa

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Seattle Bed Frame
Twin $137 Full $157 Queen $177 King $257

Console Table

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Contemporary Bookcase

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Leather Sofa
Choice of Red, Black & Ivory

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Evil of America

Barb, I don’t know what to do — they want me to testify,” Jane said.

“Wow. Shit just got real,” I said. “What do you mean you don’t know what to do? You have to. Not just because they could subpoena you or whatever, but because it’s the right thing to do. Jane, this guy is crazy. And he’s a serious danger — that’s why he’s in jail. Plus, he’s refusing any treatment that would make him less crazy. It’s your duty to help out the prosecution and put him away for a little while. Maybe he’ll be sentenced to treatment.”

“I know. God, I know. But Mom said I’m putting myself and my kids in danger. That he’ll get out and come after us.”

“She’s wrong — you’re saving them. And Kate and her kids...and Kate’s coworkers, for Christ’s sake. What if you had never called the cops? What then? Could you have lived with yourself when people got hurt?”

“That’s another thing,” Jane’s voice dropped. I was looking out the window in my New Orleans hotel room but could clearly see my sister’s face in my mind’s eye, drawn and forlorn with the emotional burden that comes with being the whistleblower. “They’re going to play the tape in court, and I’ll have to listen to it. The things I said...”

“I’m on that tape, too,” I said.

“Yeah, but I’m the one who said all those things — I called him a ‘crazy Born Again,’ I said he hadn’t worked in years, that he’d gained weight. I was crying. I’m going to have to sit there and listen to it, and he’s going to hear it. Kate’s going to hear it —”

“It’s not like it isn’t all true,” I said. There was silence on the phone as Jane and I thought our own thoughts. Eventually, I asked the question whose answer I sensed my sister was contemplating: “How long ago was that?”

“Two years ago was when we made the call. He’s been in jail for eight months.”

“I’ll go with you,” I said. “Moral support. I’m only in New Orleans for another two days. Just let me know when, and I’ll clear my calendar.”

“It was supposed to be next week. Rick wanted to represent himself, and he passed the evaluation, but when he got in front of the judge on the first day of the trial, he started talking crazy, so the judge halted the trial and ordered another competency hearing. But he’s smart — he’ll pass it and then he’ll just go in and talk crazy again. Who knows when the actual date will be? Sometime in mid-January, they guess.”

We laughed nervously. “Paranoid schizophrenic” was the term one psychologist had used to describe Rick, following his arrest. He was given probation but then got busted for violating the terms of his release. For shirking his restrictions, Rick was sent to jail, where he’s been waiting to stand trial for two felony counts of criminal threat.

Two years ago, Rick began saying that corporations were the evil of America and that he’d never wear a suit or work for The Man, and he didn’t like that Kate, his wife, worked at an office. According to my sister, his rants had been increasing in both frequency and pitch, until he told Kate one weekday morning, in a fit of psychotic rage, that she should warn the security guard at her office that he was buying a gun. It would be easy to dismiss such a claim as an empty threat...had he not gone to a store that very day to buy a gun.

Jane learned of the threat and the purchase of the gun via phone calls and texts from Kate. Because she had once purchased a gun for her husband’s birthday, Jane knew about California’s ten-day waiting period. Thankfully, Rick had not yet received his firearm when Jane arrived at my place that day.

Jane agonized over whether or not to warn the security guard at her office that he was buying a gun. It would be easy to dismiss such a claim as an empty threat...had he not gone to a store that very day to buy a gun.

Jane learned of the threat and the purchase of the gun via phone calls and texts from Kate. Because she had once purchased a gun for her husband’s birthday, Jane knew about California’s ten-day waiting period. Thankfully, Rick had not yet received his firearm when Jane arrived at my place that day.

Jane agonized over whether or not to call the police. “He could have just been saying it,” Jane, he bought a gun. “He might not really want to use it.” “Doesn’t matter, Jane. He said it and then he acted on his words. “Kate will hate me.” Wouldn’t you rather her alive and able to?”

In the end, I dialed the nonemergency number for the police department and handed her the receiver. When the phone was answered, Jane began crying hysterically and I took it from her hands. In an even voice (at least that’s how I remember it...I guess I’ll find out how even it was when I hear that tape), I explained the situation. I gave Kate’s name, her company name, and what I knew.

Perhaps because she’d collected herself enough to speak, or maybe because she sensed she was missing out, Jane was quick to recover and take back the phone. That’s when she let it all out — her fears, the texts, the threats, every detail she could think of, anything that could help them stop Rick from ever receiving that gun.

In the following months, as Rick’s speech and behavior grew more erratic, as Jane watched her best friend’s life fall apart, my sister regretted making the call. But it was Kate who reported Rick when he broke his probation. It was Kate who mustered the courage to tell the judge the truth — that, yes, she had feared for her life and her children’s lives and her coworkers’ lives — even though she was racked with guilt for separating her kids from their father.

“You did the right thing,” I reminded Jane as I scanned the street below for the discarded beads that litter most of New Orleans. “And you’ll continue to do the right thing. Kate’s way better off without a crazy Born Again, dude’s crazy.” ■

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Heymatt:
My kids love candy and anything sweet. If I put sugar on spinach, I’m sure they’d eat it. It seems to be true for most kids. I really had to be careful at Halloween or they would eat everything they got in one sitting. If I ate as much sweet stuff as they seem to want all the time I’d be sick. Most grownups don’t seem to be as addicted to sugar as kids are. Why is this? Or maybe it’s just my kids, but I don’t think so.
— Ellen West, TX

It’s not just your kids, it’s kids all over the globe, according to taste researchers. Just-borns can discriminate sweet and bitter with no problem. (By six months, salty is added to the palate.) Evolutionary influence? Some science guys think so. Sweet foods provide abundant calories for energy for growth (infants and teens, especially). Bitter is often nature’s signal that what you’ve just stuck in your mouth is toxic. Of course, most infants are fed carefully by trusty ole Mom, so this scavenging paradigm seems a little sketchy to me. Nevertheless, the cash-loaded food and sweets industries continually invest in taste studies, so there’s at least some data to spoon up. Though, even the studiers admit that not a lot is known for a fact; not many studies have been replicated and others have a limited number of subjects or are studying a very specific theory.

One study done by our old friends at the Monell Chemical Senses Lab sheds light on how kids might go from sweet-prefering, bitter-avoiding eaters to more omnivorous adults. They divided moms and kids into three genetic groups: one had taste buds with two bitter-sensitive alleles, the second with two non-bitter-sensitive alleles, and the third with one sensitive and one non-sensitive allele. Among other things, they found that kids with two bitter-sensitive alleles preferred especially sweet drinks. But in adults, the distribution of alleles had nothing to do with their taste preferences. The significant factors in the adult sweet-preference studies were race and ethnicity. Other science guys have also suggested that adults’ diverse food experiences over a lifetime knockout any inborn bias that might exist. There’s also a small window, in the first year or so, when new tastes can be introduced to kids without their scowling and pouting and kicking their chairs. These repeated feedings will influence taste preferences as the child ages and might eventually reduce the number of food fights around the family table.

Monell again chimes in with some interesting info. Kids between 4 and 12 are in a zone where they love extreme taste adventures, particularly sweet and sour. We can see this reflected in the gums and candies on the market — lip-puckering sourballs, eye-watering mint gums, pickle fixations. This, the science guys suspect, is related to kids’ intensity-seeking, exploring behaviors at this age, not any physical taste-Bud changes. All this “sour” business isn’t well studied, so nobody’s saying they have a definitive answer.

So, it seems that kids are born with a sweet preference, but as we mature, our expanding diet takes the spotlight off sugar. Of course, if kids’ sugar jones is continually satisfied by Mom and Dad, a person might always need a sweet fix. Diversity early on is the best menu to make a well-nourished adult.

By the way, another study provides us with a really weird side note to our bag of treats. In utero, kiddies have the ability to “taste” during the third trimester. They ingest amniotic fluid, which is made up of all the stuff Mom eats. In turn, Mom’s diet influences what babes will tolerate. So if you’re dreading the chore of getting your six-year-old to eat brussels sprouts or arugula, maybe packing them into your prenatal diet will ease the veggie blues later on.

Additional thoughts about last week’s beer.
Matthew: Most beer drinkers (like myself) are just plain old “beer drinkers” (not like the Samuel Adams “We put this much hops etc...in our beer”). So, if Tipisy’s boyfriend does take his beer drinking like wine or champagne drinking/tasting that’s one thing, but any person who goes to a bar to drink beer knows that you put a coaster over your beer to tell the bartender or waiter/waitress that you just went to the bathroom or are dancing, etc...and to NOT take my glass/bottle ‘cause I’ll be right back (‘cause they make the rounds and will snatch them glasses/bottles up RIGHT AWAY if you don’t). CHEERS, fellow bar patrons, and keep covering them glasses/bottles, for your own sake. — (Always getting) “Tipsy” in San Diego
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Medical Marijuana Dispensaries Begin Implementing “Pop-Up” Locations

Popular Restaurant Trend Inspires Retailers to Sell Product at Temporary “Streetcorner Shops”

“I don’t know why we didn’t think of this before.”

CORNER OF 30TH AND IMPERIAL, JUST AROUND MIDNIGHT — Marshall Samuelson had a problem. The federal government had just served him a notice letting him know that his state-licensed medical marijuana dispensary was in violation of federal law and that he needed to join the 62% of dispensaries that had already shut down — “and pronto” — if he wanted to avoid jail time.

“And that wasn’t all,” marveled Samuelson. “They also wanted me to turn over all my product, without any expectation of reimbursement. Does that sound like justice to you? And it’s not like the courts were going to be any help — ‘Your honor, can I please keep my weed?’ What aes. I was in a tight spot.”

That’s when Samuelson heard about MedMarList, a Craigslist-style online directory that allows sellers and users to communicate about temporary storefronts set up at various places around the city. “The whole thing is modeled after the pop-up restaurant trend,” explained Samuelson. “You know, where a chef sets up shop at a certain spot for a little while, then tears down the operation and moves on. It keeps things flexible, and it also allows the seller to respond quickly to the customer’s needs. In many cases, a provider can be on a consumer’s street corner within 10 minutes. And in our case, it allows us to close up and move on in a hurry should the wrong element come calling.”

Asked whether the “wrong element” indicated recreational marijuana users seeking to abuse the medical marijuana system or federal authorities seeking to abuse medical marijuana distributors, Samuelson just smiled. “Now why would I answer a silly question like that?” he asked.

Police Brutality?

In Response to Hunger Strikes Protesting Violent Police Response to Occupy San Diego, SDPD Begins Setting Up “Bacon Stations” Around Civic Center Plaza

“Pepper spray may not be a food product, but how about the smell of delicious, sizzling bacon?”

Occupy San Diego activist John Kenney has been on a hunger strike for nearly a month in his effort to force the City of San Diego into negotiations over encamped protests. Recently, he was joined by Julie Kramer, who is seeking to draw attention to instances where she believes San Diego police overstepped their authority and used excessive or unnecessary force.

Now, both Kenney and Kramer are having their resolve tested as Civic Center Plaza is filled with the unbeknownst amazing smell of frying apple-wood-smoked thick-cut bacon slices, donated by Walmart’s North County supercenter.

With cries of “Bacon! Come get your free bacon!” and “This bacon is a long, long way from 99% lean,” officers taunted the two starving protesters, seeking to break their wills and fill their bellies.

“Oh God oh God God oh God,” moaned Kramer as police set up fans behind their frypans, wafting a bacony breeze directly in her direction. “Somebody tie my hands and feet, the way Odysseus was tied to the mast when the sirens tried to lure him to his death. Those bastards have got to be held responsible for their actions. The world must know, and I will not silence my cries for justice by stuffing my gob with salty, greasy, crispy-chewy, smoky, meaty goodness.” Kramer’s dirty hippie friends sought to fulfill her request, some even removing their do-rags and twisting them into ropes in order to bind her fast.

“She’s a tough kid,” one officer (speaking on condition of anonymity) said of Kramer, his voice betraying just a hint of admiration. “But we’ll get her. She wasn’t ready for the other side to be so resourceful. But it’s not for nothing that we’re called pigs, you know? We know the power of pork products. Now, Kenney, Kenney might be a different story. There are reports naming him as a vegan. That’s gonna be tricky — it’s hard to get really ripe tomatoes this time of year.”

Manchester Gets Literal at the U-T

Newspaper’s Website Runs Delightful Gallery of Nubile Young Ladies Associated with Local Professional Sports Franchise, Thereby Arousing Support for Same

“I said that a local newspaper should be a cheerleader when it comes to promoting a new stadium. What part of ‘cheerleader’ didn’t you understand?”

Vocal San Diego Publisher Explains Layoff of Education Reporter

Layoffs were announced recently at the nonprofitable news outlet Vocal San Diego. Included on the list of axed writers and photographers was education reporter Ellen Albert, long regarded as one of the sharpest set of eyes on the volatile and shifting landscape of San Diego public education.

Publisher Adrian Donelson explained the move in a statement released this afternoon: “This was not an easy decision. But in these troubled economic times, we have to be extremely careful in deploying our limited resources. We all know that San Diego’s schools are facing $30 million in budget cuts for next year. Which means, frankly, that there’s going to be a lot less going on in San Diego’s schools. Like, $30 million less. Less going on means less news, less news means less to report, and so cutting our education reporter just made sense. We’ll miss her, though. She was a sharp cookie. Maybe she’ll start a blog. If she does, I will definitely read it.”

SDG&E Gets Serious, Enshrouds Moon in Stygian Shadow

Terrifying Celestial Darkness Intended to Serve as Warning to Solar-Home Customers Protesting Rate Hike

Statement from SDG&E chief officer of retribution: “You have been faithless, San Diego, and your faithlessness is anathema to Our Powerful Selves. Too long have you enjoyed the benefits of our Benevolent Grid while at the same time drawing blessings from the cursed sky-light. Your precious sun-spawned energy will avail you nothing if we blot out the daystar from the heavens. This eclipse is only a warning, displaying only a fraction of our might. Do not provoke our wrath.”
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Did you know that Cataracts are the primary reason for age related vision impairment? Over time, your eyes lose the ability to see the sharp details and complete array of colors around you. This impacts your ability to enjoy some of the best moments in life like reading, driving, enjoying family time, and much more. West Coast Eye Care is pleased to offer one of the first blade-free cataract lasers in California. Early data shows this laser is up to 10x more accurate than manual blade cataract surgery, giving the most accurate and safest results for patients who are seeking the highest level of vision quality.

**The new LenSx® Custom Cataract Laser is up to 10x more precise than traditional cataract surgery options**

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<th>LenSx® Incision</th>
<th>Manual Incision</th>
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<td>LenSx® creates a perfectly circular opening to the lens cavity every time.</td>
<td>Manual incisions have imperfections, and will vary between patients and surgeons.</td>
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The illustrations above are a representation of the differences between a LenSx® incision and a manual incision.

**What are Cataracts?**

Cataracts develop gradually, and can appear in adults around the age of 40. By age 80, over 50% of adults have developed cataracts in at least one of their eyes. Cataracts form a cloud on the lens of the eye that impedes vision both near and far.

In a normal eye, the retina focuses light images received through the lens. The retina sends the image to the brain via nerve signals. Once cataracts begin to develop, the lens becomes clouded and loses the ability to transfer crisp sharp images.

**What Cataract treatments are available?**

Until now, most cataract patients have undergone surgery to replace the lens of their eye with an artificial intraocular lens (IOL). This is generally referred to as standard cataract surgery, and is covered by Medicare and most insurance plans. After IOL surgery, a patient will enjoy restored vision and never develop a cataract in that eye. However, even though these IOLs are effective in creating sharp vision, some patients may still require contacts or glasses to deal with issues related to astigmatism and presbyopia.

There is a higher standard of IOLs and techniques that help people see near and far, that are used under Custom Cataract Surgery. These improved IOLs and techniques have a strong track record of reducing or eliminating a patient’s need for glasses by decreasing astigmatism and presbyopia.

**Custom Cataract Laser**

Previously, standard cataract procedures were conducted by a surgeon creating a manual incision with a blade. A manual surgery has a margin for error that can increase risks and negatively impact outcomes. With the introduction of the first FDA approved Custom Cataract Laser, Dr. Katzman at West Coast Eye Care now can create incisions and potentially reduce astigmatism without blades.

These laser incisions are proven to be more precise and accurate, thereby avoiding some of the dangers of standard cataract surgery. For some parts of the cataract surgery, the laser has been shown to be up to 10x more precise than the manual techniques. Combining this more accurate and precise laser with the world-class surgeons at West Coast Eye Care, incisions are more precise and vision results are more predictable.

**The Custom Cataract Laser is not just for Cataract patients**

Custom Cataract Laser Surgery is similar to the technology used for blade-free LASIK. Most people understand that blade-free LASIK is more safe and accurate, but don’t realize that LASIK is normally not the best option for people over 45. This is attributed to the fact that LASIK cannot prevent presbyopia. Patients over 45 that choose to undergo LASIK, may still require contacts and glasses for near vision because the natural lens inside the eye continues to change with age.

**What if I have Presbyopia?**

Presbyopia is a condition in which the lens loses its flexibility, which makes it difficult for you to focus on close objects. Lens flexibility is required to be able to focus on objects up close and at a distance. As people age, typically the lens loses its ability to change and focus up close.

Individuals who are over 45 and require glasses for reading, are most likely affected by presbyopia. Presbyopia is a normal part of the aging process and impacts everyone. Patients with presbyopia now have a choice to have a procedure called refractive lens exchange (RLE) to replace the natural lens of the eye with multifocal intraocular lenses (multifocal IOLs). These multifocal IOLs differ from standard IOLs in that they help focus near, far, and in between.

Most patients will never have to use contacts or glasses ever again. Being an elective surgery, this procedure is generally not covered by insurance. Dr. Katzman at West Coast Eye Care can now utilize the blade-free cataract laser to perform RLE with greater safety and precision than ever before.

See near, far, and in between without glasses

“My vision had gotten to the point where I was really struggling to read and had also given up my hobby of crafting almost entirely. The day after my first procedure, everything I saw was so bright and shiny – it was wonderful. Wherever I look, everything is so clear and vivid. I used to have trouble reading text on the television and seeing street signs clearly. Now I can just sit in my chair and see everything on the television clearly, even without my glasses.”

— B. Walters, Alpine, California

**Barry Katzman M.D.**

Dr. Katzman has been practicing ophthalmology for over 20 years. He has been published in several research journals and has been involved in hundreds of FDA clinical trials to improve the quality of refractive eye surgery. He is the recipient of numerous awards such as being named America’s Top Ophthalmologist by The Consumer Research Council of America and was also selected for the Patient’s Choice Award. He was also named one of the top doctors in San Diego. Dr. Katzman performs cataract surgery and refractive surgeries including LASIK, PRK, refractive lens exchange, and presbyopic vision correction.

**West Coast Eye Care is now treating vision correction surgery patients with the new FDA approved LenSx® Custom Cataract Laser**

If you think that your vision may be impeded by cataracts or just want to enjoy life without glasses, call today to schedule your appointment. Cataract surgery is covered by insurance and West Coast Eye Care accepts most plans including Medicare.

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Gino Montessi | Address: indestructibleideas.com

Post Title: Revolutionary Bitch!
Post Date: October 15, 2011

I want a revolutionary bitch. Scratch that, I want a revolutionary chick. A bitch is an insult, a sexist, derogatory, and dividing term.

The suppression of women, it reaffirms. An assertive and intellectual chick Not too skinny and not too thick. Open-minded, emphatic, and not repressed. One who’s secure with herself and willing to get undressed.

Not scared of society’s judgment. Appeasing her natural inclinations responsibly and doesn’t mind opening her mouth and spreading her legs. Not afraid of discontinuing the fertilization of her egg ‘cause it’s her body, her choice. If she makes that mistake, in the end, it’s her voice.

She takes control of her sexual power, not a whore, but a lover.

Does it consciously because she enjoys it not to get attention or to submit, to a man who sees her only as a sperm depository.

But a woman who chooses wisely in her decisions. Not controlled by any religious doctrines.

A chick who keeps the lights on during sex. Makes sure she protects herself and makes him wear latex. Doesn’t cover herself in shame, but allows her lover to appreciate her body in acclaim!

A revolutionary chick that’s NOT into women’s rights, but one who’s into human rights. A chick that’s NOT a feminist, but a humanist.

A hippie chick who says fuck the system But still shaves her armpits in custom. No reason she can’t be revolutionary and still smell delicious, with her skin basking in its softness.

One who can live without conditions Doesn’t mind where my dick’s in, so long as we base us on honesty, respect, and love. Relates without the relationship, far above any jealousy issues. Or sexual and religious taboos

Not obsessed with superficial things Like Coach bags, name brand clothing, and expensive earrings.

We can talk about Fuller, Sagan, Joseph, and Fresco. Do what we can to alleviate the pains in the ghetto.

You appreciate Mother Nature and understand the values of our culture need to change somehow. Or pollution, war, hunger, and poverty, we will allow.

Oh revolutionary chick, oh revolutionary chick, You are not another brick in the wall. The fervor and compassion you carry leave me enthralled.

Your mind is open like the petals of a flower in blossom. So young physically, but old in wisdom.

You create revolutions not only in my mind but in my boxers. Leaving me satisfied and flustered.

You aren’t democratic or republican. But an educated woman. You realize they are two heads to the same monster Who sell the people out for the corporate vulture.

You say fuck Halliburton, Monsanto, BP You say fuck NAFTA, World Bank, and the IMF enemies!!!

When you talk to God You say, “oh God!” And not in the church but on my bed. With your legs widespread Creating a love and joy so intense that our togetherness conceives a new life sequence; a new big bang, new atoms, a new solar system. Together we are life’s rhythm.

I’ll see you my revolutionary bitch. I mean, my revolutionary chick. I’ll see you at the next protest and anti-war rally, or the farmer’s market or organic grocery.

I want a revolutionary chick. Join me and I’ll be your revolutionary dick.
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Opportunities Abound

Is SDSU’s move to the Big East football conference a desperate bid for the big time?

Greed until somebody makes you stop. You see it in banking, drug cartels, and politics. It’s especially raw in college football. Big-league college football has become a huge brothel. University presidents glide into the front parlor wearing pink babydoll lingerie and form a line. The gentlemen, ESPN/ABC/ NBC/CBS, sit on a huge naugahyde couch, select a “date,” get up, and walk off the trading floor hand-in-hand with their babydoll.

Actually, brothels are one step up the kar- mic ladder from university presidents, because brothels don’t pretend to be anything more than what they are. College presidents are on their knees rooting through sawdust, looking for dropped change, while declaiming against the commercialization of amateur athletics.

We have San Diego State football joining the Big East in a desperate bid to move into the big time, to be in a conference that automatically qualifies for the BCS. The fact that the Aztecs will be playing colleges nobody in San Diego cares about is of no matter. We can safely assume that feeling of disinterest will be reciprocated by our East Coast brethren. Imagine the sports-going residents of Piscataway, New Jersey, Tampa, Florida, and Storrs, Connecticut, flocking to their college stadiums, crowding around big-screen TVs, and filling up neighborhood taverns so they can watch San Diego State football. Hard to bring that vision to mind, isn’t it?

Our football warriors will spend many hours in airport hell, undertake many cross-country trips to play schools that have no connection to San Diego. SDUS is betting on the come, betting that the Big East will continue to have an automatic BSC bowl invitation. Considering how quickly college conferences dissolve and reform, that will not be an easy bet to win.

One wonders, Does a football conference that spans the continent from San Diego to Connecticut instill confidence in its longevity? Well, probably more than the upcoming Mountain West/Conference USA Borg-like absorption that will consist of 17 to 24 universities, depending on who makes the last bid, or whether there is a better deal available when a TV contract is finally signed.

East Carolina vs. Fresno State. Catch the magic.

And then, five days after joining the Big East for football, San Diego State rejoin the Big West for everything else in their athletic department, minus four women’s programs. I said rejoin because this is the second time around for San Diego State and the Big West. SDSU was a founding member of the conference, then called the Pacific Coast Athletic Association, in 1969. As San Diego State grew, so did its desire to make money and sport it up in a better neighborhood. SDSU left the Big West in 1978 for the Western Athletic Conference. Left the WAC for the Mountain West Conference in 1998, and now, to complete the circle, will return to PCAA/Big West in 2013.

Here’s one way to measure how big the step down is for San Diego State athletics: Regard, pilgrim, the conference differential. For the Big West, it costs $150,000 to join the club. Club members can expect a laughable $30,000 from league-wide revenue sharing. You can’t bribe even one decent recruit with a lousy $30,000.

For the Big East it costs $2.5 million to join the club. Even though the Aztecs will only collect a share of the football revenue, that share should be worth $7 million, plus or minus. Wouldn’t you play Nova Scotia Normal College or the Reykjavik Iceland Landlubbers for $7 million? Well, so would San Diego State.

We’ve already discussed the excitement surrounding SDSU football joining the Big East, implementing those enthralling rivalries against Disneyland and longtime foe, Ukraine Mechanics College. But, one is forced to say “icing on the cake” when hearing SDSU will throw 14 athletic programs into the pot and join the Big West.

I should put in here that joining the Big West is a plus for SDSU baseball. UC Irvine, Long Beach State, and Cal State Fullerton have national reputations. Unfortunately, nobody (read: television), cares about college baseball.

Television does care about basketball, and in that sport the Aztecs were screwed, which is a shame. San Diego basketball is a successful program, made it to the Sweet 16 in last season’s NCAA tournament. Unhappily, most San Diego State athletic programs will receive less recognition, face lesser competition, and since the Big West does not compete in women’s crew, women’s lacrosse, women’s swimming and diving, and women’s indoor track and field, those programs will have to make a home in the weeds.

Hey, how about having women’s crew, lacrosse, swimming, indoor track and field join the Mountain West/Conference USA? Why not? I can see it. San Diego State women’s lacrosse vs. Okeechobee Women’s Prison Babydolls. Be there.
San Diego Reader
December 22, 2011
19

By Anthony Gentile

Division II State Bowl: Helix vs. Del Oro
Carson — On the biggest stage of the 2011 season, Helix delivered a historic result. Saturday night, December 17, at the Home Depot Center, the Highlanders raced past Loomis Del Oro with a big second quarter and controlled the second half for a 35-24 victory in the Division II State Bowl.

“We have great players and they played big in the biggest game. I’m very proud of them,” said Helix head coach Troy Starr. “This is the biggest win in school history.”

After a slow start, Helix (13-1) trailed Del Oro early in the second quarter. The Highlanders gained only 35 yards in the first quarter and sought an offensive spark against a physical Golden Eagles defense.

“Our plan was to run the ball, because we saw film and knew that’s what they were going to give us,” said Helix quarterback Brandon Lewis. “But they started crowding the box and we just took advantage of it — we started to throw it more.”

Del Oro (13-2) took a 10-7 lead on a Bobby Heatherington three-yard touchdown pass to Tanner Huber early in the second quarter. The Highlanders gained only 35 yards in the first quarter and sought an offensive spark against a physical Golden Eagles defense.

“Our plan was to run the ball, because we saw film and knew that’s what they were going to give us,” said Helix quarterback Brandon Lewis. “But they started crowding the box and we just took advantage of it — we started to throw it more.”

Del Oro cut Helix’s lead to 11 on the opening drive of the second half, methodically marching down the field with a 13-play scoring drive that took almost half of the third quarter. The Highlanders took up the rest of the quarter on the ensuing 13-play drive, answering the Golden Eagles with Lewis’s seven-yard pass to Keys as time expired in the third quarter to make it 35-17.

In the final minute of the game, Del Oro blocked a punt that Golden Eagles defensive back Alex Bertrando returned six yards for a touchdown — but that score didn’t threaten the outcome of Helix’s 35-24 victory.

“It means the world to us seniors. We’ve been heartbroken the past couple years, and it feels great to just win in our last football game,” Lewis said.

Helix players celebrate the Highlanders’ Division II state championship.

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San Diego Asian Film Foundation
Screens A Good Husband Tonight
Posted Dec. 19, 11:56 a.m. by Scott Marks

I Just Can’t Get Enough
Posted Dec. 19, 9:49 p.m. by Garrett Haris

GAME DAY
All CIF Football Selections
Posted Dec. 19, 12:44 a.m. by Chad Doyl

FEAST!
El Porvenir Takes Back the Future
Posted Dec. 19, 12:14 p.m. by Ed Bedford

Daily blogs at SDReader.com
**BestBuys**

**– EVE KELLY**

Am I suddenly in the middle of a 1940s Christmas musical? I wondered.

Images of Bing Crosby’s “White Christmas” danced in my head as Alexis walked around her house, dreaming up ideas for her holiday-party decor. “We’ll base all the decorations on the Christmas songs that will be playing,” she mused.

My part in this: a personal shopper and brainstorming partner.

“Let’s start with my favorite,” she said, “Nat King Cole’s ‘Christmas Song.’”

“Chestnuts roasting on an open fire/ Jack Frost nipping at your nose/ Yuletide carols being sung by a choir/ And folks dressed up like Eskimos,” she sang.

“Who gets to be the Eskimom?” I teased.

Alexis was too far down creative lane to hear. “We’ll have a fire pit with chestnuts roasting as guests arrive,” she continued ($3.99 a pound for chestnuts at Sprouts).

“Oh, the weather outside is frightful/ But the fire is so delightful/ And since we’ve no place to go/ Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow.”

“Snow will be falling on the people as they walk in,” (Snow machine, $139 per day at sandiegokidspartyrentals.com; 858-272-2700.) “We’ll hide the machine on the roof.”

“Gotta love Christmas in California — bring on the fake snow,” I joked.

“In the foyer will sit a peacock-feather tree,” she continued. (Christmas Peacock Tree, $39 at Beverages and More.) “Of course,” she grinned, “you can slip into a sexy Santa outfit [Velvet & Marabou Off-Shoulder Dress, $40 at fredericks.com] and sing ‘Santa baby, slip a sable under the tree for me! I’ve been an awful good girl, Santa baby/ And hurry down the chimney tonight.’”

“No, thank you,” I replied. “How about a costume for Fifi?” Fifi is Alexis’s maltipoo (Maltese/poodle). “Ruldoph the red-nosed reindeer/ A peacock-feather tree, smarty-pants.”

“I’ll find a reindeer outfit for her.” (Top Paw reindeer coat, $16.99–$17.99 at petownart.com.)

“And, speaking of glowing, I saw a mirrored star at World Market Cost Plus that you can hang above the dessert table,” I added. ($14.99 for the Moravian mirrored star with 12-inch hanging chain.) “Star of wonder, star of night/ Star with royal beauty bright/ Westward leading, still proceeding/ Guide us to thy perfect light....”

“My husband doesn’t consider it the holidays without singing ‘Deck the Halls’ and ‘Twelve Days of Christmas,’” I said. “Better add those to the playlist.”

“We’ll bring in holly for Pat,” she said. (Glittery silk holly spray stem, $4.99 at Cost Plus World Market.) “And some peacocks for a partridge in a pear tree. Peacocks are related to partridges,” she added. (Peacock clip ornaments at Pier One, $5.95, $10.95.) “On the first day of Christmas/ My true love gave to me/ A partridge in a pear tree....”

“We’re bringing in a pear tree!” I asked.

“A peacock-feather tree, smartypants.”

“Enough with the decorating, what will we be eating besides roasted chestnuts?”

“Figgy pudding, of course,” laughed Alexis. (Peacock clip ornaments at Pier One.) “Or how about plum pudding? I hate figs.” (Walkers Rich Fruit Pudding, $14.99 for 16 ounces at Cost Plus World Market.) “Now bring us some figgy pudding/ And a cup of good cheer!”

“And for the cup of good cheer, you mean wassail,” I said. “Wassail! Wassail! All over the town/ Our toast is white/ And our ale is it brown.”

“Brown ale might be easier to find than wassail,” countered Alexis, “especially in beer-happy San Diego.” (Karl Strauss seasonal Full Suit Belgian-style brown ale, $8.49 for a six-pack at Beverages and More.)

“A lot of people, myself included, don’t really like beer,” I said. “How about blue Christmas cocktails?” “I’ll have a blue Christmas without you/ I’ll be so blue just thinking about you....”

From grouprecipes.com: One ounce vodka or rum, half-ounce of blue Curaçao liqueur, and three ounces of white grape juice.

“Speaking of blue, it can’t be the holidays without some Charlie Brown Christmas music,” I added. “Christmas time is here/ Happiness and cheer/ Fun for all that children call/ Their favorite time of year.”

“We’ll have a door prize!” gasped Alexis. “The winner goes home with Charlie Brown’s Christmas tree, with one red ornament and Linus’s blue blanket wrapped around the trunk!” (24-inch Charlie Brown Christmas tree with blanket, $29.90 on Amazon.)
Forget about the halls — deck your body!
Here are some hot holiday trends to help you skate through the holidays, all the way to New Year’s Eve!

Red lips add panache. Think holly berries — the redder the better. A basic to keep in your purse is Mac’s bright classic: Russian Red ($15).

When your feet have had enough of your killer party heels between midnight and dawn, ditch ‘em for comfy, shimmery ballerina flats that will easily fit in your bag.

Puma’s Rhythm Shine, $79.95 at Nordstrom

From Christmas lights to glittery ornaments, the season sparkles, and so should you! Add twinkles and glimmer to your ensemble with choice accessories.

Bejeweled hair clips at Nordstrom, $38.

NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION TIME!
If you’re looking for things to give up in the New Year, especially from your closet, here are a few suggestions:

This is an argument for Child Protective Service’s Fashion Branch.

Denim goes “Jean-iatric.”

Small fissure in space and time transports man from the North Pole to SoCal!

THE CAPTION: Stay classy, San Diego!
CONTEST WINNER: Taneil Canaday Green

Enter at sdreader.com/stalker.
The winning entry will appear in the next “Style Stalker,” and its author wins a $50 Sē Spa gift certificate.
**Scott:** The first inkling that Christmas was not a holiday for Hebrews came from a neighbor kid, the fine Aryan specimen Timothy Murphy: “My Uncle Roy says Jews celebrate Christmas by staying home and counting their money.” In truth, if I had Roy’s money—at least the chunk that wasn’t deposited at Foremost Liquors—I’d have thrown my own stash away.

**Matthew:** So much for peace on Earth—thems’ fighting words, Mr. Marks. How can you call a Murphy an Aryan? Don’t you remember The Commitments? “The Irish are the blacks of Europe.” That’s pretty much the opposite of Aryan. But perhaps you were being facetious, in which case I’ll adopt a more conciliatory approach. You can’t really blame Kid Murphy: your encounter came years before Saturday Night Live gave us the lovely holiday jingle “Christmastime for the Jews,” which finally shed some light on what all you unbaptized folk did with your December 25: They can finally see King Kong without paying in line / They can eat in Chinatown and drink their sweet-ass wine!

Movies and Chinese food! Of course, a reference like that sends the memory train roaring back to 1983’s A Christmas Story, wherein the (presumably but not evidently) Christian family is forced to abandon the traditional turkey dinner in favor of “Chinese turkey” (i.e., duck) at the Chop Suey Palace Company, complete with caroling waiters who sing “Deck the Halls With Boughs of Horry.” It’s an odd but lovely moment, and it gives the lie to your claim that Christmas is not a holiday for Hebrews. I say that Christmas is for everyone—a truly human holiday. And if you want to lay out a few of your favorite Christmas movies for inspection, I’ll make my case.

**Scott:** Fine. Though I will admit at the outset that my perspective here is not entirely that of an outsider. My family’s hands-off approach to Christmas was further hampered home when Mom was asked to erect a colorfully decorated dead tree in our living room, similar to the one parked in Aunt Mimi and Uncle Andy’s picture window. (The livid look that crossed Mom’s face indicated evidently) Christian-(presumably but not evidently) Christians are forced to abandon the traditional turkey dinner in favor of “Chinese turkey” (i.e., duck) at the Chop Suey Palace Company, complete with caroling waiters who sing “Deck the Halls With Boughs of Horry.” It’s an odd but lovely moment, and it gives the lie to your claim that Christmas is not a holiday for Hebrews. I say that Christmas is for everyone—a truly human holiday. And if you want to lay out a few of your favorite Christmas movies for inspection, I’ll make my case.

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Joy to the Screen
retail for my Hanukkah gifts.) Dad’s sister Mimi married outside the faith, and along with her husband Andy Galuzzi, turned their home into a veritable Christmas wonderland. Her intermarrying afforded me the best of both worlds: eight days of unparalleled Hanukkah gelt,

and Christmas presents around the Galuzzis’ tree!

Matthew: See? You’re already tracking with me! The sweet purity of your childhood desire for loot, to be lavished with love from all sides, to have your every wish come true. It’s the hope for heaven. A grump sees A Christmas Story and thinks, Wow, they make it all the way through without mentioning Jesus or even going to church — some Christmas movie.

But that’s not what the film is about, because it’s a child’s story, and Christmas for a child is about what is tangible. A child’s heart longs not for heaven, but a Red Ryder air rifle, the very gift that it would take a miracle to obtain.

Scott: Sounds like you’ve been hitting the eggnog early this year. But let’s continue. Having long since become an Easter staple, the first movie I came to associate with Christmas was 1939’s The Wizard of Oz. Between 1959 and 1962, and in 1964 (they sat 1963 out, fearing that a nation mourning a presidential assassination was not yet ready for Munchkins), CBS aired the impervious curiosity every year on a Sunday evening sometime between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Grandma Eva and Bill “Pa” Marks shared a spacious Oak Park home, and one Sunday a month we’d make the 20-mile trek for a visit. The appearance of those accursed flying monkeys on Pa’s ancient black-and-white Philco forced little Scooter (I’d like to hear what your grandparents nicknamed you) to take shelter either behind Grandma’s enormous wingback chair, or amid the rows of sequential bubble lights — later found lethal when curious tots ingested their toxic content — strung ‘round the welcoming tree.

Matthew: Gonna make me work for this one, aren’t you? But I’m ready for you: The great magic of Oz is the promise of a brighter, more vivid reality than our everyday lives: the Tin Man, Scarecrow, etc. are all people in Dorothy’s drab Kansas
life, but gussied up and made wonderful and significant. “A brighter, more vivid reality” is a pretty good description of Christmas morning—all the bright wrapping paper and gift-giving and goodwill and time off and God Himself taking flesh and dwelling among us. That last bit, the Incarnation—well, that’s what makes every drab person on Earth gussied up and more significant. Now that God has become Man, we can become adopted sons and daughters of God!

While I’m at it, isn’t the Wizard a pretty good image of the Old Testament God—terrifying, all-powerful, full of bizarre commandments? And isn’t the Man Behind the Curtain a pretty good image of the New Testament Christ—loving, humanly scaled, full of encouragement that religiously finds a home in my DVD tray come Christmas morn.

Isn’t the Wizard a pretty good image of the Old Testament God—terrifying, all-powerful, full of bizarre commandments?

Scott: The one film that religiously finds a home in my DVD tray come Christmas morn is 1980’s *Raging Bull*, directed by Martin Scorsese. I first saw it at the Willow Creek Theatre on December 24, 1980. It appeared like an angel, in black-and-white, alone, on a single screen. In the words of a certain taxi driver, “They can’t.

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Contact: Hillary Bender
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not touch it.”

The Willow Creek was one of those futuristic-looking ’60s showplaces, a black box with an expansive curved Cinemascope screen and pitch-perfect acoustics; the flashbulbs popping in the rear-surround channels never sounded better. It appeared to have been designed by the same architectural team responsible for Mission Valley’s late, lamented Cinema 21. My fellow Scorsese-acolyte Rick and I had just finished gorging ourselves on one of his mother’s annual 90-course festival meals. Every year, my adoptive mother, Audrey, saw to it that her “boys” ate like the commies were in the driveway. Rick’s sports-addicted brother, Ron — the movie gene apparently skipped a generation — decided to favor us with a rare in-theater appearance, (as did six other paying customers).

Ron’s expectations of a sports epic were soon quashed; Marty was more concerned with what goes on outside the ring than in. True to his text, Rick and I emerged, and as if summoned by the Pharisees, with eyes wide open. A call to Rick in search of further memories provided this warm and fuzzy chestnut: “It was the last time my brother and I ever smoked pot together.”

Another Norman Rockwell painting to add crackle to the Christmas pyre.

Matthew: Okay, you win on this one. All I got is the importance of tradition and ritual in life. Me, I like to start Christmas morning with homemade brioche. But to each his own. Raging Bull is a story of life gone sour, of gifts overlooked because of a cramped soul. Jake can’t see the good thing he has in his wife because he’s afraid she’s faithless — you know, like he was with his previous wife — and it poisons everything. It’s an attitude perhaps best summed up when [SPOILER] he smashes the championship belt in order to get at the jewels. His vision is so narrowed that he can’t see the precious thing in front of him. If anything, he’s the sort of character ripe for a Christmas redemption.

Scott: You want a character ripe for Christmas redemption? Try the Lemon Drop Kid, a desperate hustler who dreams up a scheme...
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to open a home for old ladies and then dump ’em on the street come Christmas day. Best of all, he’s played by Bob “For Christmas” Hope. For decades, America’s most enduring comedian spent his holidays overseas selflessly entertaining our troops, only to bring filmed evidence of his munificence back to NBC where it could be spun into ratings gold.

As a child, I ran from The Bob Hope Christmas Specials. Now I run to them. Hope is an acquired taste. For every legitimately funny comedy he turned out in his artistic glory days on the Paramount backlot, there are mile-high stacks of idiot cards, testimony to his indolent, post-’60s television work. They sit gathering dust in Old Ski Nose’s joke vault, with nary an intentionally funny barb scrawled across one of them.

Hope’s greatest contributions to movie comedy were hatched under Frank Tashlin’s watch. A former Looney Tunes animator and future guru to Jerry Lewis, Tashlin seldom seemed to discriminate between characters made of flesh and blood and those drawn of pen and ink. The Bob Hope vehicle The Lemon Drop Kid was the director’s first stab at a live-action “cinematoon.”

Twentieth Century Fox was not pleased with contract director Sidney Lanfield’s dailies, so they brought duffer Tash on board to bat cleanup. Lanfield received sole screen credit, but it was Tashlin who directed a good one-third of the film. The Lemon Drop Kid introduced Jay Livingston and Ray Evans’s holiday classic, “Silver Bells.” With all the subsequent versions Xeroxed for Hope’s numerous televised extravaganzas, none compare to this thriftless rendition.

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Oddly enough, the film was not part of Paramount’s 1950 Christmas package. (It was released in March of 1951.) After Bing Crosby’s recording of “Silver Bells” set the charts on fire in December of 1950, Paramount reassembled the cast and crew to stage a more elaborate filming of the musical number.

Hope, in full Santa regalia, and alongside leading lady (and off-screen paramour) Marilyn Maxwell, stroll arm-in-arm crooning his signature Christmas tune, through art directors Hal Pereira and Franz Bachelin’s meticulous soundstage simulation of a bustling Manhattan snowscape. For its climax, a heavenly chorus kicks in, and the music rises to a crescendo as the crane elevates the camera within inches of piercing the studio roof.

Matthew: First, let me note a developing theme: the Chinese and Christmas. It bolsters my case: even back in 1950, when Chinese-Americans were more Other than they are today, Christmas was for everyone. Hope drives this home as he sings, now to a German Santa Claus, now to an Irish cop, and now to a couple of Chinese kids. The kids are grinning, just as delighted as anyone to be part of the throng hearing those silver bells signaling Christmastime in the city. And why? Because the song is about shopping, the great joyous orgy of stuff — “This is Santa’s big scene.”

But wait — those silver bells are not strung overhead. They’re “on every streetcorner” — being rung by Santas who are begging, not Santas who are doling out goodies. Hope himself is such a Santa, as are all of his downmarket pals. Almost as delightful as the song itself was the montage that preceded it — one Santa cheating in a dice game as he tries to raise funds, another crying, “Let’s put some dough in the kitty!” Christmas, for all its rampant consumerism, is at its very best when it works to bring good news to the poor and downtrodden. And best of all, it turns out that even Santa can use a little Christmas miracle. I won’t say more for fear of spoiling things.

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We Cater to Chickens
laic sequel, the screenwriters didn’t expect star players Spencer Tracy or Mickey Rooney to take a dive. The task fell to tail-wagging little Bohunk, who wound up taking one for the team, crushed to death under the wheels of a big rig. And were the Division of Family and Children’s Services at work in 1957, the release of *Old Yeller* would surely have found Walt Disney incarcerated for child endangerment.

Maybe it’s domesticated animal abuse in general that gets my goat. Take a pinking shears to an Achilles tendon on screen, and I’ll lead the cheers, but the second Holly boots poor slob without a name “Cat” from the cab at the end of *Breakfast at Tiffany’s*, my face grows cold and I start bawling. Having read “A Christmas Memory” — Truman Capote’s short, autobiographical reminiscence of Christmases spent with a charming, childlike cousin in rural Alabama — before seeing the movie, I was prepared. I hunkered down in my seat, fully dreading the moment poor old rat terrier Queenie would buy the farm and the waterworks in my tear ducts would spout. *A Christmas Memory*, the Emmy Award–winning short film originally made for ABC, joined two other Capote tele-adaptations to form the theatrical release, *Trilogy* (1969). Capote wrote — and, in the case of *A Christmas Memory*, narrated — the screenplay, and Frank Perry (*Diary of a Mad Housewife, Rancho Deluxe*) directed. Donnie Melvin is the author’s young, on-screen counterpart Buddy, but whatever character insight there is to be found must surely be credited to the tender force of Capote’s voice-over.

Geraldine Page stars as cousin Sook, a mannered eccentric whose free-spirited Southern charm could, in less capable hands, just as easily have played like one of Auntie Mame’s poor relations. Watching Page’s face is like auditing a master class on pathos; one false gesture or forced twitch and she’d find herself slipping into a steaming vat of *Fried Green Tomatoes*. But instead of cloning Granny Clampett, Page mines Sook’s beauty, joy, strength, and laughter, managing to cram more emotions into a 30-minute tele-drama than you’re likely to find in a hundred features combined.

I wore the oxides off my old VHS copy, and every year I check Amazon in hopes of a spruced-up DVD for the holidays. You can check out Kensington Video’s VHS tape or, in a fit of sheer desperation, hunt down the black-
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and-white dupe floating around YouTube.
Matthew: Oh, my goodness. Speaking of traditions, I may have to sit the clan down for this one every Christmas Eve from here on out — even if we have to gather ‘round the YouTube. Sook, as Capote notes, is something of a child herself. But instead of her oddity rendering her simple, it instead keeps her pure. And what is more, it makes her supremely protective of Buddy’s purity. Not in the moralistic sense — she’s not above giving him a taste of whiskey to celebrate — but in the sense of preserving his wonder, his joy, his sweet hope in the face of poverty’s ordinary sorrow. Wonder: the adventure of scavenging pecans and buying whiskey for the fruitcake from Ha-Ha, the delight she takes in his retellings of movie plots. Joy: the wild extravagance of buying a pound and a half of candied pineapple at 50 cents a pound, the clamor of banging the house awake on Christmas morning. Hope: the dream of a bicycle, the possibility of winning the coffee-naming contest. It’s pure enough to break your heart.
What makes Sook sad? To see Buddy growing up. Because she knows what new kinds of sorrow that will bring. She is on the right side of every line, protecting instead of smothering, indulging instead of spoiling, inspiring instead of pushing. She is the keeper of his childhood.
So much about Christmas really does make it a children’s holiday, starting with the birth of a Child that makes us children of God. Is it any won-
der that so many of its traditions are aimed at children? (As opposed to, say, Thanksgiving, which celebrates by eating dinner.) And I think this very simple story gets at so much of what Christmas can give to a child. To childhood.

Scott: As a film for all seasons — one that features musical numbers celebrating everything from Christmas to the 4th of July — 1942’s Holiday Inn was the first (and finest) of three movies to include Bing Crosby chirping “White Christmas.” The star also groans Irving Berlin’s holiday anthem in Blue Skies (1946), and the biggest-selling music single of all time (100 million copies) earned title status for the 1954 remake, White Christmas.

Crosby costars with Fred Astaire as one member of a song-and-dance team determined to step away from a routine that finds them performing year-round. It’s Der Bingle’s idea to relocate the show to an isolated farm in Connecticut and only work the 15 or so days marked in red on the calendar. If remade today, musical tributes to Kwanzaa and Hanukkah would be de rigueur, and the regrettable “Abraham” number, which B-B-Bing b-b-belts in b-b-blackface to “honor” Lincoln’s Birthday, would be replaced by politically correct tunes showcasing non-existent but nevertheless profitable “Hallmark Holidays,” like Boss’s Day, or Sweetest Day.

Director Mark Sandrich, veteran of five Astaire/Rogers musicals, keeps the downtime between numbers to a minimum. The film’s biggest donut hole is leading lady Marjorie Reynolds, whose affections vacillate between Crosby and Astaire. Of the 71 films IMDb credits to Reynolds, only a handful (Ministry of Fear, Up in Mabel’s Room, Monsieur Beaucaire) ring a bell. The actress can’t carry a tune (her singing voice was dubbed by Martha Mears), and she’s no match (who was?) for Astaire when it comes to shaking her tootsies.

Please allow me to direct your attention to 1:34:39 on your DVD counter for an intimate, behind-the-scenes glimpse of a dream factory at work. While I never again want to spend a day with shoes soaked frozen on account of snow, there is nothing quite so lovely as watching a Tinsel Town flurry, particularly one filmed on black-and-white stock. Word of the Inn’s success quickly travels west, and before long, Reynolds is on a Paramount soundstage.

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lensing the big-screen adaptation. For a brief moment, we’re allowed a self-reflexive look at movie magic as our star recreates a sentimental scene: her return from the desolate barn that sparked her fame.

The makeup men disperse, “Action!” is called, and Cinderella’s horse-drawn carriage whisks the star from Bronson and Melrose to a snow-covered entertainment-venue/theme-restaurant situated somewhere back East. The camera pulls back to reveal a sky-high ceiling, with Ivory Laundry Flakes — shaken lightly from its mechanized rafters — landing on the cast and crew below. The audience watching is asked to imagine that the blizzard conditions they witnessed back at Holiday Inn were an act of God, and what we now see inside Hollywood Inn is a gifted craftsman’s tribute to nature’s glorious handiwork. Both scenarios are illusory, and while the reveal doesn’t last for more than a minute, the thought of cameras filming a winter snowstorm adds the surrealistic touch of a funhouse mirror, peeling back layers to reveal a sky-high ceiling, to the girl he first sang it to, the girl he first sang it to, while she’s playing the part of the girl he first sang it to. That’s about as self-conscious as it gets.

The longer I can keep my self-consciousness as it gets.

Matthew: “Dream factory” is right. Let me pull away from praising Oz’s Man Behind the Curtain reveal to critique the peek we get here. I love Holiday Inn, and the kids remember the songs and dancing more than anything else, but that scene is a layered and sophisticated move. I mean, Bing enters singing “White Christmas” on a movie set designed to look like the place where he first sang it, to the girl he first sang it to, while she’s playing the part of the girl he first sang it to. That’s about as self-conscious as it gets. The longer I can keep my kids from contemplating the orchestration of their Christmas joy — as opposed to the simple experience of it — the better. There’s a reason we hide the wrapping paper as well as the presents.

Scott: Trivia experts will instantly peg Leo McCarey’s The Bells of St. Mary’s (1945) as the title splashed across the Radio City Music Hall marquee while Michael Corleone and his future bride, Kay, do their Christmas shopping in The Godfather. For me, McCarey’s Bells has more in common with Coppola’s second installment, inasmuch as both films are rare examples of sequels that surpass their illustrious precursors. It’s an even more infrequent instance of a sequel penned before its original, and released by another studio!

In order for Paramount to loan out the services of Bing Crosby, RKO had to first consent to McCarey’s writing and directing a star vehicle based on the same character for their neighboring studio. Bing plays Father Chuck, who, long before joining the Roman Catholic order, took an active interest in sports, song, and dames. Metropolitan Opera great Risé Stevens adds a touch of class, as well as a hint of virility, by appearing as one of Father Chuck’s former love interests. Film scholars take note: The Bells of St. Mary’s falls between Going My Way and Tashlin’s Say One for Me, to form Crosby’s “Showbiz Priest” trilogy. How’s that for a master’s thesis waiting to happen?

It’s pure hokum, but in this case, it’s hokum drawn from the hand of one of cinema’s true humanists. What chances did a romance between a priest and a nun have of seeing the arc-light of day in a town where couples could only occupy a bed together if one of their feet was firmly planted on the floor? Only Leo McCarey (Duck Soup, Ruggles of Red Gap, Make Way for Tomorrow) could have pulled a love story of this sinful magnitude past the ever-vigilant eyes of the Hays Office. Ingrid Bergman signed opposite Crosby to play the screen’s most alluring nun. McCarey knew just the trick to pull it off: assign Sister Ingrid a faint cough 20 minutes in that winds up full-tubercular by the fade-out. Not to spoil it, but at the time, there was
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Auditorium floors littered with soaked Kleenex.

Matthew: For a movie starring a priest and a nun, there is amazing little talk of Jesus. Maybe that’s for the best: He’s a tough character to include, especially when he’s not the star. But there is a Christmas pageant rehearsal, and anyone who complains about Christians denying the realities of the world should recall that we have our kids do a play every year about an unwed mother and a fiancé who’s getting ready to dump her for fooling around on him. I know the angels and wise men sometimes don’t harp on it — like Sook, I’m all for preserving purity — but if you’re going to subscribe to Christianity, there are some things that you can’t avoid.

Oh, and I’ll match your movie trivia bit: The Bells of St. Mary’s is on the marquee in Bedford Falls as George Bailey runs down the street wishing folks a merry Christmas in It’s A Wonderful Life.

Scott: Speaking of subscribing to a faith: someone once asked about my biggest regret to date, and without batting an eye, I shot back, “Hebrew school.” Admittedly, much of what the Hamedrash dimmed, and the image that hit the screen was both upside down, backwards, and, as if it mattered, out of focus. Master tumber that he was, Rabbi Lichstein tried to quiet the din of rebellious youngsters with, “Looks like Haman [world-class anti-Semitic, royal vizier to King Ahasuerus, and all-around Purim meanie] got inside the
projector!” Not only did the show not go on, he refused to refund the charitable canned goods donated in exchange for admission!

For those in his class who had any intention of one day going full Jew, Rabbi Lichstein briefly touched upon the topic of the 39 Melachot. There are 39 “deliberate activities” listed in the owner’s manual that Jewish law prohibits its arch-orthodox wing from partaking in during Friday’s close of day and when the sun dips below the horizon on Saturday evening. During that 24-hour period, Jews are basically allowed to wake up, get dressed, eat, walk to synagogue for morning prayer, and spend the rest of the day kibitzing amongst themselves. It only sounds like home detention, with tightly wrapped tefillin replacing ankle bracelets. If anything, the laws are intended to provide the devout a festive respite, free of toil, with every waking moment spent in His service.

The Rogers Park neighborhood that I grew up in had more synagogues than it did 7-Elevens and McDonald’s combined. Every Saturday morning, I gazed down from my third-floor window at the parade of Hasidim that lined the sidewalk of Lunt Avenue. I had my own Saturday-morning TV prayer ritual that coincided with that of my Landsmen below. According to my calculations, their procession would coincide with the start of Flash Gordon at 7:00 a.m. Things would die down by the time The Three Stooges hit the airwaves at 8:00 a.m., only to pick up again at noon: temple let out just as goy-wonder Dick Clark began ushering in that week’s installment of American Bandstand.

It was the first time religious hypocrisy appeared on my radar. (I later learned that Rabbi Jordani, a high-ranking macher within the shul, made untoward advances towards the blonde shikse wife of the Shabbos goy, but that’s a megillah of another color.) According to the 39 Melachot, driving an automobile is steng verbotten on Shabbat. One morning, while breaking from tradition and accompanying mom on her weekly grocery-store pilgrimage, I noticed a “chosen” family being careful not to slam their tsi-tsies in the car door while exiting. It seems this devout group decided to park a few blocks away from the synagogue to give the impression that they had walked from home. Admittedly, this observation was taken from the point-of-view of

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The Death Ship Comes Alive
When the crew of the San Diego heard they were finally going home, relief erupted. “They thought they might have a few more days to live,” writes Father Antonio Ascensión, “than if they continued onward.”

by Sebastián Vizcaíno’s expedition had come apart. On May 5, 1602, three ships sailed north from Acapulco to explore the upper California coast. By January, one of the worst outbreaks of scurvy ever reported had decimated the crews. The Santo Tomás headed south, and the frigate Tres Reyes disappeared near Cape Mendocino. When it eventually reached Acapulco, only five men had survived.

Vizcaíno held a council off Cape Mendocino on January 7. The San Diego must turn back, all agreed. Only two sailors were hale enough to climb the mast. If prevailing northwest winds held true, they’d speed south to Acapulco in a month. But on January 13, a fierce southwest wind and slashing, horizontal rain blocked their progress. On the 17th, a heavy swell jolted the San Diego with such ferocity, the ailing crew tumbled from their bunks and slid across the deck. Vizcaíno slammed against wooden boxes and broke two ribs.

The expedition sailed as much by omens as navigation. Miracles — as when brackish water turned fresh — became emblems of approval. But now the signs were confusing. Once the council decided to return home, a contrary wind and powerful current shoved them north. A “trough of sea” leading northward seemed by design. Only one answer made sense: something, some unseen force, must be steering them toward the mythical Strait of Anian.

QUOTATIONS
1. Walter Bruno (in Mathes): “The diet of mariners of the period — salt, pork, jerk beef, garbanzos, dried beans, bread from yucca root, and hardtack — could hardly be adequate to prevent scurvy on any voyage.”
2. Michael Mathes: “While Vizcaíno discovered Monterey, he overlooked the greater possibi-
3. Maurice G. Holmes: Vizcaíno “really missed a wide-open opportunity to become an immortal...he was too inept to exploit the xoconostles despite evidence of its [scurvy-curing] properties before his very eyes.”

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known as the Strait of Magellan. Therefore, the northern half must have a water route — a Northwest Passage — from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic. The connecting link became known as the Strait of Anian.

The mysterious current drew the San Diego toward dark forests and snow-covered, volcano-like mountains. "The seas were carrying us rapidly to the entrance," Vizcaíno declared. If he found the strait, his expedition would rival Columbus’s. The biggest miracle of all would bless Vizcaíno, and his name would live forever.

On January 19, the wind shifted. Now, to reach the entrance, the San Diego would have to battle severe northwest winds. But cold weather made the rigging stiff, and Vizcaíno didn’t have enough sailors. "If on this occasion there had been even 14 sound men," writes his diarist, "without any doubt we should have been even 14 sound men, " ordered the ship to unfurl the sails and return to Acapulco. If they remained a day longer at that latitude, "the whole crew would die."

Vizcaíno had already determined to forsake Monterey, since all were of the opinion of Anian. But years later, Father Ascensión, on this occasion there had been even 14 sound men," writes his diarist, "without any doubt we should have ventured to explore and pass through the Strait of Anian, since all were of good courage to do this."

But only six men could still walk. Instead, Vizcaíno ordered the ship to unfurl the sails and return to Acapulco. If they remained a day longer at that latitude, "the whole crew would die."

There was no Strait of Anian. But years later, when Ascensión published his account, he advocated two myths: that California was an island; and that a healthy expedition would have sailed the strait and "gone to Spain and their King, by a route never before seen or discovered, making a turn around the world."

As with Vizcaíno’s overpraising of Monterey as a harbor, writes Michael Mathes, Ascensión’s belief in the strait confused “the cartography of Northwest America for almost two centuries.”

On the voyage north, to avoid unseen rocks, the expedition sailed 20 to 30 miles offshore. On the return, to shorten the trip, the San Diego skirted the coast. But no one saw San Francisco Bay, coming or going. It could be that, most of the year, the narrow inlet was fogged in, or that the able few on deck needed their eyes to watch the rocky coastline, and tried to shut their ears from the agonies below.

Father Ascensión, on his bunk, unable to move, heard scurry-riddled comrades shouting complaints or “deploring their sins.” Every bone felt broken. Ulcerated mouths and gums swollen “larger than their teeth” prevented them from chewing or swallowing whole food. Teeth loosened and fell out. Those able to move at all fed the ailing with gruel made from rotten provisions. Some died while eating. “To see so many dead,” wrote Ascensión, “to hear such cries and lamentations would move the very stones to compassion and pity.”

On January 25, the San Diego passed Monterey but couldn’t stop. If they lowered the anchors, there weren’t enough strong men to haul them back up. The ship was now in a race with death.

On the voyage north, the chief of the Chumash at Santa Barbara had promised each soldier ten pesos. As the San Diego sailed through the Santa Barbara Channel, the council ordered Vizcaíno not to stop. "The men were dying at a great rate," writes Ascensión, "and if what he wished was done, they would all finish here.

"God, our Master, would be offended," added Ascensión, "in allowing them to die."

Vizcaíno ordered his chief pilot, Francisco de Bolaños, to bypass Catalina and San Diego Bay and sail straight for Cedros Island, off Baja California. Near the Coronados, the winds died. Since only a few sailors could steer the ship or climb the mainmast, the San Diego lost momentum. It crept past Ensenada so slowly that natives gathering onshore didn’t know what to think: the big canoe — the “whale with wings” — barely moving, muffled cries and shrieks from within, dead bodies heaved over the side. Some of those handling them howled as well.

Onboard, supplies were running out. They must stop for water or perish.

A fresh northwest wind wafted them toward Cedros. On February 6, Vizcaíno dropped a “light anchor,” the ship’s smallest, into the warm water at the island.

Back in October, against the viceroy’s demand not to harm natives, Vizcaíno’s soldiers had shot and killed several natives, Vizcaíno’s soldiers remembered. Now, when Vizcaíno went ashore with six debilitated sailors to dig a water hole, an angry band appeared with bows and arrows painted blood red. Some played a warlike tune on flutes.

The Spaniards fired their arquebuses “through the air,” writes the diarist, without saying how high they aimed. The natives fled.

On February 9, able to gather only “12 quarters” of water (the ship could hold over 200), Vizcaíno cut the
cable to the light anchor and ordered all possible speed to Cabo San Lucas. On and below-decks, the **San Diego** was a death ship. Because their mouths were so ulcerated they couldn’t chew the foul food, the sick were dying of starvation. At least 45 men withered in bunks or blankets on the floor. Their shouts blunted into babbles. The smells — death, excrement, decaying food, and human skin — fogged the air. As in times of plague, the dead became the most lamented. The smells — death, excreta, blankets on the floor. Their clothes stank of starvation. At least 45 men were able-bodied."

When the **San Diego** reached Cabo San Lucas, writes Ascensión, “not six were able-bodied.”

On February 13, Vizcaíno held his final council. The expedition had planned to go to La Paz, on the east coast of Baja, and awaited new orders from the viceroy. But they couldn’t. The men were “so sick and exhausted,” writes Vizcaíno’s diarist, “if the anchor were cast, the ship would not be able to leave.”

From the start, the council made all decisions (they had to, says his biographer, Gonzalo de Francia, because Vizcaíno “could neither plan nor execute”). While some wanted to sail straight to Acapulco, the majority urged a mad dash across the “Vermilion Sea” — the Gulf of California — to the nearest point of the mainland: the islands of Mazatlán. From there, Vizcaíno would take a scouting party to a village called San Sebastián, said to be six or eight leagues inland, though no one knew for sure.

On February 17, the **San Diego** anchored off Mazatlán. Two days later, with the ship securely in place, Vizcaíno and the five most able men rowed to the mainland. Vizcaíno’s ribs were wound and braced, and his health, says one account, was “ruined.”

None knew where the village was, and they found no trail. After walking at least 13 leagues, over mountains and through thick jungles, they became lost.

Two days later, they came upon a small, meandering road. Exhausted, baked by radiant heat, they rested under trees, half expecting to peris in the shade. Down the way, they heard a strange tinkling. Mule bells! A muleteer and his train were en route to a village called Culiacán. After he unloaded his goods — edible and clothing from Castle — he promised to take Vizcaíno’s party to San Sebastián. When the mule master gave them tortillas, fruit, and wine, they dined like epicures.

A day later, the group reached San Sebastián, whose mayor, Martín Ruiz de Aguirre, was an old friend of Vizcaíno’s. Aguirre ordered a supply train with a cornucopia of blessings: chickens, veal, vegetables, bananas, oranges, lemons, papayas, generous amounts of bread and wine. Every third day, Aguirre added, he would send six more loads to the coast.

Those who remained onboard, writes Ascensión, were “more dead than alive.” All, including Ascensión, became convinced their death loomed just ahead.

Shortly after Vizcaíno left, corporal Antonio Ruiz and one of the friars rowed the launch ashore to bury dead bodies. After the father said Mass, Ruiz noticed a longish yellow fruit, like a prickly pear. He plucked one from a stem holding at least 100. Since he suffered from scurvy, Ruiz could barely open his mouth.

He took a bite of the white pulp — the pleasing taste both sweet and acidic — and his gums started to bleed. One astringent mouthful began to lacerate the ulcers.

Another bite cleansed the infected areas. Ruiz began coughing. Then he spat out “all the bad blood collected in the swollen gums.”

“Eating it twice,” writes Ascensión, “put the mouth and teeth in such condition that one could eat any other kind of food without difficulty or pain. If this fruit had not produced this effect, the fresh food that came could not have been eaten or passed into the stomach.” Ruiz loaded the launch to the gunwales with the fruit called *xoconostle*. As he and the padre rowed back to the ship, those onboard thought Ruiz had gone mad. His ravings rippled across the water. That he could speak was strange enough. And if what they could make out was true, Ruiz was blithering about a “milagro” — a miracle! “All ate [the fruit] and surgeons brought about the miracle, “nor by any human remedy understood to be a medicine given in this disease.” It came from “Our Lady, the Virgin María del Monte Carmelo.”

When Vizcaíno reached the coast with the supply train, he expected the worst: the **San Diego** reeking of death and corpses everywhere.

Instead, sailors “in good spirits” waved at him. He saw smirks where mouths had been bloated with ulcers. He heard something no one had in months: laughter. Many of the near-dead were up and around, climbing the mast or swabbing the deck. Vizcaíno, writes his diarist, “was much amazed.”

The crew fed, drank, and rested for 19 days. By the time they reached Acapulco, on March 21, most had recovered enough to perform chores on the ship.

When the **San Diego** arrived, “all the inhabitants were surprised to see how well and sound all on board her were.” Given what sailors on the Santa Tomás had told them, they thought “they would never see her again.”

Back in Mexico City — even though he broke almost every one of the viceroy’s demands and lost at least 48 men — Vizcaíno urged another voyage. Instead, the viceroy named Vizcaíno commander of the next galleon headed for Manila. But a new viceroy appointed shortly after, the Marquis de Montecloscaros, countermanded the order. Vizcaíno was too inept for such a challenge.

Montecloscaros said Vizcaíno tried to bribe him and charged the cosmographer, Gerónimo Martín Palacios, of forging the king’s name to his credentials. The viceroy made Vizcaíno mayor of lowly Tehuantepec, which was “as much as he deserved.” He ordered Palacios hung.

Writing almost two decades later, Father Ascensión praised the expedition: “They accomplished with such labor and fatigue an enterprise so difficult that, of the five or six times in which it had been tried, none had accomplished... even the half of it. Those who went on this expedition can very well be proud.”

Others, including the new viceroy, saw no achievement at all. New Spain ceased official exploration of the California coastline for over 160 years. ■

**Jeff Smith**

**SOURCES:**


Hang on tight
continued from page 2

coordinated loose monetary policies of the world’s central banks, there is a “vast amount of cash” available to institutional and individual investors.

And there is the Pavlovian effect: "Markets react to psychology before they do to statistics. Anticipation — the wish becoming the parent of the thought — dictates the trend. With so much money around and with more people making more money when markets go up, the wish for appreciation is understandable." Governments, too, love rising markets, as tax receipts increase and politicians can justify more spending. The market may do well "at least until bleak despair is again present, as is likely at some point."

Mike Stolper of Stolper and Company thinks the despair is already here and will help stocks. "I would be very surprised if we don’t have a huge rally," he says. Many dejected investors are betting that stocks will go down; if there is good news, they will rush to buy stocks, pushing them up. "All it takes to spark a good rally is when sentiment gets so negative that virtually anything will spark a rally." Dividends on blue chip stocks are higher than yields on cash or bonds. "Most people would argue that stocks are statistically cheap."

Today, investors "want to believe that the apocalypse is not around the corner," Stolper says. However, many believe that "There is not enough money on the planet to bail Europe out." Europe may already be in recession. If it’s contagious, the American economy could slow sharply. "If you operate on the premise of having to reschedule or repudiate debt around the globe, we will have subnormal growth rates for some time." Earnings would fall, and the market would be wary of stocks.

Robert Snigaroff, president of Denali Advisors, began buying stocks for his personal portfolio the first week of August. "Stocks have attractive yields compared to Treasury bonds and cash," he says. His firm buys blue chip stocks, preferably with generous and safe dividends, and avoids financial equities. "Stocks have more upside than bonds." (Bonds have been in a bull market since 1981; stocks have had a sloppy ride since 2000.) "I’m optimistic but cautiously so."

Viewing the various initiatives to bail out Europe, Neil Hokanson of Solana Beach’s Hokanson Associates says, "This is like running a marathon. We’ve run the first quarter of a mile, all downhill. The rest is uphill — cutting entitlement spending, current and future, both in the U.S. and Europe. We just can’t sustain the programs put into place in the last 75 years. History indicates that it takes a crisis to generate structural reform."

Hokanson says he is an optimist, but he is not bullish on the short run. "There is great latent potential for stocks if governments get their acts together," he says. But things may have to get worse for politicians and bureaucrats to wake up, and the market may react negatively to the dallying approach to deep crises.

Still, "If you came down from Mars and looked for places to invest, you would pick common stocks," he says. His firm is emphasizing dividends. "We believe in investing globally, but the U.S. is the place to be now. We have reduced international exposure and increased the level of dividends in the portfolio. We are not just buying utilities and telecom issues; even tech stocks like Intel and Paychex have good yields."

But he sums up: "We are at the point where the government drives interest rates so low that savers get nothing and governments get to borrow for almost free. Governments are inflating away debt at the expense of investors." That’s one reason that when his firm buys bonds, it keeps the maturities short. He fears inflation. Summing up all these factors, says Hokanson, "We are not at the beginning of a new bull market" in stocks.

We have a looming apocalypse, and central banks are creating oceans of money to thwart it. So stocks and bonds do surprisingly well. But suppose the apocalypse comes?

Under the radar
continued from page 2

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Hang on tight
continued from page 2

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We have a looming apocalypse, and central banks are creating oceans of money to thwart it. So stocks and bonds do surprisingly well. But suppose the apocalypse comes?
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Along the line
continued from page 3

for patrolling the area from the ocean to the San Ysidro Port of Entry, apprehended 11 percent of all detainees.

“These days the triple factors of the secondary fence, new Border Patrol strategies implemented with Operation Gatekeeper, and a flagging U.S. economy have caused the number of illegal border crossings to fall.

According to an analysis by the Pew Research Center, the number of people caught crossing from Mexico into the United States without papers decreased from one million in 2006 to 404,000 in 2010. In San Diego’s sector, agents detained 142,101 undocumented immigrants in 2006. Last year, that number dropped to 68,565.

Today, agents detain approximately 115 people in the sector each day, says an agency spokesperson.

As Harris navigates the Tijuana River Watershed’s hills and craggy canyons, he gives their names: Yogurt Canyon, the site of a popular trail that begins at a yogurt shop in Playas de Tijuana; Smuggler’s Gulch, a trading ground for pot in the ‘60s; Memo Road, a stretch where trucks would get pelted by rocks thrown from across the line, obliging agents to submit memos detailing the damage — rock-throwing still occurs but not as often as in previous years.

Harris relives his years in the patrol, telling stories of kids crossing the border only to return with bags of fast food.

“We used to joke that some were training for the Mexican Olympic team,” he says. “Some would scale the fence like it was nothing.”

He stops in Goat Valley, near an abandoned goat farm, and points to dozens of bullet holes in crumbling brick walls. He tells of being shot at here.

He passes a drainage tunnel leading to the International Wastewater Treatment Plant. Across the border, homeless people walk among trash and debris; their torn tarps and ripped blankets hang on the rusted primary fence. Harris says agents refer to these people as “trolls.”

Ten minutes later, Border Patrol agents stop Harris to ask what he is doing. He tells them he is a former “PA” — patrol agent — leading a tour and shows identification given to him following retirement.

After three hours, Harris pulls into the former Imperial Beach Station headquarters, located at the pedestrian entrance to Mexico. Nearby, a half dozen people exit a white van and stand by a gate, waiting to be deported. Harris chats with a former coworker. They talk about the job, about the increased smuggling of drugs and humans by sea.

We make our way to the east side of the port of entry, the Echoes, agents call it, using the military alphabet for e. The road runs parallel to a secondary fence, across the line from Tijuana’s Colonial Libertad neighborhood. Patches where holes were cut in the fence are visible. Small holes are repaired with zip ties. After a mile, we turn around. The tour is over.

Harris hopes more people will take the tour to witness what life is like along one of the busiest land crossings in the world. And as long as he doesn’t reveal information that would aid smugglers or illegal crossers, officials don’t seem to mind.

“Border Patrol agents are not permitted to divulge sensitive information to the public anytime after they depart from service. We do not want agents to reveal information which may aid smuggling organizations to avoid detection of narcotics or apprehension of smugglers,” writes a spokesperson for Customs and Border Protection.

“There are federal laws and regulations that prohibit disclosure of nonpublic information, whether classified or not, even after a person separates from government service.”

NEWS TICKER
continued from page 3

Hiring Local
SD Unified Prefers SD Builders
San Diego — The San Diego Unified School District agreed unanimously yesterday to extend its Project Stabilization Agreement to include all projects funded by state dollars and Proposition S, a $2.1 billion bond measure passed in 2008 to repair and renovate district schools.

The goal of the agreement is to create jobs by hiring San Diegans to complete construction projects. An independent study commissioned by the district was released last week that shows the program’s goals have been met or exceeded, without resulting in any added expense to the district.

Eighteen percent of all workers on projects included in the agreement came from ZIP codes specifically targeted for their low income status. Thirty percent in all live within the boundaries of the school district, and 94
Bolting North?
Junior Seau to Promote NFL in L.A.
Mission Valley — Chargers fans sifting the tea leaves for hints about whether the team will soon be moving north may want to head to downtown Los Angeles this Sunday for a visit with Junior Seau.

The Chargers ex-linebacker — who in February 1997 called mayor Susan Golding “a great leader” for her $78 million plan to expand Jack Murphy Stadium — is set to appear this weekend at an event called the Verizon Training Ground at L.A. LIVE, owned by AEG, would-be developer of Farmers Field.

That venue is widely viewed as a possible future destination for San Diego’s team.

By Matt Potter
Wednesday, December 14

Psycho-reactive
A City’s Fight Against Spice
Chula Vista — Elected officials in Chula Vista took the first step in their march against psychoactive drugs on Tuesday when councilmembers and the mayor approved a policy that allows law enforcement officers to confiscate synthetic drugs during routine investigations.

Deputy mayor Rudy Ramirez was critical of the approach. During the hearing he urged the city to move forward with tougher regulations.

“This city can do more by criminalizing possession,” said Ramirez. “This is something that we need to approach with a sledghammer.”

Councilmember Steve Castaneda said testing and other verification methods need to be in place before the city can enact additional regulations.

Despite the concerns, the council voted unanimously to implement the policy.

By Dorian Hargrove
Wednesday, December 14

Vendor Votes
Sweetwater Refuses
Campaign Cash Cap
Chula Vista — On December 12, the Sweetwater Union High School District board was asked to consider a resolution that would place a $500 limit on campaign contributions from individuals or committees to trustee candidates. The resolution died for lack of a motion.

In November, community member Nancy Stubbs had asked that the resolution be agendized. Stubbs pointed out that the San Diego Unified School District limits donations to $750, and the City of Chula Vista sets the limit at $300.

Stubbs argued that the November 2010 election demonstrated the need for campaign restrictions.

“When over 70 percent of some candidates’ campaign contributions came not from the community they represent but from vendors, the perception is that the board is more responsive to the vendors than to the community. When over $150,000 total was contributed to three board candidates by vendors of the district, and coincidentally those board members won, the perception is that the vendors bought the right votes.”

Stubbs’s remarks referred to the campaigns of trustees Jim Cartmill, John McCann, and Arlie Ricasa.

Community activists and teachers who attended the meeting were stunned by the board’s refusal to act.

By Susan Lazzaro
Tuesday, December 13

Fighter Down
Federal Government Sued
Over Marine Corps Crash
University City — A Korean family is suing the federal government for compensation in relation to a Marine Corps jet that crashed into a University City neighborhood in 2008, destroying the family’s home.

In the crash, Don Yoon lost his wife Youngmi Lee, daughters Rachel and Grace, and mother-in-law Seokim Kim. All were at home when student pilot Lt. Dan Neubauer ejected and watched his F/A-18D fighter jet go down, incinerating two homes. He was cleared to resume flying four months later.

While the Marine Corps says the plane suffered a mechanical breakdown, it also admits that a series of bad decisions were made that resulted in the jet going down in a residential area on its way to marine Corps Air Station Miramar instead of attempting to land at Naval Air Station North Island.

By Dave Rice
Monday, December 12

Naked Justice
Gay Pride’s Over-the-Line Defense
San Diego — Will X. Walters, who was arrested and jailed for public nudity at the July 16 Gay Pride event, is making a cogent case that he was less scantily clad than the women who wear G-strings at the Over-the-Line tournament and are ignored by police.

“This is patently unfair and in violation of [the] Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment,” says Christopher Morris, Walters’s attorney. Morris took his client’s complaint to the police, who “circled the wagons; we didn’t get sufficient resolution, so we filed the claim.”

Morris is asking for $150,000 plus attorney fees.

He has to wait six months for the police to answer the claim. If he doesn’t achieve Walters’s exoneration, along with the monetary damages, Morris will initiate a federal civil rights complaint.

By Don Bauder
Monday, December 12

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Be Prepared
While I was prepared by the title of your December 15 cover story (“The Unkindest Cut”) for an expose-style piece, I found the interminning of personal stories and stats to be informative and true to personal experience, with one exception — clearly there is a missing piece of the process that is enabling the hospital staff and not the families to set the tone for their birth experience, and that is developing strong patient advocacy through self-education. In all examples cited (my wife/child’s also), there was a chasm between anticipated experience/outcome and actuality.

While all circumstances can’t be preordained, some “What if…?” thinking is paramount to having a satisfying (and healthy!) birth experience. Taking a birthing course of your liking or selecting a doula who will guide you yet also stand up for your patients’ rights while you’re undergoing/enjoying the stress/exhilaration of childbirth will help bring your actual experience closer to your expectations and be better prepared for those other “eventualities” that we don’t like to consider.

Our Bradley Method instructor was an invaluable resource at holding out against an “emergency C-section” ten-hour onslaught at 35 weeks, which amounted to Braxton-Hicks contractions. Do write a birth plan together with your spouse/partner and share it with your doctor early on in your pregnancy — his/her reaction (both actually) will tell you a lot about who’s in your corner once push comes to push. Ultimately this preparation let us peacefully come to terms with the reality that, though our child, full breech and with a potential cord wrap (which was true) couldn’t be born through the desired natural childbirth method, we could alter our birth plan to stay as true to that intent and bring our healthy child into the world.

Matthew Thompson
via email

Touchdowns Before Potholes
While driving home today in San Diego I became very angry indeed upon seeing men and machinery at work squandering city funds repairing the roadway! What sort of city officialdom would decide to spend money eliminating potholes when lack of finance is (so far, at least) preventing the building of a brand-new football stadium (“Head Case,” “City Lights,” December 8), which most taxpayers would agree is absolutely essential lest the home team flee to maybe (horror) Los Angeles? It simply makes no sense.

Very Annoyed Citizen
via email

Helping Hands
I’m calling about Osiris Murillo, one of the folks you did an article on who was living in her car (“My House Has Wheels,” Cover Story, December 1). She’s a young lady, an SDSU graduate, living with her three-year-old in her car. My husband and I were very touched by that story, Wè’d like to do something to help her.

Janis Musante
via email

Letters continued from page 4

without proper support it can sometimes result in death. As the parent of one child who entered life with major problems, not all due to his delivery, I’d like to conclude with two points. Yes, do your research and do choose the providers most likely to give you the experience you hope for. But getting through the delivery and being able to take home a healthy child is far and away the most important consideration. People who’ve done that may not realize how lucky they are.

Stephen Gallup
via email

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Comments from Reader website

City Lights, by Don Bauder Published December 14
Shouldn’t the San Diego Convention Center exec who signs off on those bogus attendee/hotel room figures be indicted for fraud?

By dwbat 10:59 a.m., Dec 15, 2011

The downtown hoteliers appear to be behind the push to expand the convention center. These hoteliers apparently believe that expanding the convention center will raise the value of their hotels, thereby enabling them to unload their properties on unsuspecting suckers. The expansion will likely have little or no effect on hotel occupancy. The convention center is big enough as it is. Transporting 12,000 conventioneers by air to San Diego to attend a convention burns over one million pounds of aviation fuel. With world oil supplies dwindling, and fuel costs soaring, conventions will soon be a thing of the past.

By Burwell 2:16 p.m., Dec 17, 2011

COMDEX, the Computer Dealers Exposition that ran for 24 years in Las Vegas eventually imploded on its own popularity. COMDEX, once called “Geek Week,” was once one of the largest trade shows (in any industry sector) until it started a New York show in the spring and then other niche conventions cannibalized its segments.

The same will happen to Comic Con. With the rapidly expanding personal electronics and computer based entertainment, there will be other niche conventions that set-up and saturate the market.

I went to Comic Con in 2011 out of curiosity. In my opinion, what started as a comic collector bizarre has morphed into a mish mass of market segments that have coalesced into one big entertainment convention. It reminds me of COMDEX before the implosion in the early 2000’s.

By Ponzi 6:51 p.m., Dec 17, 2011
Thursday | 22

DRUMMING IN THE LIGHT
Celebrate the “birth of light in the darkest night of the year” with music therapist Christine Stevens and the UpBeat Rhythm Tribe during this winter-solstice drum circle. No music experience necessary. Some drums will be provided, but do try to bring your own percussion instrument.

**WHEN:** 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. (also 12/26 through 12/31; various showtimes).

**WHERE:** Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park. 619-234-5623; theoldglobe.org

Sunday | 25

DRINK AND DRAW
Pink BoomBox hosts their weekly costumed-figure drawing session at Air Conditioned Lounge. Drink specials, prizes, live theme-costumed models, and music. “Photographers are welcome…but creepy guys with cameras can stay home.”

**WHEN:** 9 p.m.

**WHERE:** Air Conditioned Lounge, 4673 30th Street, Normal Heights. 619-501-9831; airconditionedlounge.com

Monday | 26

FANTASY ON ICE
Who said you can’t go ice-skating in San Diego? Enjoy this winter pastime on Sycuan Casino’s temporary rink setup outside Horton Plaza. Admission includes rental ice skates. Proceeds go to the Peckham Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Rady Children’s Hospital, San Diego.

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. (also every day except New Year’s Eve through January 8).

**WHERE:** Horton Square, 225 Broadway Circle, Downtown. 858-966-6700; sdice.com/horton

Tuesday | 27

OVERSPRAY: A STENCIL ART SHOW
Thumbprint Gallery presents this exhibition by artists using stencils as their main tool. “Stencil art provides the urban artist with a tool to rapidly and effectively stamp their message across the city walls.” See work by Keemowerks, William Bacher, Nite Owl, Konstant Be, and more, while a DJ spins tunes.

**WHEN:** 7 p.m.

**WHERE:** Basic Urban Kitchen and Bar, 410 Tenth Avenue, East Village. 619-531-8869; thumbprintgallerysd.com

Wednesday | 28

WINTER FAMILY DAY
Kids 12 and younger are invited to participate in fun maritime events, including the making of a take-home nautical craft following the Holiday Bowl balloon parade. Sign up for a short cruise aboard the Pilot, a 98-year-old harbor pilot boat.

**WHEN:** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**WHERE:** San Diego Maritime Museum, 1492 North Harbor Drive, Downtown. 619-234-9153 x101; sdmaritime.org/family-days

Saturday | 24

DR. SEUSS’S HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS
It’s a holiday tradition at the Old Globe Theatre, and there’s a new Grinch in town:
San Diego Reader  
December 22, 2011

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“Found that the City that Never Sleeps actually does,” between 4 and 6 a.m.

New York City, 4–7 a.m.
By Robert Isenberg

Manhattan is empty in the early a.m. I left Boston at midnight, bound for Pittsburgh, and I knew I’d face a layover.

When I ordered my Megabus tickets, I knew the first leg would only last four hours. I knew I’d have to wake from a deep sleep. I knew Megabus didn’t have a “station,” only a stretch of sidewalk where riders boarded and exited.

But I’d forgotten that Manhattan bars close at 4 a.m., and cafés and bakeries don’t generally open until, say, 6 or 7. I was alone on the dark, moist streets with only vagrants, police, newspaper deliverers, and the steady flow of traffic for company.

For nearly three hours, I trawled the streets for food, a restroom, and something to do. Groggy and aimless, I found that the City that Never Sleeps actually does get some shuteye — during exactly the hours of my layover.

Missoula, Montana
By Adam Case

“Hey! It’s a red light!” I screamed as Sarah drove into the intersection.

“Sorry, I really can’t drive and talk at the same time,” she said, “I’m on antidepressants.”

At the next light, I gestured as I saw the light turn.

“See, I stopped, I saw your finger begin to raise.”

I didn’t know if I was relieved or not. I really couldn’t complain about my ride. Having cruised into Missoula via Greyhound, I should only have felt sympathy for the driver. She was a 60-year-old former divorce attorney who had been working at McDonald’s and as a part-time librarian to make ends meet.

I met her in front of the courthouse when I noticed scraggly punk rockers handing out food.

Seeing them, Food Not Bombs came to mind. I was right. I grabbed a plate of mediocre fried rice with cabbage. Every time I’ve eaten Food Not Bombs I always thought a Soviet apparatchik could cook better. I noticed Sarah wearing an Industrial Workers of the World shirt. I started a conversation about the union, and after asking her where I could find a pharmacy, she offered me a ride.

I ended up in Missoula on a whim. A punk outside of a Portland house show said it was like Portland East. Hearing this and wanting to hop a train to Montana, I thought it was reason enough to go. Sarah told me as she drove that it was “the closest thing to San Francisco here in Montana.”

Arriving here, I could tell it was obviously a college town. “Griz Nation” signs were plastered all around. It felt like a mixture of Pocatello, Idaho — with its Western college town ambiance — and Portland, Oregon, being divided by a

Other Adventures

misshottie45: Gas pumps (still in operation) at the four corners in Gustavis, Alaska — called the “four corners” because it is the only intersection in the city

Damien: La Fortuna, Costa Rica
Ronalyne: Located next to the Midway aircraft-carrier museum

Gather No Moss
TRAVEL STORIES AND TIPS FROM OUR READERS

I found that the City that Never Sleeps actually does,“ between 4 and 6 a.m.

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Just north of San Diego State University, the runoff shed by some 15 square miles of chaparral-covered hillsides and suburban streets placidly crosses under ten lanes of Interstate 8 west of College Avenue. Then it tumbles, virtually unseen by anyone today, through a narrow little gorge, forming the series of cascades known as Adobe Falls.

Decades ago, when San Diego State lay isolated at the city’s eastern fringe and I-8 was but a gleam in some civil engineer’s eye, students and professors trekked down to this formerly idyllic site for picnics. Today the runoff from winter storms still rushes head-long over bedrock slabs and boulders beneath a pleasing array of willows, sycamores, and volunteer palms — but lurid graffiti on the rocks, flotsam-and-jetsam trash along the banks, suds floating on the quiet pools, and the rank odor of a nearby sewer pipeline do not serve to inspire the curious traveler.

Nonetheless, for those with insatiable curiosity, the following directions are offered: Exit I-8 at College Avenue and go north to the traffic light at Del Cerro Boulevard. Turn left (west), continue 0.4 mile, and turn left on Rockhurst Drive. Rockhurst becomes Genoa Drive and starts descending. At the end of Genoa, turn right on the dead-end Mill Peak Road and descend, passing a horrendous open wound on the hillside above (now being stabilized by much earth-moving activity) and a couple of slide-damaged homes. Continue downhill to the end of the cul-de-sac, and park along the curb nearby. On foot, take the wide dirt path signed “off-road vehicle activity prohibited.” Cross the creek, veer left, and begin the short climb to the falls area. If soaking winter rains have recently fallen, expect to accumulate a couple of pounds of sticky adobe soil on the soles of your shoes. When you reach the falls, watch your step — all rocks, even rough-textured ones, are slippery when wet.

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

Find more Roam-O-Rama columns online at SDRreader.com/roam
**Outdoors**

**Holiday Trail Tales** Coyotes feast on holly berries, birds plant mistletoe — gain “glimpses into the strange and exotic lives of San Diego plants and wildlife” during trail guide-led walk from Kumeyaay Lake Campground to historic Old Mission Dam. Saturday, December 23, 6am; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

**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 Solstice Hike** Predawn walk up Cowles Mountain to visit a Kumeyaay spiritual site and observe the phenomenon of the rays of the rising sun being split in half by the distant Lyon’s Peak boulders. Meet at Golfcrest Drive and Navajo Road parking lot. Friday, December 23, 6am; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

**Nature’s Holiday Spirit** Experience seasonal decorations growing naturally on trail guide-led walk through sage and chaparral to riparian habitat. Saturday, December 24, 9:30am; free. Mission Trails Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Drink and Draw** Pink Boom-Box hosts weekly costumed figure drawing session promising prizes, live costumed models, booze. “Photographers are welcome... but creepy guys with cameras can stay home.” Cover-model fee: $5. 619-501-9831. Sundays, 9pm; through December 30, $5.21 and up. Air Conditioned Lounge, 4673 30th Street. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

**Drumming in the Light** Celebrate “birth of light in the darkest night of the year” with music therapist Christine Stevens and UpBeat Rhythm Tribe during winter solstice drum circle. No musical experience necessary. Bring a drum or percussion instrument; some drums provided. Suggested donation: $15. Thursday, December 22, 11pm; Seaside Center for Spiritual Living, 1613 Lake Drive. (ENCINITAS)

**Economic Planning — Still a Dirty Idea?** Debate topic with Civilized Conversation group.

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**Missoula** continued from page 50.

river.

I hopped off the bus from Whitefish ready to explore — I had 16 hours before my bus left. I walked about a mile from the station on Broadway to downtown and entered Charlie’s Bar, intending to eat at the Dinosaur Café located in the back of the bar. I’d read that it served good Cajun/American food. The kitchen was closed on Sunday. I decided to drink.

Charlie’s Bar was filled with beards, beer guts, and gray hair. The slim, blonde, 20-something bartender juxtaposed next to the clientele made this bar a weird combo — but so was what was on tap. Charlie’s beer selection is in the high double digits. I ordered some Moose Drool, a balanced brown ale brewed in town, and paid $3.50 for a pint.

After two pints, I cleared out of Charlie’s and walked around town. I noticed a plethora of coffee shops and boutiques, along with a sushi restaurant. I passed by ZooCity Apparel, a screen-printing and clothing company that proclaimed itself “A Worker-Owned Collective.” According to their website, they print and sell Montana-inspired fashion.

Later in the evening I ended up by the tracks at the Double Front Café. I read online that their fried chicken was tasty. I ordered a plate of fried chicken gizzards and fries for $9.50. I wasn’t impressed with the marinated gizzards — they didn’t have the snap I like from gizzards — but their battered fries and breading were tasty. I think I’d order a plate of chicken instead if I were here again.

After eating, I went to the river. I was looking for a place to pass out. On the east side I spotted a skate park. It was well designed — I wished I’d brought my board. Down from the park a little ways I rolled out my sleeping bag. I awoke at 6 a.m. and walked back to the bus station.

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Win a Reader Local Restaurant Variety Pack!
$30 to Beach Club Grille, $30 to Stephanie’s Bakery, and $10 to Urban Chicken. Enter by, Monday, December 25th at 1PM.

Win tickets to English Beat at Belly Up on NYE!
Dave Wakeling takes the stage time and again, touring across the States, Canada, the UK and beyond. Enter by Wednesday, December 28th at 1PM.

Enter to Win Tickets to New Year’s Eve at House of Blues!
Spectacular NYE event with complimentary appetizers, champagne, photo booth, masquerade masks, and party favors. Enter by Wednesday, December 28th at 1PM.
Enjoy ice-skating outdoors adjacent to Horton Plaza.
**Rhyme & Verse**

**Praying Hands**

A poem by Ted Kooser

There is at least one pair in every thrift shop in America, molded in plastic or plaster of paris and glued to a plaque, or printed in church-pamphlet colors and framed under glass. Today I saw a pair made out of lightweight wire stretched over a pattern of finishing nails. This is the way faith goes from door to door, cast out of one and welcomed at another. A butterfly presses its wings like that as it rests between flowers.

Ted Kooser, who was born in Ames, Iowa, on April 25, 1939, was Poet Laureate of the United States from 2004 to 2006. Librarian of Congress James Billington said of his appointment: “Ted Kooser is a major poetic voice for rural and small town America and the first Poet Laureate chosen from the Great Plains. His verse reaches beyond his native region to touch on universal themes in accessible ways.” In 2005, a year after his appointment as Poet Laureate, Kooser was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for poetry. A master of the brief, imagistic lyric and a poet of precision and gracious humanity, Kooser is one of America’s most accomplished poets. He lives near Garland, Nebraska, with his wife Kathleen Rutledge, former editor of the Lincoln Journal Star. “Praying Hands” is from his collection Delights and Shadows, published by Copper Canyon Press. It is used here by permission.

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry
“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 visual and conceptual dialogue for “Vantage Point: UCSD Visual Dialogues.” View resulting work by students Ela Boyd, Chris Kardambakis, Brian Zimmerman, Alida Cervantes and professors Ernest Silva, Louis Hock, Ruben Ortiz-Torres, Anya Gallaccio through Sunday, January 15.

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 Gutkin 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)

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)

Translating California Sunshine
Spencer Finch’s “light-based installations bridge an actual locale with a recalled memory.” “Rome (Pantheon, noon, June 14, 2011),” on view through Sunday, January 22, “evokes the moment and mood of a place by controlling the quality of light, color, or other sensory information.”

“Phenomenal: California Light, Space, Surface” offers 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, “the exhibition includes immersive light installations together with rare, ephemeral, and site-conditioned works, some seen in California for the first time in decades.” Closes Sunday, January 22. Free-$10. Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla, 700 Prospect Street. (LA Jolla)
**DANCE**

The Nutcracker California Ballet presents classical dance, Tchaikovsky’s magical score performed by San Diego Symphony, choreography by Maxine Mahon. 858-560-5676. Thursday, December 22, 2:30pm and 7pm; Friday, December 23, 1:30pm and 7pm; $25-$80. San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue. **DOWNTOWN**

Argentine Tango with Colette Will give you a first free class any Monday or Wednesday at 7pm and introduce you to the passion and magic of Tango in San Diego. Place San Diego in Point Loma. No need for a partner. More information: www.TangoWithColette.com or call 514-726-5567. Monday, December 26, 7pm. Dance Place San Diego, 2630 Truxtun Road, Studio 106. **POINT LOMA**

**SPORTS**

"Testimonials for the Restorius" Enjoy empty roads during approximately 25-mile Knickersbiker bicycle ride. Bring money in case an open restaurant can be found at ride’s end. 858-450-0373 or 619-787-7427. Sunday, December 25, 9am. Free. Mandarin China Restaurant, 4110 W. Point Loma Boulevard. **MIDWAY DISTRICT**

Tidepooling Adventures at Dike Rock Aquarium naturalists guide participants into fragile tide-pool communities and highlight the inhabitants. RSVP: 858-534-7336. Friday, December 23, 1pm. $10-$12. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. **LA JOLLA**

**LECTURES**

“Crystals, Gemstones, and Scrying” Bob shares his knowledge of mining gemstones and crystal and explains scrying, the art of divination through gazing. Rock reading for participants. 760-721-2110. Thursday, December 22, 6:30pm; $5. Kindred Journeys, 510 N. Coast Hwy. **OCEANSIDE**

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**La Jolla Christian Church**

Christmas Eve Service


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**La Jolla Church of Religious Science**

Christmas Day Service, Sat., December 24, 7 pm. Eve Candlelighting service, December 23, 7 pm, and Christmas Day service. 5744 Pacific Center Blvd. Suite 306 (858) 320-0980

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**San Diego LDS Temple**

Christmas Eve Service at 9:30 am. www.lds.org. Please join us! Our Sunday morning worship gathering is a featured soloist at Agape International in LA. Conscious people. The Atharva-veda is a sacred Hindu anthology of prayer-poems and hymns composed and compiled about 2000 BC. While Hindu scholars do not question the text’s claim as part of the core Vedic corpus, its focus on healing and precludes it from being used in solemn rituals and so remains an ambiguous text in Hindu practice and belief.

**TO SUBMIT A STORY AND/OR PHOTOS:** Scroll down Reader homepage (SDReader.com) and click on Travel.
It’s amazing what you can learn sitting at your friendly neighborhood sushi bar. Back in 1999, when we were still living in the greater Los Angeles area, I took on a consulting gig here in San Diego. One quiet evening, between bites of nigiri, Kuni — the *itamae* (sushi chef) — and I were chatting about *manju*, a Japanese confection most commonly made from rice flour and stuffed with red bean paste. I mentioned Fugetsu-do, a Little Tokyo institution in Los Angeles, which has been doing business since 1903 and also claims to have invented the fortune cookie. Kuni then told me about a shop in Chula Vista called Hogetsu Bakery. They made *mochi* and *manju* for Nijiya Market, but he said I’d be better off driving down to Chula Vista and buying it directly from them. And that’s the way it’s gone for the past 12 years, even though we’ve only been San Diego residents for 11.

The shop is located in a nondescript strip mall on the corner of Third Avenue and Oxford Street. Blink, and you’d miss it. The sign is faded; after all, Hogetsu has been around for more than two decades now. Over the years, I’ve gotten to know Mr. and Mrs. Takeda. When things aren’t too busy, Mrs. Takeda enjoys chatting with customers from behind the counter. Though she doesn’t know me by name, she once surprised me by telling me exactly how long I’d been a customer. I also learned that Mr. Takeda had mastered his craft at Fugetsu-do. The couple even resided in Hacienda Heights, our family’s old stomping grounds.

The place is small and reminds me of the corner snack shops of my youth. While snacks line the shelves, it’s the two counters filled with *wagashi* (confections traditionally served with tea) that get my attention. Depending on the time of year, you may find seasonal items like *sakuramochi*, a sweet pink rice cake filled with red adzuki bean paste and wrapped with a *sakura* (cherry blossom) leaf, indicating that spring is on its way; *sakuramochi* is also traditionally eaten on Hinamatsuri (Girls’ Day, March 3).

No matter the season, the usual suspects are always available: items such as *suana*, a multi-colored *mochi*, and *habutai* — white (filled with sweet red bean paste) or pink (filled with white bean paste). There’s *kinako* (filled with red bean paste and dusted with soybean flour) and *daifuku* (filled with whole beans). Really, there are so many I can’t remember them all!

The timing of this article is fortuitous, as one of the best times to visit Hogetsu-do is the week after Christmas. Since 1873, the Japanese have followed the Gregorian calendar, and *mochi* plays an important role. When I was growing up, *ozoni*, a chicken stock or *dashi*-based soup that features grilled or broiled *mochi*, was the first item eaten on New Year’s. This is a busy time of year for the Takedas, as they fill orders from customers and local markets for *mochi* and *manju*, and the selection and freshness of the *wagashi* is optimal.

Hogetsu has long been my stop for edible gifts to friends near and far. But as time passes, I wonder how long the Takedas will keep going. Theirs is a mom-and-pop business that requires time, labor, and craftsmanship, and there is no heir apparent. During one of our conversations, Mrs. Takeda said, “We don’t have a computer. Maybe we’ll get one after we retire.”

Here’s hoping they postpone the joys of the internet for a few more years.

---

**Hogetsu Bakery**

**ADDRESS:** 1210 Third Avenue, Chula Vista  **PHONE:** 619-422-6677  **WEBSITE:** no website (they don’t own a computer!)  **HOURS:** Tuesday–Saturday 10:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.  **FARE:** Most confections just over $1  **SEATING:** No inside seating

**MUST TRY:** Whatever catches your fancy. Other than the standard *habutai* (*mochi* filled with sweet red bean paste), items change by season. My wife’s favorite is *kimishigure.*

---

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**The cracks in these *kimishigure* from Hogetsu Bakery represent the drizzles of late fall.**

I am sure, however, of my wife’s favorite: *kimishigure*, smooth red bean paste coated with a mixture of white bean paste, egg yolk (kimi), and rice powder, and then steamed. The result is a yellow orb with cracks. The cracks represent the drizzles of late fall (*shigure*). But I’m only scratching the surface here, as there are many types of *mochi*, *manju*, and *nerikiri*, all traditional confections used in tea ceremonies. And all are priced at just over a dollar.

I realize that goooey, sticky *mochi* combined with sweet mashed beans might seem like a stretch to some — it’s not everyone’s cup of tea — but if you haven’t tried it, do give it a chance.
Happy Birthday, Hal: La Jolla Strip Club, a Steak Place

On Friday, my friend Hal turned 93 years old. We’ve been getting together and having a martini two or three times a week for a couple of years now. Hal is a retired Army colonel, fought in WWII and Korea, served as special assistant to the lieutenant governor of California under Ronald Reagan, and was an investigative reporter for the Los Angeles Herald Examiner and the San Diego U-T and has authored seven books. Oh, and there’s the Ph.D. in economics from Boston University, the journalism degree, and the law degree. Just looking at the walls in his office exhausts me. He still writes daily.

A life so well lived calls for a splashy, carnivorous celebration, which I hoped the La Jolla Strip Club, 4282 Esplanade Court in the UTC area, would provide. LJSC is part of the successful Cohn Group, and based on that alone, you’d think the experience would be top notch.

La Jolla Strip Club is one of those grill-your-own steak joints. I knew that up front, but only because I had checked online to make reservations (for parties of six or more only). No problem...still, I wonder how many people go there expecting to be served their dinner already cooked, only to find out they’re on grill duty (dinner only; if you go for lunch the kitchen will cook for you).

My first impression, after our lovely hostess took us to our banquette, is that LJSC seems to have an identity crisis. It doesn’t know if it wants to be a Las Vegas style steak-house (flashy red, black, and stainless-steel decor, beautiful servers in short skirts), a sports bar (multiple flat screens showing football and golf in the bar, the dining room, even the private rooms, space-wasting tent cards all over, food served in utilitarian bowls with tongs and plastic-y baskets), or a romantic date-night place (dark booths, innuendo-loaded menu, Lady and the Tramp plating). Maybe I’m old-fashioned, but seeing a private room filled with folks dressed in suits and cocktail dresses, drinking nice wine, and bearing fancy gifts while the Oregon/UCLA game plays in the corner just seems odd.

Our server, Kaitlyn, was cheery, attentive, and quick. We ordered calamari ($7), Bombay Sapphire martinis ($12!), and Alesmith Lil Devil ($4.50). The calamari is drenched in a sweet sauce. The sauce is fine, if a tad cloying, but I’d prefer it on the side to preserve the crispness of the calamari as long as possible. I think it’s the same sauce that’s served on the calamari at Prado; it works better on the thick, juicy strips there than the baby rings and tentacles here.

For the main event, Hal ordered steak teriyaki (10 oz., $16.95), John got the signature strip steak (12 oz., $19.95), and...
and pepper. Mix, and a number of others I sauces, Tabasco, garlic salt, cajun dry and wet seasonings, teriyaki bread. The grill area provides green bell pepper, house dressing cucumber, tomato, red and standard mix of romaine, carrot, salad, served family style (standing)

grill. All entrées come with fed Angus beef, marinated in steaks are 21-day aged, corn-fed Angus beef, marinated in olive oil, basalmic vinegar, andTeriyaki sauce as an option for the grill. For the money, it's an okay place. The steaks are not overpriced for the size and quality, but the sides, salads, and appetizers are pretty prefab, and the training for the service could be tighter. Still, given the stellar company I was in, all that really mattered is that the guest of honor enjoyed himself.

For the money, it's an okay place. The steaks are not overpriced for the size and quality, but the sides, salads, and appetizers are pretty prefab, and the training for the service could be tighter. Still, given the stellar company I was in, all that really mattered is that the guest of honor enjoyed himself.

*Posted Dec. 5, 11:59 a.m. by Mary Beth Abate*

**Artisanal Carnivores Sink Teeth into New Meaty Venture**

Having a promising business targeted by the government and drained of its monetary lifeblood via combative legal fees would have been enough to make lesser men throw in the cheesecloth. But when you’re as passionate about charcuterie as Albert Juarez, battle scars increase the desire to bring artisanal meats to a carnivorous clientele.

Roughly a year since losing his first business, Knight Salumi, he’s started a new business called Meat Men. Like Knight Salumi, which was headed by youthful yet seasoned charcuterie guy Rey Knight, it’s a collaborative effort, but this time around Juarez is the head man while Knight (whose focus is now on his new business, Butchers Brewing Co.) is a part-time contributor.

Meat Men is still in its infancy, but I was able to sample some of their handiwork at Rancho Bernardo’s Urge Gastropub. The night I went in, they were offering up a duo of the company’s offerings, chorizo and pepperoni. The chorizo had all the rich paprika essence of a top-tier Spanish variety, while the pepperoni had more zing than the often bland Americanized take on this Italian staple.

The only thing that seemed a bit off was a scent so pungent and funky that it made me hold my breath every time I took a bite. The process of crafting charcuterie requires bacterial

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reaction to take place, so one expects some trick-versus-treat nose candy, but this went a tad too far. Still, the flavors were bold and enjoyable, especially for such an early effort. I’ll be keeping my eyes (just not my nostrils) on these guys.

Posted Dec. 5, 11:08 a.m. by Brandon Hernandez

The Lady From Rome
Changes keep on comin’ in Little Italy.

I was at Caffe Italia the other night. Right next door is Vincenzo’s Ristorante Italiano (1702 India Street, at Date, 619-702-6181), kinda classy black-and-white place I’ve always wanted to try, especially their osso bucco. I’ve seen sidewalk eaters attacking that on Friday nights. Smells beefy, winey. Problem? Little expensive for me.

But what catches my eye right now is the yellow sign in the side window: “Public Notice of Application for Ownership Change.” Next to that, a letter: “After almost 13 years, Vincenzo Ristorante Italiano will close its doors in January, 2012. Although an end of an era, it is also the beginning of a new one for Anthony, Gina, and the Zizzo family.”

Not another sellout to a chain franchise, please. I go up to the two ladies at the welcome podium, Angelina and Natalie. “It’s going to become a pizza-zeria,” says Angelina. “But a good one. A lady from Rome has bought it, and she’s bringing her own pizza oven over with her.”

Victoria, the third waitress, whizzes by with two steaming plates. Onè’s ravioli, the other’s spaghetti. Each about $15. She places them in front of Carla (no, not my Carla) and Bill.

“Oh, no,” says Bill, when I tell them the news. “We have just moved into Little Italy. This is our favorite place. We’ve been coming here since long before we moved.”

“They have the best Riesling wine in Little Italy,” says Carla, “because it’s the coldest, and I like mine cold.”

“We often come by for their happy hour,” says Bill. “They have $5 wines and $5 appetizers. They do an excellent Caprese.”

Huh. That’s the salad from the island of Capri, basically mozzarella cheese and tomatoes with basil, right? I could handle that. Happy hour’s from three to six each afternoon...

But not for long. Maybe Vincenzo’s closing has to do with Gina’s father, Vincenzo Zizzo. He created this place along with his wife Josephine, but he died three years ago. There goes another genuine family eater. Even though I’ve never eaten there, Little Italy’s our favorite place. We’ve been moved into Little Italy. This is our family eatery. Even though I’ve never eaten there, Little Italy’s gonna feel a little emptier.

“We’ll close about mid-January, then the lady from Rome will take a few months setting up, probably,” says Angelina.

Sigh. Still, you never know. The lady from Rome may bring a family of her own.

Posted Dec. 5, 10:59 a.m. by Ed Bedford

Alice Waters Book-Signing at Chino Family Farm
Alice Waters, chef/proprietor of Chez Panisse in Berkeley, CA, author, activist, and the first woman to be named Best Chef in America (1992) by the James Beard Foundation, will be signing 40 Years of Chez Panisse: The Power of Gathering on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Chino Family Farm, 6123 Calanda del Bosque, Rancho Santa Fe (off Via de la Valle).

Alice Waters opened Chez Panisse in 1971, becoming one of the first proponents of using local, organic, seasonal foods whenever possible. Her current initiatives include the Edible Schoolyard Project, the School Lunch Initiative, and the Sustainable Food Project. Since 2003 she has served as vice president of Slow Food International.

Chino Family Farm has developed a cult status among local restaurants for providing pristine, fresh, seasonal fruits and vegetables. Their farm stand, officially called The Vegetable Stand at Chino Farm, is open to the public.

Posted Dec. 10, 5:18 p.m. by Mary Beth Abate

Fugitive Chickens: Still on the Run!
Shocking report: Coronado has made chicken-raising illegal on the island!

Leslie Crawford had been depending on her breakfast eggs from the two snowflake hens she had been raising for months when neighbors complained to the city. They worried that bacteria would spread from the chicken coop to their property and encourage rats and possums.

This week, the city agreed with them and confirmed its 14-year-old ban on raising hens within city limits. Leslie Crawford has strung up four rubber chickens at her home in protest against the City of Coronado’s ban on raising hens on the island.

“Chickens are no more dangerous to humans than cats and dogs,” counters Crawford. “You
In Memoriam

Naomi Wise
(Joan Goodwin)

October 25, 1943 - December 15, 2011


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just have to be careful and dili-
gent. What gets me is you can raise chickens and eat their eggs in New York City, but you can’t here.”

City officials said that with Coronado having so many small lots, there was no room to raise hens at a safe distance from neighbors.

Leslie Crawford has strung up four rubber chickens at her home in protest against the City of Coronado’s ban on raising hens on the island.

“Does that apply to dogs and cats?” asks Crawford. “Well, does that apply to crows or the hawks which has settled in across our street?”

Meanwhile, her two hens remain at a safe house, fugitives from the law. But Crawford says she’s no way giving up. She says she’ll launch a petition.

“Many Coronado citizens actually already raise chickens healthily and peacefully. They depend on their eggs. We want that to continue, legally.”

She says some people tell her to go buy a farm if she wants to raise chickens.

“I say, ‘no.’ Having hens brings life to the community. They provide food. And maybe most importantly, they show kids where eggs come from: not a supermarket. We need to get them back in touch with nature.”

Stay tuned.

Posted Dec. 9, 9:53 a.m. by Ed Bedford

In the Last Resort

“Don’t rush me!” Dion’s voice cuts through the noise. She’s barking at a customer who wants to pay up and go. It’s all part of the schtick. The crew gives customers a hard time from the get-go. People love to be insulted, pushed around, as long as it’s done in the right way. And here they’ve got it down, so it helps keep the good-time thing going.

Dion walks away muttering something about how the guy hasn’t drunk enough yet. The canopy of bras she’s walking under looks like a flight of butterflies.

“I’ve just arrived, around ten at night, here at Dick’s Last Resort (345 Fourth Avenue between J and K Streets, Gaslamp, 619-231-9100). I sit at the bar just as a long table of dogs and cats?” asks Crawford.

The hawk which has settled in the canopy of bras she’s walking under looks like a flight of butterflies. She’s barking at a customer who wants to pay up and go. It’s all part of the schtick. The crew gives customers a hard time from the get-go. People love to be insulted, pushed around, as long as it’s done in the right way. And here they’ve got it down, so it helps keep the good-time thing going.

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Happy hour menu. Turns out to be $5 drinks (beer, wine, well) and plates from $6 for garlic-parmesan fries to beef sliders (three for $8) to calamari for $9. Chicken quesadilla looks like a good deal for $7.

But seeing is believing. I ask for Alan's tortilla soup, and seeing we're with a classy clientele here, a glass of chard. By the time I go, it's well after happy hour. But I'm still happy. Guess I have the MTS to thank for that.

**Posted Dec. 8, 3:13 p.m. by Ed Bedford**

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**Upcoming PB Nanobrewery Aims to Turn Things Up**

Several new local restaurants have opened, featuring beer lists as long as Santa's delivery manifesto, making it easy to believe that a venue needs 25 to 100 taps to be legitimate when, really, it's more about quality than quantity. Take California Kebab.

Since opening near SDSU's campus in September 2009, they've kept a half-dozen taps stocked with a selection of brews that rivals places with three to four times their capacity (the current list includes Coronado Dubbel Trouble, Great Divide Chocolate Oak Aged Yeti, and Pizza Port Ocean Beach Hater). As with most venues that put this much thought and effort into a no-crap-on-tap philosophy, it's based on ownership's personal passion for craft beer.

Owners JC Hill and Alex Pierson are beer nuts. So much so that they're extending their restaurant's made-from-scratch methodology to apply to the beer at a second location in Pacific Beach. When that spot opens early next year (most likely in early February), it will go by the handle California Kebab and Brewpub and will be equipped with a three-barrel brewing system pumping out house brews under the Amplified Ale Works label.

Hill, a homebrewer and certified cicerone (the beer equivalent of a sommelier) will be at the helm of the county's latest in a long and lengthening line of nanobreweries. It will be his first foray into professional brewing.

Amplified Ale Works' preparatory test batches include a double IPA, Belgian golden strong ale, and a dry-hopped Irish red ale, though no final decision has been made regarding what their lineup will be when it debuts. For now, Hill views his tiny system as a "homebrew laboratory" from which he'd eventually like to produce a series of single-hop low alcohol beers, brews featuring multiple yeast strains, barrel-aged beers, and more exotic numbers brewed with fruits, herbs, spices, and wild yeast. But first things first — for now, it's all about getting the doors open.

California Kebab and Brewpub will be located at 4150 Mission Boulevard in Pacific Beach. When that spot opens early next year (most likely in early February), it will go by the handle California Kebab and Brewpub and will be equipped with a three-barrel brewing system pumping out house brews under the Amplified Ale Works label.

**Posted Dec. 8, 3:13 p.m. by Ed Bedford**
C-cold out here. About ten. I was down on Tenth and Market. Looking to catch a bus heading south.

Dang. Timetable says another 15 minutes. So I start moseying down Tenth towards the ball park. Get to Island. There's a bus stop here. Right across the road, Dirty Del's bar (499 Tenth Street, 619-677-3789), lit up like a little jewel box in the dark block.

No time for one of their sandwiches, which are really reasonable. They have a $5 lunch special, $7 with a glass of Bud. I see from their other sandwich board outside, things such as $1 peanuts, $2 chips and salsa, $3 nachos, and $4 hot dogs.

Problem is, I'm flat broke. All I've got is the jingle in my pocket. Except I know at this hour they have Bud drafts going for two bucks. I haul out the change, count it out, right there in the street...Yes! $2.50 when you count all the pennies.

I head inside, through the gaggle of guys and gals standing at the half dozen tall tables and another group at the bar. "Bud" says the guy I must have done this before.

He pours it out, brings it to the counter. I haul out my treasure, crash it on the counter, and start counting, 25, 50, 75, 80, 90...

"Uh, no," the guy says. He's looking at my coins like they are some sort of virus. "We don't do change."

"Uh, what?"

"We don't accept change." Wow. Welcome do East Village, land of plastic. He doesn't accept change.

People are looking. Did I hear a snicker? Now they're all staring hard at the flat screens. "Card?" says the guy. Clock is ticking. Ten minutes to the bus....

I go to my wallet. I have the debit card. But is there anything in there? I'll have to chance it. "Try it," I say, and I do mean try.

Whew. It goes through. Of course the guy can't be happy. The card company's commission will take half of his two bucks away. He doesn't say anything. The barflies spare me their smiles.

So, I drink up. But before I spot the bus rolling down from Broadway and head out, I leave my only two quarters as tip by the glass. Guess that's 25 percent.

Hey, you're allowed to tip in silver aren't you?

Ed Bedford


defined as a key ingredi-
ent in two libations that are en vogue in SD right now: beer and whiskey.

The food component will consist of yet-to-be-defined “progressive bar fare” built around an Americana theme that will also be present in the venue’s interior design. Details are few at this point, but Barley-mash is slated to open in March of next year and will be located at 600 Fifth Avenue.

Given the constant flow of tourists and partygoers on the Gaslamp’s main drag, it’s a prime location. Proof comes via the success of Sear sucker, another resto with a wide open floorplan and elements of Americana right across the street. Is there enough hunger for this concept to fill two such eateries?

Posted Dec. 14, 11:45 a.m. by Brandon Hernández

Stuffed Again: Regent’s Pizzeria
Like religion and politics, pizza talk can be taboo. People get emotionally attached to their favorite pizzas.

I’m not about to start comparing what city makes better pizza, that’s for sure. Regent’s Pizzeria in La Jolla has no such reservations. They serve New York style and Chicago style, and both are delicious. And they have a motto I can get behind.

“I grew up in the Chicago suburbs, so I’m partial to deep-dish. After running errands all morning, John and I were starving, so we grabbed a #1 special, two slices of any available style, and a fountain soda for $7.70 to share. Two slices of Regent’s Chicago style double crust could probably satisfy even the biggest appetite.

Regent’s also serves soups, salads, sandwiches, calzones, pasta dishes, even a couple of desserts.

We get the pizza cold, to get it heated up at home. Chicago-style pizza is the only kind I would ever commit this kind of sacrilege with. It’s got big shoulders; it can take the abuse. Best way to do this, in my opinion, is low and slow. 350 degrees till it’s heated through. Crank up the heat at the end to brown the top is completely optional, in my book.

But getting it fresh out of Regent’s stone deck oven is really the best way to go. The crust is just what a Chicago pizza should be. There’s the distinct taste of butter, but not so much that it’s pastry-like. It’s still bread-y flavored. Then there’s the sauce. It’s rich, tomatoey, herby, and there’s just the right amount.

The meat-lover’s slice has sausage, pepperoni, and meatballs, and a good amount. Cheese on the bottom, cheese on the top. The Popeye slice has spinach, artichoke hearts, and ricotta. Both are cheesy, chewy, crunchy heavy. The mozzarella has just the right string to it. Try as I might, I’ve never been able to eat more than one slice.

Regent’s Pizzeria, 4150 December tradition.

For now, Candy Cane Victory at Sea is a one-time-only offering that’s likely to tap out quickly.

The Linkery, 3794 30th Street, North Park.

Posted Dec. 14, 10:00 a.m. by Brandon Hernández

Beer and Candy Canes Link Up
San Diego Beer Week ended over a month ago, but you’d never know it. Beer dinners, cask nights, and all sorts of other events are still happening on an almost daily basis.

Another phenomenon that’s occurring more regularly is the “tap takeover,” wherein a brewing company will stock every tap at a bar or restaurant with their beers. Such occasions offer great opportunities to sample one-offs, archived beers, and seasonal selections.

Tonight, Ballast Point Brewing Company, the reigning Best Small Brewing Company in the world, will monopolize the handles at the Linkery. Staff at the North Park restaurant have been known to help procure, pick, and prepare ingredients for specialty Ballast Point beers, so it’s no surprise that the brewery’s busting out the good stuff for them: Brother Levonian’s versions of Black Marlin Porter and Sculpin IPA, and barrel-aged Saison, cask and draft varieties for them: Brother Levonian’s busting out the good stuff so it’s no surprise that the brew-

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El Porvenir Takes Back the Future
I was wandering along National Avenue in Barrio Logan, about nine at night, when I noticed a light inside the long, low, century-old El Porvenir building. Then a couple of people coming out. Looked like a little family scene going on inside.

I’m interested because El Porvenir Tortilla factory (1782 National Avenue, Barrio Logan, 619-233-4038), in my humble opinion, is home of the most awesome burritos in the county. They’d been at it right here for, like, 90-plus years, since 1918. But for the past three years they’ve been closed more than they’ve been open. It was hard to tell what was going on.

Then the other day came news that the matriarch who kept this going, Juanita, had died. So I have to stop and ask these guys how they’re doing and if anything’s happening.

“Oh, yes,” says this gal, Luz. “I’m Juanita’s daughter, and we are opening El Porvenir up again. Just weekends first, but then full-time.”

She invites me inside. You can see they are doing work on the counter, and painting, but it’s pretty much the same. Except for a shine with candles to Juanita at a table on the left wall.

“Im going to do my best to carry on my mom’s tradition,” says Luz. And the burritos and tacos will be the same (meaning not ditching the lard).

“The same,” says Luz. “We’ll be open this weekend, nine to five.” I head out back to the street with a load off my mind. Sometimes you can go back home and find it’s still there.

Posted Dec. 13, 12:14 p.m. by Ed Bedford

Tecumela Has an Iron in the Fire
Tecumela’s number of free-standing craft breweries is set to double in 2012 with the addition of Ironfire Brewing Company. That newcomer will join Black Market Brewing Company, an operation that has enjoyed a good amount of success, including an award for producing the best rye IPA in the country in 2010. That gold medalist and Black Market’s other beers have trickled down to San Diego County bars and restaurants, so if all goes well, Ironfire’s bound to bust into our market, too.

Ironfire’s logo features a skull wearing a bandit cowboy hat and kerchief ensemble over crossed pistols, hop vines, and the tagline “Ales for Outlaws.”

It remains to be seen exactly what these bad-guy beers will be, but company president John Maino intends to roll out a set of bad-guy beers that will be the same (meaning not ditching the lard).

Posted Dec. 13, 10:02 a.m. by Brandon Hernández
one told me about. So I'm clicking and trying the fried chicken somewhere.

I end up talking with the guy. He says everybody watches out for Cozines. “They've always been there for us, the community. Whatever. Jack does it. Nobody better mess with Jack. We love him.”

Actually, I say, “I just want to try his chicken.”

So tonight I'm back at this corner grocery, Old building, but smartly painted blue and white. “Since 1978,” says on the sign. “Try our fresh BBQ and fried chicken.”

It’s an old-line neighborhood grocery. The kind where you see “Checks cashed. Western Union. Money Orders.” You know this ain’t no chain.

As soon as you’re inside, there’s Jack, the owner, with his hands in the counter.

The good news? They still have plenty of tortas and sandwiches. The bad news! They’re out of chicken, BBQ, fried, spicy, whatever.

“We’ve been through 70 pounds already,” says Jack. “We don’t cook unless we sell it all. It’s fried fresh every hour till we run out. Sorry!”

“You missed something,” says George. He’s bringing fresh bread supplies: Elidia’s Bakery in City Heights.

“I can do you a sandwich,” says Jack. And he does. Makes me up a Cozines Market Special ($4.99) with ham, pastrami, cheese, plus I get some turkey; lettuce, jalapeños. And extra cheese. In big thick wads of rye bread. Toasted. Comes to $5.99.

“We are Chaldean,” says Jack. “We came from Nazaria, near the ancient city of Ur, where Abraham came from. We bought this in 1978, but Ed Cozine had started it in 1930. Same building. For the first eight years after we bought it, we had no day off. In the 34 years since 1978, I have had only one week off, in Hawaii, 1987. But my kids, Joseph and his brothers and sister, are all professionals. Joseph has a degree in criminal justice. But he still helps out.”

I ask Jack why he doesn’t put tables and chairs outside on the sidewalk, so people like me can sit down and eat.

“It needs permissions, but they’re talking of re-zoning,” says Jack. “Maybe soon, lots of restaurants in this area.”

All the while, customers are coming in and leaving. “Hi, Jack.” “Bye, Mr. Jack.” “Hey, Jack!”

I’m heading out and snapping a couple of pics of the signs just as a couple of kids zip up on their bikes. “Why are you taking pictures? Don’t change anything. We love this place.”

Posted Dec. 12, 10:02 a.m. by Ed Bedford

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**Green Truck Dishes Out Gourmet Local, Organic Eats**

“Green Truck Primarily Sources Its Food From Suzy's Organic Farm In Nestor, Sage Mountain In Hemet, And The Occasional Find At A Farmers’ Market.”

“We've Very Close To Getting A Spot At The Weekly Farmers’ Market In Hillcrest, Which Is One Of My Favorites,” Says Holtze. “We're Also Adding More Regular Stops In January.”

The Green Truck started about six years ago in Los Angeles by Holtze’s colleagues Mitchell Collier and Kam Miceli.

“It Was The Original Gourmet Food Truck In L.A.,” Says Holtze. “A Lot Of People Associate L.A. Food Trucks With Kogi, But They Actually Opened After Green Truck.”

In addition to their focus on local, organic produce, the Green Truck runs on recycled vegetable oil and biodiesel (the Los Angeles headquarters is solar powered) and uses only recyclable or compostable packaging and utensils.


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Saying Farewell to Naomi Wise

There are some food writers in town with whom I’ve had many conversations. Despite those interactions, I really have no idea who they are or what they truly think about anything. But, even though I never met her, I always felt as if I knew Naomi Wise.

One of San Diego’s longest-tenured restaurant critics, Wise salt-and-peppered her reviews with talk of her personal experience. I appreciated knowing that she’d tried a classic dish in its region of origin before she bashed a subpar version served up in La Mesa. More than that, I respected the fact that she’d make the negative comment at all.

Wise never pulled punches, and I commend her for that, just as I applaud Reader editors for not siphoning the poison from her inkwell. Critics need to be critical. If they’re not, then they’re no good to anybody. The fact is, in the restaurant biz — as with any industry or medium — there are standouts and underperformers, and you can’t appreciate the top tier without understanding the dregs.

Looking back on Wise’s hundreds of reviews reveals a level of consistency. She liked what she liked, and she outright hated what she hated. I didn’t always agree with her, but at least she was the type of umpire who squeezed the strike zone for every hurler she scrutinized.

Wise didn’t seek out chefs or congregate with industry elite. Her job was to review restaurants, and that’s what she did for many years. Over that span, whether readers loved or hated her, agreed with her or thought she was off her banquette, she was always a voice unlike any other in San Diego. It’s a voice that had its place in the local dining dialogue and will be missed.

Posted Dec. 18, 2:52 p.m. by Brandon Hernández
Sunday Suppers at the Mediterranean Room

The Mediterranean Room at La Valencia in La Jolla is offering a weekly Sunday Supper prix fixe menu. Executive chef Lance Repp will prepare a three-course dinner, served family style, from 5 to 10 p.m. every Sunday. The menu changes each week. A recent lineup included three- onion soup, arugula-and-persimmon salad, wild-mushroom ravioli, Colorado rack of lamb, roasted parsnips with cranberry gastrique, sautéed rapini, and a blondie sundae with house-made pistachio ice cream and caramel sauce.

The cost is $29 per person, excluding beverages. Reservations are recommended. 858-551-3761; lavalencia.com. Posted Dec. 16, 2:29 p.m. by Mary Beth Abate

Fast Food, Office Edition: Specialty’s Cafe & Bakery

I’d seen the Specialty’s Cafe & Bakery sign a dozen times from Genesee or La Jolla Village Drive in University City, but I could never figure out exactly where the place was. Today I was in the area around breakfast time, so I drove into the maze of office buildings and finally found it over on the Genesee side of the complex.

I like the sleek, modern interior of the place. It’s large and has a nice fireplace/sofa/TV area with the Food Network on. It seems like a warm, comfy place to come with office friends for lunch. The coffee is Peet’s, and they have a full selection of pastries, cookies, breakfast and regular sandwiches, and soups and salads.

You can order online, from the counter, or from the computers conveniently situated by the door. The computer-ordering system is user friendly. Order, swipe your card, and take your receipt, along with one of those buzzy, strobe light things so you know when to go grab the food. I get a small brewed coffee ($1.80) and a bacon, egg, and cheese sandwich ($4.59). I’m a sucker for egg sandwiches.

So, as I said, the computer ordering is pretty cool. Only, your coffee order isn’t part of the buzzy pager system. The Peet’s part and the Specialty’s part are different. You pick coffee up at one counter, the food goes to another counter. Okay. Maybe I missed that on one of the screens. No big deal. I pick a leather chair near the fireplace and watch a celebrity chef putting what appears to be Hall’s Mentho-Lyptus cough drops on a snowman cake for a while. Enough to start wondering what the heck was taking my tray. I’m starving.

Oh. The eggs look, feel, and taste like powdered eggs. Really? Even an Egg McMuffin has a real egg in it. The bacon’s fine, if tissue-paper thin, but the cheese is just an oily square. I can’t even tell what kind it is. (It’s cheddar, according to the website.) The roll looks okay, and it’s crispy when I bite into it, but it’s pretty bland. I guess, after seeing all those fresh loaves in the kitchen, I was expecting more.

What I wasn’t expecting was a good schmeear of garlicky aioli. Okay, I love that. But overall, meh. It’s like the breakfast sandwiches at a free hotel buffet. The coffee’s good, though. Maybe I’ll come back sometime and see if the pastry is better.

Specialty’s Cafe & Bakery, 4330 La Jolla Village Drive, San Diego. 415-362-2052. Posted Dec. 16, 1:19 p.m. by Mary Beth Abate
San Diego
Reader
Private Eye Rock. “I’ve worked on some heinous cases involving polygamists, murder, various detached body parts, the Mexican mafia, and Los Palillos, a kidnapping and extortion ring” says Psychosally frontman Trevor Sesma, who works as a private investigator for a firm owned by his father, a retired SDPD narcotics sergeant. “Yeah, I’ve seen some stuff. Over the years, I guess I’ve kind of gotten callous to it, very detached from it. The cases involving children, though, those are always the worst....

I conduct surveillance for many purposes, like cheating spouses and thieving employees. I also conduct background and asset searches and do counter surveillance detection, using audio and video bugs. I’ve worked on many homicide cases, gang cases, and gang-related double-homicide cases.” Sesma’s P.I. work often involves defense investigation. “Basically, I’m trying to prove a defendant’s innocence, if possible, in a current court case. Or, if they’re guilty, I do my best to minimize or mitigate their charges or sentences, either by showing that the defendant is not so bad or that the alleged victim or witnesses are not angels or, in some cases, credible witnesses.” Among his high-profile assignments was working on the defense team for the man accused of murdering Pearl Seau, cousin of former San Diego Charger Junior Seau.

“Many of my songs are related in some way to my career and sometimes to specific cases I’ve worked. I guess the obvious songs would be ‘Snitches,’ ‘2nd Son of the Devil,’ and ‘Demented Angels.’ Sometimes, it’s the lyrics that are relative to my job, and sometimes it’s the music.”

Though the East County band formed in the late ’90s, almost ten years passed before Psychosally’s debut album was released in December 2010. “The original drummer moved to San Francisco to attend culinary school. The original bassist became addicted to meth and moved to a local freeway underpass.”

With 35-year-old Sesma, the sole remaining founder, he has his 16-year-old son Guxx play bass for live performances. “He likes a lot heavier stuff than I do.... He and I have seen Crue three times, Ozzy, Alice Cooper, Rob Zombie, Avenged Sevenfold, System of a Down, Jane’s Addiction, Nine Inch Nails.... We get along great and have so much in common, not just listening to music, but creating it and rehearsing it.”

A sophomore full-length, *Liars, Snitches & Little Whores*, is set for release February 14, 2012. — Jay Allen Sanford

**If You Want Blood, You Got It.** On November 8, Cherry Bar owner James Young flew the hard-rocking San Diego band Bloody Hollies to Melbourne for two shows. Guitarist Joey Horgan describes the junket as “a test run” for an alliance between the band and Australia, adding, “James was happy with everything. He told me to bring us over annually for shows and festivals.”

The Cherry Bar is on AC/DC Lane, and the band has mentioned AC/DC’s influence. Are there AC/DC songs in your repertoire?

“Nah, not really,” says Horgan. “Back in Black” is a go-to riff between us at sound checks and practices. We played ‘If You Want Blood’ for the encore on the first night in Melbourne. After the show, James came up and said, ‘Joey, I want you to meet someone very important.’ I walked to the end of the bar, and there was this little guy standing there. James said, ‘You guys just played ‘If You Want Blood.” Well, if you want blood, you got it. This is Bon Scott’s son.’ Holy shit is what went through my mind — I didn’t know what to say. He grabbed my hand and shook it and said, ‘That was a fucking brilliant show, mate — fucking rocket!’ Then he looked me dead in the eyes and said, ‘Me dad would have been fucking proud!’ Jesus Christ! That was my highlight of the trip.

“The last night there, Matt and I were turning it on quite a bit, going to different bars in Chinatown. We went back to the hotel to see where the bass player, Erik, was. He was sleeping, as most people do at 3 a.m. We weren’t having it — we kicked his door open and tried to persuade him to come out. He wouldn’t budge. After an hour of trying to get him out of the room, we decided to bring the party to him. So we brought every piece of furniture from the living room and crammed it all in Erik’s room. I mean everything — couches, chairs, lamps, the trash that was on the floor. The dining room table wouldn’t fit through the doorway, so we had to take it apart and reassemble it in his room.”

I ask guitarist and lead singer Wesley Doyle whether the band caught any flak from the hotel for its rock-star shenanigans.

“No, we cleaned it up. When I walked in, it was pretty hilarious. I didn’t think it was funny when I realized how much cleaning we had to do.”

In February, the Bloody Hollies embark on a Northern European tour in support of their latest album, *Yours Until the Bitter End.*

— Mary Leary

**Occupy’s Liquid Asset.** “We believe in the Occupy movement and others like it,” says Scott Stephens, manager and vocalist of local pop-rock entertaineure Liquid Blue. “We’ve been an activist group for many years. We’re really hyped to support this movement and provide an ongoing source of income for them.”

Liquid Blue launched their monthly “Occu-party” concert series to benefit Occupy San Diego protesters at the Ruby Room on December 14 with Latin-world-reggae group Todo Mundo, the Rootstrockers, the Proles, spoken-word artists, and guest speakers Martin Eder of Activist San

(continued on page 72)
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Steph Johnson Live in North Park

By Robert Bush — Dec. 16, 5:13 p.m.

Steph Johnson Holiday Concert @ Sunset Temple

By Robert Bush — Dec. 17, 2:51 p.m.

Blame Astrology - Third Thursday Experimental Radness

By Chad Deal — Dec. 13, 12:44 p.m.

Steph Johnson ‘Standing on the Moon’ Video Hits 100,000 Views

By Chad Deal — Dec. 14, 3:14 p.m.

Scott West “Standing on the Moon” Video Hits 100,000 Views

By Jay Allen Sanford — Dec. 17, 6:30 p.m.

White-Livingstone-Schnelle at 98 Bottles

By Robert Bush — Dec. 17, 2:51 p.m.

Steph Johnson Holiday Concert @ Sunset Temple

By Robert Bush — Dec. 16, 5:13 p.m.

U.K. Nu Skool Breaks and Electro Legend Krafty Kuts at Spin

By Chad Deal — Dec. 13, 12:44 p.m.

Update: Beatles Amp Pulled from Auction

By Dave Good — Dec. 13, 7:58 a.m.

Read these and other daily breaking music stories at SDReader.com/jam-session.
sports bar:: Reimagined

San Diego Reader
December 22, 2011

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Wish You Were Here

“When I met him, I knew I was going to write a song about him.”

I first came across acoustic singer/songwriter Celia St Croix on Twitter via local-bandleader and fellow-tweeter Scott West, who covorted the four songs on her debut EP.

Even though St Croix, a student at City College, performs several times a month at venues such as the Stage Bar, Hard Rock Café, Humphrey’s Backstage, Café Libertalia, and Winstons, for the first few weeks all I knew of her was from her tweets: “Every few weeks my stomach becomes an open portal to another dimension, and all food on the planet seems to gravitate toward it.” “What a different world this would be if we measured time in moments instead of minutes.” “Talking to your boss or a parent makes for a perfect opportunity to remember that you are he and he is you.” “When I met him, I knew I was going to write a song about him.”

Celia St Croix performs Saturdays, December 31 at the Wine Lover in Hillcrest.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MUSIC?

“It sounds like a girl with a guitar singing to heal the broken hearts of the world.”

WHAT'S IN YOUR MUSIC PLAYER?

1. The Big Thank You, Audio Sapien Medicine Show. “Most of the CDs I get are from other local artists such as this one, which has been in the player for a while now.”
2. Mike Snow, self-titled. “Swedish indie pop with great production, lyrics, melody, and emotion.”
3. Radiohead, Hail to the Thief. “Cool electronica sounds with driving beats, beauty, and intensity.”
4. Regina Spektor, Live in London. “She sings and plays so perfectly in concert.”

CD YOU'RE TOO EMBARRASSED TO MENTION?

“Probably Jordin Sparks’s debut record, but what can I say...I love her voice.”

WHERE DO YOU HANG OUT?

“Bar Eleven, especially on Bosen & Suede acoustic Mondays.”

BEST CONCERT?

“Regina Spektor at Cane’s in November 2006. She’s the reason I started singing and writing songs in 2005. Her performance was brilliant, and I even got to meet her!”

BIGGEST LIE YOU EVER TOLD?

“1. ‘I was 14 and staying with a friend at her mom’s apartment, and they convinced me to take shots of tequila. After a few shots, I got so emotional that I started crying. Over a boy.’
2. ‘I carry a fresh pair of chopsticks with me at all times.’
3. ‘I have a pink ukulele.’”

FAVORITE MOVIE?

“I used to tell myself big fat lies all the time, such as ‘you suck’ or ‘nobody likes you’. Now I tell myself ‘you rule’ and ‘everyone loves you,’ but those are also lies.”

The Blue Guitar

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UGLY SWEATER CONTEST!
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NEW YEAR’S EVE PARTY!
NO Cover
FREE Champagne toast at Midnight!!

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**Upcoming Shows:**

- **1/10** LLS pres Common Sense and Useless Rhetoric
- **2/12** Abbey Road
- **3/3** Jackie Greene
- **3/9** The Green - on sale Friday
- **3/20** Lucero - on sale Friday Jan 13!
- **3/29** Todd Snider

**Just Added:**

- **12/21** W/Big B and Sprung Monkey
- **12/22** Kottonmouth Kings “Jingle Bowl” W/Big B and Sprung Monkey
- **12/23** The Mar Dels • 12/31 Candye Kane New Year’s Eve

**NEW YEAR’S EVE 2.0**

**WEDNESDAY 12/28 • 9PM**

An Evening With Leftover Salmon

**THURSDAY 12/29 • 9PM**

W/Leftover Salmon (W/Billy Mills – SOLD OUT)

**FRIDAY 12/30 • 9PM**

Just Added:

- **1/4** Wayward Sons and The Pettybreakers
- **1/10** LLS pres Common Sense and Useless Rhetoric
- **2/12** Abbey Road
- **3/3** Jackie Greene • 3/9 The Green - on sale Friday
- **3/20** Lucero - on sale Friday Jan 13! • 3/29 Todd Snider

**NEW YEAR’S EVE BASH!**

**ENGLISH SAT. 12/31**

**The Beat With Bushwalla**

**NEW YEAR’S EVE**

**WEDNESDAY 12/28 • 9PM**

An Evening With Leftover Salmon

**THURSDAY 12/29 • 9PM**

W/Leftover Salmon (W/Billy Mills – SOLD OUT)

**FRIDAY 12/30 • 9PM**

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- **2/12** Abbey Road
- **3/3** Jackie Greene • 3/9 The Green - on sale Friday
- **3/20** Lucero - on sale Friday Jan 13! • 3/29 Todd Snider

**Upcoming Shows:**

- **1/6** Pato Banton
- **1/7** The Country Daddy – Dick Dale DVD Release: A Farmer’s Celebration with Buddy Blue (Jan 7th)
- **1/10** LLS pres Common Sense and Useless Rhetoric
- **2/12** Abbey Road
- **3/3** Jackie Greene • 3/9 The Green - on sale Friday
- **3/20** Lucero - on sale Friday Jan 13!
- **3/29** Todd Snider

**Just Added:**

- **12/21** W/Big B and Sprung Monkey
- **12/22** Kottonmouth Kings “Jingle Bowl” W/Big B and Sprung Monkey
- **12/23** The Mar Dels • 12/31 Candye Kane New Year’s Eve

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**New Year’s Eve**

**10pm - 3am**

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- Win a chance at $20,000 Slot Tournament 8pm-11pm
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The next thing you notice is the real kicker. Ngo’s vocals make him sound like he wouldn’t hurt a fly, and that’s in keeping with the overall laid-back vibe, but the lyrics take unexpected twists. One recent song bears the luscious title “Sarah (Meet Me in the Sauna),” but it’s really an innocent love song from a teenager to a female lifeguard, who is obviously never, ever going to meet him in the sauna.

Several of the songs are about songwriting itself. “Benny and the Jets” isn’t a cover — it’s a song about a girl who was listening to the Elton John classic as she drove away. In “Your Own Religion,” Ngo references Paul Simon. “Lizzy Come Back to Life” begins with “I wrote a new song/It sounds like one of your songs” and ends with Ngo wishing he could go back to New York in the ’70s and hang out with Patti Smith and Richard Hell. Tropical Popsicle, Clockart, and Kynan also perform.

TV GIRL: Soda Bar, Thursday, December 22, 8:30 p.m. 619-255-7224. $5.

Find more Of Note columns online at SDReader.com/Note

Queen Bee’s Art & Cultural Center: 3925 Ohio St., North Park, 619-255-5147. Friday, 7:30pm — London Below, The Orphans, Bricklayer. Free. $7.

Ruby Room: 1271 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-7372. Thursday, 8:30pm — Beside Myself and Prosthetic Arms. Pop punk. $5. Friday, 8:30pm — Dead on the Wire. Pop punk. $5. Saturday, 7pm — Hannibal Selector Holiday Dance Party. DNB/jungle/dubstep. Free.
Where will the Street Team be next?

We’re doing NYE Block Party at House of Blues! Early bird tickets here.

But hey, thanks to Ali Baba’s Birch Aquarium, French Gourmet, Mission Brewery, Hensley’s and Helldorado for all the awesome this past week.

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- [San Diego Reader](https://www.sandiegoreader.com)

Follow us on Twitter @sdreader
Tin Can Ale House: 1863 Fifth Ave., Bankers Hill, 619-955-8525. Thursday, 8pm — Skyline Union, Tracy Shedd, Kelsea Rae Little. $5.

Tio Leo’s: 5302 Napa St., Linda Vista, 619-542-1462. Friday — Shady Grey.

UPCOMING SHOWS


BY DAVE GOOD

Tracy Shedd’s “Whatever It Takes” at first sounds as if it’s going to turn into one of those über-positive “don’t let life get you down” girlie pop rants, but no. It’s more about evading the suffocation that romance can bring: “She’s a killer/ One day she’ll need a match/ Everyone knows / Everyone but me.” Shedd’s guitar fuels the drama with a needling riff that you feel in your teeth. It turns out she is good at wringing dark and joyous tones from an amplifier. For years Shedd played a guitar made by Micro-Frets, one of the most undervalued brands of all time — like those from an amplifier. For years Shedd played a guitar made by Micro-Frets, one of the most undervalued brands of all time — like those guitars, she has the goods but is relatively unknown.

Shedd lives in Tucson and was born and raised in Florida. She went to grade school with the daughter of Lynyrd Skynyrd drummer Artimus Pyle, but it’s questionable if any of that Southern rock rubbed off. She’s more like the lovechild of Liz Phair and Neil Young, a mix of Phair’s bleakness and Young’s earnest approach to melody. Shedd learned classical piano and played trumpet in high school, and her music contains influences from her mother, who was a Patsy Cline fan and herself a semi-pro country singer.

As the story goes, her family stored mom’s PA system in the living room, which Shedd used as a play toy. There was a time she fancied becoming a concert pianist, but that faded when punk came along and Shedd discovered that she was simpatico with bands such as Sonic Youth, with whom she shares a distinct facility for feedback.

Skyline Union and Kelsea Rae Little also perform.
December 30
Little Italy, 619-232-4355.

December 31
January 6
Brick by Brick:
Park, 619-239-8836.
Grand Tarantula, Heavy Guilt
Wreckords, Blackout Party,
Afro-Latin Septet.

January 5
— Poncho Sanchez
— Tiempo Libre.

January 20
Ave., Linda Vista, 619-275-5483.

January 7
— August Burns Red.
– Handsome Furs.
— Agent 51 and Pivit.
— Everest.
— Allan Holdsworth
— Bazerk, Fuzz-

January 13
— The Griffin:
1310 Morena Bl.,
Linda Vista.
January 20 — Skyline Union,
East of Sweden, the Yawmen.

January 27
— The Growlers.

February 2
— Joe Walsh.

February 3
— Chinese Rocks,

House of Blues:
The Griffin:
Cosmopolitan Hotel and
Restaurant;

December 22, 2011
San Diego
EVERYONE'S A CRITIC

High Flying Birds
Noel Gallagher
By Robert Duffy

Ex-Oasis guitarist/songwriter Noel Gallagher's solo debut kicks off in style with “Everybody's on the Run,” a rock anthem along the same snorted lines of “Champagne Supernova.” With grand orchestration, it paints a blue landscape as Gallagher sings, “You gotta be strong enough for love.” In no way is he trying to distance himself from his past, as lead single “If I Had a Gun...” is hewn from the same stone as “Wonderwall,” and “The Death of You and Me” is very similar to “The Importance of Being Idle.” It’s not secret that “Stop the Clocks,” the record’s finale, is a leftover from Gallagher’s Oasis days, but as he rightly states, “It was too good to let fall by the wayside.” It’s an introspective soul-searcher that hears Gallagher cry, “What if I’m already dead, how would I know?” In spite of its bizarre coda, “Clocks” is an engaging song. (“I Wanna Live in a Dream in My) Record Machine” builds from a slow acoustic number to a thumping rocker. Unsurprisingly, he isn’t trying to break any musical boundaries; as ever, Gallagher evokes the classic English songwriting of the Beatles and Ray Davies. Some might say otherwise, but the elder Gallagher’s voice is hard work to listen to all night long.

The Pope of Mope Visits Escondido
By Marcus Perez

Long live the legacy of the crooner from Manchester, England. May his presence instill in you a feeling of natural... moodiness? Random as it is, the “pope of mope” played a sold-out show in the heavy Hispanic city of Escondido. Dawning a flamboyant disco-like v-neck sweater, Morrissey cradled the audience in his arms through his 18-song set. What seemed to be the highlight of the evening was the always-popular melody “Everyday Is Like Sunday.”

Moz cradled the audience in his arms.

Music Reviews from Our Readers

December 30 — Stoney B. Blues Band.

Shakedown Bar: 3048 Midway Dr., Midway District, 619-487-0373.

December 30 — Dan Padilla, Rad Company, and Discretions.

December 31 — Nihilist.

Soda Bar: 3615 El Cajon Blvd., City Heights, 619-255-7224.

December 29 — The Brusies and the Fixtures.

December 31 — El Ten Eleven.


January 6 — Ed Kowalczyk.

February 11 — Terri Clark.

February 12 — Oak Ridge Boys.

Sound Wave: 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-320-2140.

February 24 — Tomorrows Bad Seeds and Pacific Dub.


January 7 – Ed Kowalczyk.

February 11 — Terri Clark.

February 12 — Oak Ridge Boys.

Til-Two: 4746 El Cajon BL, Kensington-Talmadge, 619-516-4746.

December 31 — Grand Tarantula, Lady Dottie, the Bloody Hollies, Westside Inflection.

Tim Can Ale House: 1863 Fifth Ave., Bankers Hill, 619-955-8525.

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.

February 18 — Art Labor’s Valentines Super Love Jam.

February 29 — Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Viejas Arena: 5500 Canyon Crest Dr., SDSU, 619-594-6947.

April 15 — Rise Against, A Day to Remember, Tithe Flight.
**ALLIED GARDENS**

San Diego Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $3 select house & domestic beers, house wine, well drinks. 1/2-off appetizers.

**ALPINE**

Alpine Inn: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $2.50 drafts, $3.75 wells, house wine, sangria. $3.75 drafts. $3.50 shrimp, $5.95 nachos.

**BAY PARK**

Bay Park Fish Company: Daily, 3-5pm: $2 fish tacos, 20% off sushi rolls, 25% off draft beers, wines by the glass, and appetizers.

**BAY BAY**

Bonsai 18 Lounge & Hookah: Tuesday-Saturday, all night: Cheap drinks. Cheap eats. 1/2-off Hookah Tuesday-Thursday 7-10pm.

**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.

**COLLEGE AREA**

Pal Joey’s: Daily, all day: 3 personal pitchers.

**EAST VILLAGE**

Hive Sushi Lounge: Daily, 5-7pm: $2 domestic, $4 micro, $3 wells, $4 house wine, $3.50 shrimp, $5.95 nachos.

**EL CAJON**

El Cajon Grand: Monday-Friday, 4-8pm: $2.50 domestic beer, $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.

**HARBOR ISLAND**

The Boathouse: Daily, 2:30pm-5pm: $1.99 margaritas, $3 Cuervo margaritas, $3 Karl Strauss, $4 mojitos.

**HILLSIDE**

The Alibi: Daily, all day: $3 dipper, well drinks.

**IMPRESSIVE BEACH**

Club Bananas at Lydia’s Café: Daily, open 10pm: $3 wells & domestics.

**KEARNY TALMADGE**

Til-Two: Daily, 4-7pm: $3 wells and imported drafts.

**KENSINGTON**

Time Out Sports Bar: Monday-Wednesday, 4-7pm: $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.

**KEARNY MESA**

The Alibi: Daily, all day: $3 domestic, $1-2 Mexican pints.

**La Jolla**

SE Nevada Sushi Bar: Monday-Saturday, 5-7pm: $2.75 well, $3.50 domestic.

**LEUCADIA**

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**NEW YORK’S EAST SIDE!**

New Years Eve Spanish-Style!

**PARADISE CAY**

Tomato’s: Monday-Friday, 5-8pm: $1 off all domestic, 1/2-off wines and domestics.

**PEAKS**

American Pub: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 domestic pints.

**POMONA**

San Diego Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $3 select house & domestic beers, house wine, well drinks. 1/2-off appetizers.

**RANCHO SAN DIEGO**

Bay Park Fish Company: Daily, 3-5pm: $2 fish tacos, 20% off sushi rolls, 25% off draft beers, wines by the glass, and appetizers.

**REDONDO BEACH**

Baja Fresh Seafood: Daily, 11am-6pm: $2.50 domestic beer, wine, shots, wells, wine, $3.50 margaritas. Free taco bar 3pm to 6pm with drink purchase.

**RINCON**

South Bay Brewhouse: Monday-Friday, 11am-10pm: $3 domestic pints, $3 wells.

**ROSEMARY**

Navarre’s: Daily, 4-7pm: $3 domestic pints, $3 wells. $3.50 shrimp, $5.95 nachos.

**SAN DIEGO**

BROOKS AVE. RESTAURANT & GRILL: Monday-Monday, 11am-3pm: $3 domestic pints, $3 wells. 1/2-off appetizers.

**SAN MARCOS**

The Alibi: Daily, all day: $3 dipper, well drinks.

**SANTA ANA**

Nipponese Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 4-8pm: $3 domestic pints, $3 wells.

**SOLEDAD CANYON**

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.

**TURF SUPPER CLUB**

Surf Supper Club: Monday-Saturday, 11pm-2am: $2 domestic, $4 micro, $2.50 wells, $4.50 craft import, $4.50 gobs, $4.25 wells, $5.75 house martinis, $2 off wine by the glass. $6.50 sliders, 1/2-off select appetizers & pizzas.

**VISTA**

Pacifico: Daily, 11am-7pm: $3 domestic pints, $3 wells.

**WALNUT**

Classic Suds: Daily, 11am-9pm: $3 domestic pints, $3 wells.

**WELLINGTON**

The Polo Room: Tuesday-Friday, 11am-9pm: $3 domestic pints, $3 wells. 1/2-off appetizers.

**WILSON**

The Union: Daily, 11am-10pm: $3 domestic pints, $3 wells.

**WINDANSEA**

South Bay Brewhouse: Monday-Friday, 11am-10pm: $3 domestic pints, $3 wells.

**WILLET **

Blondie’s: Monday-Friday, 11am-9pm: $3 domestic pints, $3 wells. 1/2-off appetizers.

**WINDANSEA**

South Bay Brewhouse: Monday-Friday, 11am-10pm: $3 domestic pints, $3 wells.

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South Bay Brewhouse: Monday-Friday, 11am-10pm: $3 domestic pints, $3 wells.
**Analog Bar**'s slogan — “Good Food Strong Drinks” — is spot-on. The nu- retro music-themed bar’s cocktails are mixed (and priced) aggressively. The food is creative and, yeah, good, but not great, especially at prices that feel excessive, even for the Gaslamp. Service can be subpar during peak hours.

Established about a year and a half ago by the folks behind FIREHOUSE in Pacific Beach and the downtown wine bar Vin de Syrah, Analog’s website calls the venue “a sleek downtown lounge with design elements of a wood clad 1970s recording studio, an eclectic New York City dive bar, and a true foodie destination.”

With tall cans of Old English 800 mounted like EQ bars on a mirror and walls spackled in old LP covers and cassette tapes, Analog appears to be nostalgic for times predigital, yet, perhaps irrationally, perpetually bumps electronic music. Seating is available at tables, booths, two bars, and an elevated VIP area that looks like Ron Burgundy’s living room, complete with tan pleather sofa, hardwood coffee table, and vintage television.

The bar offers a selection of wines ($5–9 glass, $24–36 bottle) and an expansive if not expensive tall-can menu ranging from $7 to $10, because Pabst Blue Ribbon tastes better at quadruple the store price. Specialty cocktails ($11–13) are potent but generic (Moscow mule, mint julep, dark & stormy, etc.).

Analog hits its high note at happy hours from 4 to close: Totcho Tuesdays, half off totchos (yep, tater tot nachos) and $2.22 PBRS; Wednesdays, half off specialty drinks and $2 mini burgers; Dirty Thursdays, $4 bacon jalapeño grilled cheeses, dirty vodka martinis, and wells; and all-you-can-eat buffet and bottomless mimosas at $25 (plus automatic 20 percent gratuity). Acoustic karaoke runs from 1 to 3 p.m. and guest DJs spin strictly vinyl sets from 2 to 5 p.m.

All told, Analog is worth a visit for its novel atmosphere and no-nonsense cocktails, but only if it’s happy hour.
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Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas

There’s a new Grinch in town and he’s a hoot. Steve Blanchard’s natty enough to inspire trepidation but establishes a 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: 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 McAuliffe, who alternates as Cindy Lou Who with Remy Margaret McAuliffe, who alternates as Cindy Lou Who with Remy Margaret McAuliffe.

Carroll’s “A Christmas Carol” has taken the pranksterism of Christmas Past and Future. “The Grinch” is “through-directed.” Scenes propels the production are terrific and personal within, Des McAnuff’s Stage Picture. The theatricality is enhanced. Days become hours. Time speeds up. Days become hours. The leads — Paul Nolan (Jesus), Josh Young (Juda), and Chilina Kennedy (Magdalene) — belt songs with verve and ease. And so does everyone else.

A musical takes place in multiple dimensions. Young Ben and Molly share the stage with older Ben and Molly. They become, for each other, “Ghost of Christmas Past and Future.” The music, a burst of creativity by the 83-year-old Bacharach, circles the zodiac of love from infatuation to jaded truths, to the possibility of love reborn. The problem is, the characters aren’t worthy of the music. Young or old, they’re little more than generic types, and too many of Molly’s observations (“He killed Christmas”) suggest she should cut bait once and for all.

National Comedy Theatre

Audience suggestions. The show is “appropriate for all audiences.”

La Pastorela de Valor

9:30PM THURSDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM 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 “Vadudville-flavored comedy.”

The leads — Paul Nolan (Jesus), Josh Young (Juda), and Chilina Kennedy (Magdalene) — belt songs with verve and ease. And so does everyone else.

National Comedy Theatre

1PM AND 8PM FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 7:30PM SATURDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 24.

Jingle Bell Rock

Weik Resort Theatre presents the Alley Cats’ new Christmas show, singing popular holiday songs in a doo-wop, a cappella style.

Molly. They become, for each other, “Ghost of Christmas Past and Future.” The music, a burst of creativity by the 83-year-old Bacharach, circles the zodiac of love from infatuation to jaded truths, to the possibility of love reborn. The problem is, the characters aren’t worthy of the music. Young or old, they’re little more than generic types, and too many of Molly’s observations (“He killed Christmas”) suggest she should cut bait once and for all.
Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy
Playing George Smiley in the new film of John le Carré’s most famous book, Gary Oldman is a long, gentlemanly way from his punky Sid Vicious in 1986’s Sid and Nancy. At times he is as dry, withered, and recessive as a papier-mâché corpse, ready to blow away in a chill London breeze. But Smiley, who rarely smiles, is always thinking, always watching, and on his sagging shoulders rides the future of “the Circus” (le Carré lingo for the British secret service).

It is doubtful that fans of Oldman’s Vicious or his Sirius Black in the Harry Potter saga will rush to his new triumph. Nor will many under 50 realize that Oldman walks so bravely in the shadow of Sir Alec Guinness. It was Guinness, pale and puffy, who carried the glum cerebral weight of spymaster Smiley in the BBC Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy, 315 British TV minutes in 1979.

Sir Alec gave the devious games a faintly cherubic twinkle, but his chill stare and exquisitely measured sentences, which so often seemed to be words hiding thoughts, were like gossamer webs of danger. Oldman, for all of his mandarin poise, good diction, and refined pinches of pain, cannot equal Guinness, who had the greatest English acting career on film (after the era of Chaplin, Grant, and Laughton). Some believe that Oldman is imitating Guinness. I would say that he is doing a very similar kind of Englishman.

The TV epic was a dark maze through which I stumbled with an inadequate flashlight (pardon me, “torch”). I never grasped it all, not even as Guinness delineated the plot moves with chess-master calm. But, oh, the acting, the atmospherics, the Britannic majesty of condescension! It was the x-ray of a great empire in final retreat (once more, American “allies” are minor players; the Soviets pull most of the strings that bedevil the Circus). Tomas Alfredson’s engrossing film, adapted by Peter Straughan and the late Bridget O’Connor, spends 127
minutes pinballing from London to Budapest to Paris to Istanbul to Moscow, then back to London.

Again, it’s the Cold War of the 1970s. The Beatles fuzz has flaked away, computers are not yet in charge, and Smiley suspects that there is a Soviet mole high up on the Circus wires. The notion was first broached when is there ever enough Hurt (Michael Fassbender), a rising disciple of Dr. Sigmund Freud (Viggo Mortensen). This makes the prim, Swiss, married Jung a little nuts. Soon he and Sabina are violating the stern protocols of classical psychoanalysis by having an affair that features sado-masochism. Freud, acted like a Jewish pope by Mortensen (with, yep, a phallic cigar), is more distantly entangled. He nudges along Sabina’s therapy while enjoying the gossip. In a fine tangle of irony, Jung’s sweet wife (Sarah Gadon) will eventually ask the improved, now deeply Freudian Sabina to analyze her guilty husband. Occurring from 1904 to 1913, the story seems timid, as if scared of an obscure scandal now a century old.

The old truisms apply: Freud as the magisterial father figure and stern rationalist, with Jung as the rebel son, not Jewish but instinctively mystical. We also get a sense that Spielrein generated important ideas (she was later, in the wartime Soviet Union, a victim of Hitler). Though handsomely made, this is David Cronenberg’s most sedate, passive movie. While not supine on a couch, it is often listless. John Huston churned up more panic and drama with 

**The Adventure of Tintin**

I first heard about the Franco-Belgian comic-book detective Tintin from schoolboys in Louis Malle’s great Murmur of the Heart:

Laurent: “You got the latest Tintin?”
Friend: “The one before was funnier.”

Now Steven Spielberg has directed The Adventures of Tintin. The French word that applies is pastiche. Compiled from three comic books of the famed Hergé (born Georges Remi), it didn’t make me want to see the sequel clearly indicated at the end, and I didn’t find it funny. It is like a string of Hardy Boys stories given a glazing of style. We can gaze over in response. Motion-capture techniques mimic the clear-cut look of Hergé’s comics, but it feels like bloodless animation (that is, no cartooning) and never captured credible emotion.

Hergé said, “I consider my stories as movies.” Fine, but the movieness is now mostly effects and voices (Jamie Bell as Tintin, also Daniel Craig, Andy Serkis, Cary Elwes). Spielberg and his lavish team mold the clay of cliché: obsessive momentum, facile clues, glittering objects (some beautiful ship models are sadly wrecked), bloodless violence, even an odd little bestiality gag. Boy-hero Tintin, who seems 15 going on 40, fights off men twice his size while sleuthing elaborate mysteries with his dog Snowy. The time is the 1930s, but no one frets about Hitler and Mussolini. For a sanitizing reason: Hergé’s early work was lightly salted and thus avoided with racism and anti-Semitism, and he shunted aside by more sinister play—his status while his talent leaks away.

★

**A Dangerous Method**

Because Keira Knightley is so beautiful, many fans want her to appear beautifully. She puts that beauty at risk in her performance as Sabina Spielrein in A Dangerous Method. Tense as a trap, she contorts her body, even juts her lower jaw somewhat like Billy Bob Thornton in Sling Blade. The English actress uses a rather American accent, but with her salute to Georges Hergé said, “I consider my stories as movies...”). The French icons. But with his salute to Georges Méliès in Hugo, Martin Scorsese shows serious imagination. For Hergé, Spielberg only spins the expensive wheels of his status while his talent leaks away.

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**SAN DIEGO**
felt cornered by Huston’s scorn for Clift’s “weakness” (homosexuality). Though Freud is out of fashion now, he shouldn’t be boring.

★★


— David Elliott

MOVIE LISTINGS

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

The Adventures of Tintin — Reviewed this issue. ★ (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; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TEMECULA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked — It’s possible that the eight-to-ten-year-old set has not been sufficiently exposed to Lady Gaga. This should fix that. It’s also possible that comedian David Cross was not yet bereft of human dignity. This should fix that, too. And in case you’d forgotten how much you loved Tom Hanks in Cast Away, here’s a tale of animated chipmunks stranded on a desert island and learning a little bit about responsibility to remind you. 2011. — M.L.

★★★ (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; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TEMECULA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

Arthur Christmas — Fearing a possible breach of the “no child left behind” clause, it’s up to Santa’s son, Arthur, to save the family business by delivering one last present. Other than the fact that all of the characters appear to suffer from rosacea rhinophyma, this witty, handsomely appointed 3-D animated feature is the most delightful Santa biopic since Edmund Gwenn donned the fat suit. Not surprisingly, it’s from the studio that brought us Wallace and Gromit. 2011. — S.M.

★★★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; FASHION VALLEY 18; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; TEMECULA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14)

The Artist — A comedy of unreserved movie love, shot in Hollywood by French director Michel Hazanavicius. Big silent star George (like a merger of Douglas Fairbanks, John Gilbert, and Warren William) falls when sound arrives. The casting of brash, funny, hugely likeable Jean Dujardin as George gives heart to the charm. Berenice Bejo (the director’s partner) as Peppy, an emerging star of talkies, is iffier (female characterization is “swell.” Beautiful design, period touches, and black-and-white tonalities sustain the simple story’s odd, witty dreaminess. Words are only heard at the end, and the lift of some Vertigo music is impudent but effective. This Chaplinesque nostalgia bubble has a tender, endearing fondness for its sources. 2011. — D.E.

★★★★ (HILLCREST; FROM 12/23)

Being Elmo: A Puppeteer’s Journey — Documentary on Kevin Clash, creator of the beloved Muppet Elmo. With Whoopi Goldberg, Joan Ganz Cooney, Frank Oz, Rosie O’Donnell. (HILLCREST; FROM 12/23)

A Dangerous Method — Reviewed this issue. ★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; TEMECULA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

The Darkest Hour — In Chris Gorak’s horror thriller, aliens invade Moscow. Only the hip, fast youth can save the Kremlin. With Emile Hirsch, Rachel Taylor, Max Minghella, Olivia Thirlby. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; 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)

The Descendants — Alexander Payne’s film is on Hawaiian time and floats well below his Sideways. George Clooney is the rich Honolulu lawyer whose faithless wife has crashed into a coma. He is also trustee

A Dangerous Method — David Cronenberg’s most sedate, passive movie

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The Descendants 2011. — D.E.

★★★★ a tender, endearing fondness for its sources. 2011. — D.E.

Feeling bad, a tender, endearing fondness for its sources. 2011. — D.E.

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The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo — Not bad, for an unnecessary remake. I'll gladly make do with a shortening of the misgivings in exchange for a cuddly relationship between the cop (Daniel Craig) and the girl who fell first into a tackle box (Rooney Mara). The smooth language and quiet, flatly human philosophy, as the work of director David Fincher, but the only reason this film exists is because a certain sector of the American public refuses to read. 2011. — D.E.

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The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Fri. (10:20, 1:20, 4:20) $10.95; The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) Fri. (10:20, 1:20, 4:20) $10.95

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) Fri. (10:15, 1:05, 4:05) $10.95

The Darkest Hour (PG-13) Special Engagement; D-BOX Seats For These Showtimes Only; D-Box Upcharge Applies. No Passes Allowed, Fri: 10:05 AM, 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05

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San Marcos

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New Year's Eve (PG-13) Special Engagement; No Passes Allowed, Fri: 10:05 AM, 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05

New Year's Eve (PG-13) Fri. (11:15, 2:20, 5:20) $10.95

San Diego Reader December 22, 2011 91
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol | Tom Cruise returns, and reliably so, to his role as gadget-happy super-spy Ethan Hunt, but the real star is director Brad Bird, trying his hand at live action after a successful stint in the animated world. Happily, he brings the best parts of his cartoon past with him, creating wild set pieces on a par with anything Goofy & Co. ever imagined. Alas, the villain here is cartoony as well — a Russian version of Dr. Strangelove, Jeremy Renner and various architectural marvels costar. 2011. — M.L.★★★ (GASLAMP 15) J. Edgar | Under the stone slab “classical” direction of Clint Eastwood, Leonardo DiCaprio dauntingly plays J. Edgar Hoover as an anal-retentive power freak. Mama’s boy (Judi Dench is mom). Hoover as an anal-retentive power freak forced cheer, and production numbers lifted hack-screenwriter Jason Segel’s fleece job — any similarities between architectural marvels costar. 2011. — M.L.★★★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; 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; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TOWNE SQUARE 10; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE) The Muppets | Any similarities between Jim Henson’s antrone-fourse assemblage and hack-screenwriter Jason Segel’s fizzle job are coincidental. Bright lights, brittle colors, forced cheer, and production numbers lifted from a Dr. Pepper commercial (and backed by a skating-needle-through-your-ear-score) combine for a sad total of nostalgia. In the past, at least we had high-powered celebrity cameos to bathe on. This time, the best they can muster is James Corden, J. Hirsch and Jack Black. 2011. — S.M. ★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12) My Week with Marilyn | A gossipy peekaboo based on Colin Clark’s memoir as an assistant on the English set of the Princess 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 Oliver rather well. But Simon Curtis’s slightly engaging movie belongs to Michelle Williams. As Marilyn Monroe, she mixes the famous sizable with catty, canny vulnerability as a natural star who isn’t believing in her talent but can manipulate males. She rescues Marilyn from her image as a controlled device as she and Zoe Wanamaker portray Paula Strasberg, as cuddly as a blowtorch. 2011. — D.E.★★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; GASHLAMP 15; LA JOLLA 15; MISSION VALLEY 20; MISSION VALLEY HAZARD CENTER 10; TOWNE SQUARE 10; TOWN SQUARE 14) New Year’s Eve | Another holiday slaughterfest, processed, shrink wrapped, and shipped to market by director Garry Marshall (Valentine’s Day). Another masquer (Ashton Kutcher is the world’s prettiest grubby hipster, Katherine Heigl as a jilted caterer, etc.), another whirwind of plotlines and significances: birth, death, first sex, ex-con scams come true, marriage, romance. Was anything left out? If so, it wasn’t for lack of trying. Why, even a horrid grandpa! Michelle Pfeiffer provides perhaps the film’s only honest moment as a disappointed doormat with a list of resolutions. 2011. — M.L.★★★★ (GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; TECUMELA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14) Shame | Less than a film as an attractively inscribed chronicle of sexual identity. Brandon (Michael Fassbender) needs sex and lots of it — with whores, with pickups, with his hand. Pretty much anything, really, as long as the encounter is impersonal. The pathology does not tolerate humanity. But humanity arrives in the form of Brandon’s sister (Carey Mulligan, who has her own issues right into her own skin), and things begin to get complicated. Director Steve McQueen keeps a controlled eye on the proceedings, with a moody, muted feeling almost to the end. 2011. — M.L.★★★★ (HILLCREST; LA JOLLA 12) Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows | More a tournament of effects. In this franchise, the great sleuth has become a 19th-century Bond empowered by 21st-century pyrotechnics and state-of-the-art editing. The clues come so fast we’d need a computer to grasp them, as Guy Ritchie puts Sherlock (“Sherley”) to his brother) through his wild hiccups including mad clads, dress-up humor, grand guns, the destruction of a forest, Stephen Fry in the nude, gypsies, classy snatches of music (Mozart, Schubert, Johann Strauss), and absurd recoveries. Robert Downey Jr. (Holmes), Jude Law (Dr. Watson), and Jared Harris (Professor Moriarty) wink through it all with a lot of rather bitty dialogue seem fully committed to the dynamic nonsense. 2011. — D.E.★★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; ESCONDIDO 16; FASHION VALLEY 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; MISSION 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; SAN MARCOS 18; TECUMELA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE) The Sitter | Jonathan Hill plays a sod who assigned the task of overseeing a trio of ill-behaved neighborhood kids. When pseudo-girlfriend Art Graymer calls, offering to go out in exchange for a coke, Hill takes the children on a wild ride through the urban ghetto. If it wasn’t for plot coincidence, there would be no plot at all in this cheap reimagining of Uncle Buck’s Adventures in Babysitting. Indie darling turned Hollywood hasard David Gordon Green directed. 2011. — S.M.★★★★ (LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MISSION VALLEY 20; FROM 12/23) Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn — Part 1 | Finally, a movie about a vampire-human love affair that isn’t afraid to tackle the tough question of what happens when the result is a human hybrid fetus begins to threaten the life and health of the human (read: fragile) mother. No “happily ever after” here, folks — this is a story about families, the making and breaking of them. If the film ever took a step back from its own overheated drama, it might collapse into farce. But it doesn’t step back. It stays absolutely in the fraught, crazy, muddled moment. With Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Peter Facinelli, Ashley Greene, and Taylor Lautner. 2011. — M.L.★★★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; MISSION VALLEY 20; OTAY RANCH 12; PLAZA BONITA 14) War Horse | A horse from Devon becomes heroic in World War I, as Steven Spielberg’s first digitally edited film. With Jeremy Irvine, Emily Watson, David Thewlis, Eddie Marsan. Reviewed next issue. (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; SAN MARCOS 18; TECUMELA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE, from 12/25) We Bought a Zoo — Based on an English memoir and TV show, Cameron Crowe’s Americanized family comedy (plus some heartache) is about a defiant journalist (Matt Damon) who buys a ramshackle rural zoo. Scarlett Johansson is the main animal keep. With Thomas Haden Church, Elle Fanning, Patrick Fugit, Colin Ford, Maggie Elizabeth Jones. Reviewed next issue. (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; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TECUMELA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE, from 12/23) Young Adult | — Diablo Cody, staking her claim as the voice of Generation X, brings us the story of a young author (well, a ghostwriter named Hamas, played by Charlie Theron) who tries to go home again. You know, maybe it’s — cynical, savvy X-er who has a Jules & Jim moment. Maybe, maybe not. Ivan Reitman directed. 2011. — D.E.★★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MISSION VALLEY 20; TOWN SQUARE 14)
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San Diego Reader: December 22, 2011
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**BE YOUR OWN BOSS.** Join the fastest growing, new commercial cleaning franchise business in the U.S.! Full time/part-time. Guaranteed customers. We provide training, equipment and financing. Let our 50 years of experience work for you. $4140 down. 760-930-2651 www.System4Husa.com.

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**CLAIMER, $390.** Large, nice room; big closet with mirrored doors. Internet, TV cable and all utilities included. Nice, quiet, clean house. Available now. Leave message. 858-536-5282.


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**PACIFIC BEACH, $2000.** 100X-100A large master bedroom. Private entrance, prime location in PB. Dogs OK upon approval, no cats. Large, fenced yard. Call Troy, 760-450-4299.


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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 in 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 found at 619-231-0489 or 619-233-7907, or mailed to Reader Puzzles, P.O. Box 82803, San Diego, CA 92138-5083, or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy, or scanned and e-mailed to puzzler@sdreader.com. Submissions by e-mail must be attached in .PDF format, 200 by 200 pixels. Images cannot be used. 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) Each puzzle-contest winner will receive a prize.
4) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

NEW RULES:
Starting with the issue of May 12, we will no longer accept 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. __________muffin
5. ____ mode
8. ____ Good Feelings
11. __________muffin
15. ____ mode
18. __________muffin
22. __________muffin
24. __________muffin
30. __________muffin
33. __________muffin
36. __________muffin
40. __________muffin
42. __________muffin
48. __________muffin
50. __________muffin
52. __________muffin
54. __________muffin
56. __________muffin
58. __________muffin
60. __________muffin
62. __________muffin
64. __________muffin
66. __________muffin
68. __________muffin
70. __________muffin
72. __________muffin
74. __________muffin

Down
1. Subject of many a joke
2. Born
3. __________
4. Insect repellent
5. __________
6. __________
7. Like Gandhi
8. A Baldwin
10. Dutch banking giant
11. Where ‘No Hollywood’ is a big film industry
12. Very small community
13. Rush hour noise
14. Polly, Tom Sawyer’s sister
15. Mineral deposit
16. Bows away
17. ‘And we’ll __________ a cup o’
18. ___ mode
19. ‘And the chicken little
20. ‘What, __________?’
21. There were many moons
22. __________
23. __________
24. __________
25. __________
26. __________
27. __________
28. __________
29. __________
30. __________
31. __________
32. __________
33. __________
34. __________
35. __________
36. __________
37. __________
38. __________
39. __________
40. __________
41. __________
42. __________
43. __________
44. __________
45. __________
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60. __________
61. __________
62. __________
63. __________
64. __________
65. __________
66. __________
67. __________
68. __________
69. __________
70. __________
71. __________
72. __________
73. __________
74. __________

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 _____

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:

P I N T S A R T H Y B M S
A M Y R I G E A T S O U T
J A Y Z O N E C R U E L Y T
A L A I N S H A D D I N
M O N T Y G E L C A P O N E
A S K S N E L L D E N Y
S E E J A N E D O U R
R E V E R E N D A L O N E
T E L L H U N S T R O T
B I E L R E A R I N G R E T
K E N N Y G O N E O V E R T
U S A O F T S E I N A R
M I R A C L E P L U S N E R
A D O P T E R O A F R C A
R E W A R M S P M S K E L

THIS WEEK’S WINNERS:

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FAMOUS FORMER NEIGHBORS
by Jay Allen Sanford ©2011

PACIFIC BEACH, $1095.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1495.
2BD+2BA, 100% smoke free 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 points. 4451 Haines Street. Chris, 858-270-4492 x203 or CDunphyPacwest@san.rr.com. 270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1095.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1195.
Half year lease. 858-272-4398.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1295.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1200.
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 Points Apartments, 3868 Ingram. 888-451-8713, baypoints@progressmanagement.net: www.baypointsapartmenthomes.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1195.
2BD+1BA apartment. Laundry near bay/ocean. Available 1/1. 2071 12th Street. 858-270-6752; lefrontenac@inbox.com.
PACIFIC BEACH, $1200.
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 points. 4451 Haines Street. Chris, 858-270-4492 x203 or CDunphyPacwest@san.rr.com. 270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1200.
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 points. 4451 Haines Street. Chris, 858-270-4492 x203 or CDunphyPacwest@san.rr.com. 270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1325.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1350.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1500.
2BD+2BA, 100% smoke free 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 points. 4451 Haines Street. Chris, 858-270-4492 x203 or CDunphyPacwest@san.rr.com. 270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1625.
2BD+2BA, 100% smoke free 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 points. 4451 Haines Street. Chris, 858-270-4492 x203 or CDunphyPacwest@san.rr.com. 270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1750.
1BD+1BA upper-level apartment. 3 blocks to beach. Assigned off-street parking. On-site laundry. No pets. 1050 Homboldt. Available now. 858-270-4992 x203.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1495.
2BD+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 points. 4451 Haines Street. Chris, 858-270-4492 x203 or CDunphyPacwest@san.rr.com. 270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1595.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1695.
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 points. 4451 Haines Street. Chris, 858-270-4492 x203 or CDunphyPacwest@san.rr.com. 270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1800.
2BD+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 points. 4451 Haines Street. Chris, 858-270-4492 x203 or CDunphyPacwest@san.rr.com. 270-2071.
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_________


PACIFIC BEACH, $1895. 2BD+2BA apartment with one parking space. Shared laundry, Centrally located in mid-December approximately - CallColdwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.


PACIFIC BEACH, $2500. 2BD+2BA townhouse in 3-car garage. Fireplace, washer/dryer, patio, deck, refrigerator, gas stove, fresh paint. No pets. 1839 Grand Avenue. 858-270-4492x203 or CDunphyPacwest@san.rr.com.


PACIFIC BEACH, $990. Large studio. 4 blocks to ocean. Full kitchen, gas appliances, laundry facilities, garage parking. Washer, dryer, garage and street parking. Call Dan, 310-373-1793, or email staff@clarking.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, $775 & UP. 1BD+1BA apartment. Great views. Nice, convenient, multiple Pacific Beach locations. Studios from $775, 1 bedrooms from $1350. 2 bedrooms from $1395. Some buildings with garage entry, pool and or deck, parking, laundry. No pets. 858-488-3795.


POINT LOMA, $1550. 2BD+1BA at Sunset Cliffs. Steps to beach. No pets, at 317 Rosecrans Street. 858-270-4500.

POINT LOMA, $1950. 2BD+1BA apartment, garage and parking space, laundry, near sub base, 2 pets, at 317 Rosecrans Street. Agent. 619-299-8515.


An affordable rental option located in downtown San Diego, including utilities, and featuring AC and a parking spot for $700-$900. Contact: 619-228-4184.

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2 Bedroom from $800

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downtown San Diego

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**SOUTHEAST SD**

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Brainstorms
by Don Rubin

iGive up
We created this week’s puzzle by touch-typing a message on an inverted keyboard. What were we trying to write?

We cannot accept your entry without the following:
Name: _____________________________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________________________
City: ____________________________State:_____ Zip Code: ____________________________

Please check one:
Hat:________                        T-shirt:  S_______   M_______   L _______   X L _______
_________________________________________________________________________________

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 with each week’s puzzle. We reserve the right to edit or reject inappropriate text. Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.
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@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.

THIS WEEK’S WINNERS:
(All winning entries will be screened for plagiarism)
Fred Delgado, San Diego, 1. Man, had to break out the Russian night goggles for this one.
Ai Goodwin, San Diego, 1. Dishes in the sink make me wanna drink.
Conway Redding, La Mesa, 1. Faint heart ne’er won an adrenaline rush.

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:
Watch it!

___ pliers       ___ accordion
___ India ink     ___ desk lamp
___ dustpan       ___ clarinet
___ trumpet       ___ flashlight
___ hatchet       ___ candlestick
___ plunger       ___ typewriter
___ stapler       ___ golf club
___ wok
___ cake pan
___ Walkman and headphones
___ juicer
___ colander and spoon
___ electric mixer
___ two batteries
___ pencil sharpener
___ camera (and flash)
___ fire extinguisher
___ dish drainer
___ four dishes
___ tape dispenser
___ measuring cup
___ rolling pin
___ pepper mill
___ steam iron
___ turntable
___ churn
___ percolator

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Uncle Joe's Plumbing 2810 Polk Ave. Halfbakes expand. Senior discounts. Visa (Lic#857197). 24 hours. 7 days a week. Same-day service. 619-422-0948.

Bar None Home 2535 Kettner Blvd. #22 619-236-7408


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$10 Off Cleaning First cleaning offer! 10% off housesiting, Residential, commercial, garages, basements. Move-ins/outs include supplies/vacuum. Weekdays/weekends. 15 years experience. Reliable, friendly, references, insured. Call 619-957-0985.


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Uncle Joe’s Plumbing 2810 Polk Ave. Halfbakes expand. Senior discounts. Visa (Lic#857197). 24 hours. 7 days a week. Same-day service. 619-422-0948.


Studio+1BA. NORTH PARK, $795. 232-6811.


GREAT 1BD+1BA apartment in a small complex, parking, on-site laundry, quiet, very clean, 1-year lease. No pets. 4077 32nd Street. 619-222-8177.


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SEASONS

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Massage Parties Available
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$10 off with ad.

$25 off 1 Hour Massage

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1BD+1BA. Low $150 deposit. Fully furnished studio, alcoves, in excellent hillside location. Free basic cable. 1616 Guy Street. 619-298-6242.

$399 1-Hour Full Body Massage

$199 1-Hour Foot Massage

Massage Parties Available
Great Gift Idea
Gift Certificates Available

Open 7 Days a Week 10am - 11pm

ANGEL MASSAGE • (858) 689-9218
9833 Mira Mesa Blvd. (I-15 at Mira Mesa Blvd.)

$10 off 1 Hour Massage

$5 off 45mins Massage

$10 off with ad.

$25 off 1 Hour Massage

$10 off with ad.

Asian Massage

Bernardo Health

Stress Reduction Body Shampoo

Lic. #201005875

619-425-0670.

Laundry on site. 250 Kennedy Street. 2BD+2BA house. Deposit $1750.

CHULA VISTA. 1380 sqft. 3BD+2BA house. Deposit $1750.

1BD+1BA. Low $150 deposit. Fully furnished studio, alcoves, in excellent hillside location. Free basic cable. 1616 Guy Street. 619-298-6242.
Dear ‘Friend’ Who Posted That Terrible Photo of Me, What exactly was your thought process before you posted this? Did you look at it and think, “Man, I’ve just GOTTA share this flattering, reputation-enhancing piece of art with the world”?! Did you think I’d be glad to have my friends and family and coworkers see exactly how awful I can look? Is this the beginning of a multimedia smear campaign? You’re on very thin ice, “Friend.” Consider it de-tagged.

Sincerely, Occasionally Not Photogenic

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LEAD STORY
— Melinda Arnold, 34, was waiting to hear whether her mother would be accepted as an organ donor for her daughter — with the organ being the mom's womb. Melinda (a nurse from Melbourne, Australia) was born without one (though with healthy ovaries and eggs), and if the transplant by Swedish surgeon Mats Brannstrom of Gothenburg University is successful, and Melinda later conceives, her baby will be nurstured in the same uterus in which Me- linda, herself, was nurtured. (Womb transplants have been performed in rats and, with limited success, from a deceased human donor.)

Government in Action
— Boeing manufacturer, BCB International, is flourishing, buoyed by sales of its Kevlar un- derwear, at $65 a pair, to U.S. military personnel in Afghanistan and Iraq. However, soldiers and Marines must buy them directly; the "Bomb Boxes" are not supplied by the Pentagon even though nearly 10 percent of battlefield explosive- device injuries result in sometimes-catastro- phic genital and rectal damage. According to an October report in Talking Points Memo, the Pentagon’s currently issued protection is inferior to BCB’s but is less expensive. (Although the Pentagon fully funds post-injury prostheses and colostomies, it could purchase about 7700 Bomb Boxes for the price of one Tommy- hawk missile.)

Police Report
— Officials in Prince George's County, Md., re- ported that crime had fallen by 23 percent dur- ing the first nine months of 2011 — the result, they said, of holding meetings with 67 of the most likely recidivist offenders in five neighbor- hoods and sweet-talking them. The 67 were of- fered help in applying for various government and volunteer programs but were told they would be watched more closely by patrols.
— Joseph Wilson, 50, was chased by police and arrested in Port St. Lucie, Fla., for having charged with shoplifting from a Beall's depart- ment store. It was his 100th arrest — although prosecutors are batting only .353 against him (35-for-99). Wilson’s getaway was delayed when he jumped into the passenger seat of an idling SUV and ordered the driver to “Take off!” but the driver did not.
— Police in Corpus Christi, Texas, looked to the public for help in finding the man who, according to surveillance video of a city agency building, stole three surveillance cameras (not the recording units, just the cameras) by lassoeing them from their perches near the ceiling.
— Theresa Mejia, held in the Burlington, Wash., police station on kidnapping charges, climbed through a ceiling vent in a dramatic escape at- tempting, throughout the entire length of the build- ing, before officers knew where she was. (How- ever, that put her directly over the police chief’s office, and she crashed through to the floor.)

The Aristocrats
— Owen Kato, 23, was arrested following a police report in Port Charlotte, Fla., of a man-grossing out customers by standing beside the entrance to a McDonald’s for about ten minutes, popping his pimples with his fingers. A man unnamed in a news story was charged on July 24 with resisting arrest (for trespassing) by failing to put his hands behind his back. Ac- cording to the Destin, Fla., police report, the man explained, “I can’t put my hands behind my back because I’m making a bowel move- ment [on my pants].” (According to the report that was true.)

Least Competent Criminals
— Brent Morgan, 25, was arrested in Prince George, British Columbia, in October on three counts related to the attempted theft of a Cor- vette. Morgan had seen the car in a driveway, jumped in, and locked the doors. However, the owner had been in the process of charging the battery, which was still too weak to start the car and for the door locks to continue working. After the trap was sprung, the homeowner had called the police. Morgan panicked and began using any available tool inside the car to smash the window. According to the police report, of- ficers arrived just as Morgan had broken open the driver’s side window, but too late for Morgan to realize that he could have exited the car by manually lifting the door lock with his fingers.

Recent Amazing Headlines
NORTH PARK. Hyggie $1 parking lot sale! Clothing, CVs, CDs, L&H, and more. Saturday and Sunday, 3939 Iowa St.

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BEDROOMS. Dressers, 4 drawers, wide, full length mirrors, great condition. $15 each. 619-527-6197.

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BEDROOMS. Dresser, $50. 619-479-0500.

BEDROOMS. King bed, frame, mattress, sheets. $100. 619-682-1111.

BEDROOMS. 2 dressers, nightstands, queen bed. $250. 619-578-7628.

BEDROOMS. Dresser, $65. 619-370-1200.

BEDROOMS. Red dresser, 3 drawers, wooden, good condition. $50. 619-584-3003.

BEDROOMS. Dressers, 4 drawers. $75 each. 619-584-8200.

BEDROOMS. 2 dressers, free. 619-522-3100.

BEDROOMS. One dresser, 6 drawers, solid wood. $90. 619-401-1653.

BEDROOMS. Queen bed frame, mattress, sheets. $120. 619-366-1145.

BEDROOMS. Dresser, $50. 619-980-8344.

BEDROOMS. Dressers, 4 drawers. $60. 619-956-1234.

BEDROOMS. Dressers, 4 drawers, 1 drawer. $75. 619-584-4323.

BEDROOMS. Dresser, 4 drawers, 4 shelves. $50. 619-516-2734.

BEDROOMS. 3 dressers. $100 each. 619-527-6197.

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BEDROOMS. Dresser, $65. 619-370-1200.

BEDROOMS. Dresser, $75. 619-542-5600.

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