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Reader

VOLUME 40 / NUMBER 51
DECEMBER 22, 2011

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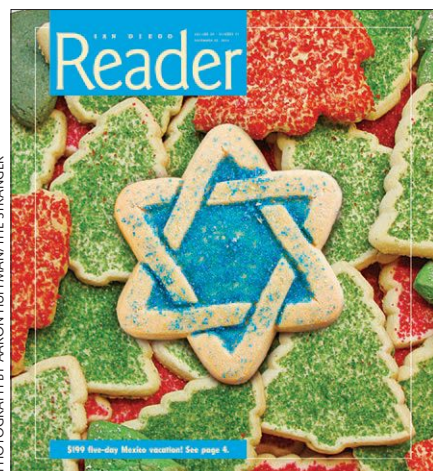
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UNDER THE RADAR

Navy loses shirt on solar projects

An audit by the Pentagon's inspector general has found that the Navy, in a hurry to spend funds appropriated by Congress in February 2009's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, commissioned a series of expensive and wasteful solar energy projects, including one at Camp Pendleton. "During project planning and selection, officials did not consider whether projects were cost-effective or analyze different types of energy projects to determine the best investments for meeting legislative energy goals," according to the September 22 report. "Instead, they relied upon project titles, location, cost, and amount of time to award contracts to select projects."

The audit goes on to say that "Officials also were not well equipped to handle quick timelines for planning and selecting projects because, at the time of the Recovery Act's implementation, the Navy and Marine Corps did not have processes for completing life-cycle cost analyses, processes for planning and selecting all energy projects, or energy strategies for achieving legislative goals." The bottom line: investigators concluded that the government "will not recover \$25.1 million of the \$50.8 million invested" in the three projects reviewed by the audit.

The work in question involved installation of photovoltaic systems, which convert sunlight into electricity. One system was built at Camp Pendleton's Box Canyon Landfill, the contract for which was awarded in December 2009. "However, at the time the contracts were awarded, most of the planning documentation needed to justify these projects was either inadequate or nonexistent," the report says. In particular, the cost estimate for the Pendleton project "contained only lump sum costs, and officials could not provide support for how they developed the estimates."

On top of that, the inspector general concluded, the solar project "will contribute only minimally toward renewable energy goals." Although Marine Corps brass had a study in hand showing that at Camp Pendleton "61 percent of the system's investment cost would not be recovered," they proceeded with the project anyway. As a result, taxpayers "will not recover \$5.17 million of the \$8.43 million invested in the project." Pendleton could apply for a refund from the state Energy

Commission's California Solar Initiative program, the audit says, but the Box Canyon project, completed in January of this year, no longer qualifies for the rebates. Officials are currently "negotiating an expansion" of the program with state regulators, which if successful might allow the government to recover as much as \$1.17 million.

A July 2010 story about the project by public broadcaster KPBS reported that Marine "Colonel Gary Storey, head of energy management at

Pendleton, said federal stimulus money allowed them to develop their plans faster than expected." Storey told KPBS: "This system, when it goes online, hopefully in December, will effectively triple or quadruple the photovoltaic we're generating on this base in one fell swoop, and we actually have a follow-up project next year to

double that capacity on this site." Added **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



A Pentagon audit says taxpayers will lose \$5.17 million invested in this Camp Pendleton solar energy installation.



San Diego County is in the market for 26 new Ford Taurus four-wheel-drive sedans

Democratic congressman **Danny Davis** spent two nights at San Diego's bay-front Marriott Hotel in September, thanks to the American Dietetic Association. According to a congressional travel disclosure form recently filed by **Caleb Gilchrist**, the association picked up \$608 in lodging at \$249 a night; \$571.80 in travel; and \$68.60 in meals, along with \$62 in cab fares. The aide was "invited to

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Hang On Tight

By Don Bauder

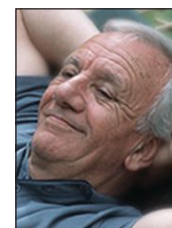
The stock market is like Pavlov's dogs. It starts to salivate at the thought of a juicy meal, long before it gets one. (About a

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. Ameri-

can stocks zoom upward on the announcement, only to fall back a couple of days later when the new initiative proves to be mostly hooey. It's happened more than half a dozen times. On November



Mike Stolper expects "a huge rally."



Neil Hokanson says "crisis generates reform."



Robert Snigaroff is "optimistic, but cautiously so."

30, 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.

Del Mar's Arthur Lipper III, a member of a legendary Wall Street family, says "investor enthusiasm in the face of widely known socioeconomic problems" puzzles some people, but given the

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Neal Obermeyer





PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALAN DECKER

An earthen berm crowned by a Border Patrol road blocks the north end of Smuggler's Gulch.

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

continued on page 46



Former Border Patrol agent Mike Harris now leads customers on border tours for \$75 a pop.

NEWS TICKER

Seasonal Phenomenon

County Gains 8000 Jobs in November

San Diego — San Diego County gained 8000 jobs between October and November and 26,600 jobs from a year earlier, according to the California Employment Development Department.

The unemployment rate dropped to 9.2 percent in November, down from a revised 9.7 percent in October, and down from 10.6 percent a year ago. The biggest employment gains were in retail trade, with jobs rising 4500.

Of course, this is a seasonal phenomenon. Still, overall, the data was encouraging.

By Don Bauder
Friday, December 16

Repatriation Down

Fewer Mexicans Attempt Border Crossing

Baja — Tijuana's daily *Frontera* recently reported a 40 percent drop in what the Mexicans call *repatriaciones* — the process wherein Mexican nationals deported from the U.S. are officially received into Mexico. The paper concluded that the drop is an indication that U.S. employment opportunities for undocumented workers have diminished during 2011.

Through November, approximately 70,000 repatriations had been recorded this year in Tijuana's city registries; in 2010, 133,000 such cases were registered by year's end. Thus, it appears that there is a dearth of Mexican nationals willing to illegally cross the border into the U.S. due primarily to a lack of ready employment upon their arrival, opined Antonio Valadolid Rodriguez, a migration official in Tijuana.

By T.B. Beaudeau
Thursday, December 15

Kiss Assets Goodbye

Audit Finds Flaws in County Cash Handling

San Diego County — An examination by chief of audits James L. Pelletier of San Diego County's fixed assets has turned up a host of major flaws, including failure to adequately account for the fate of property marked for disposal, failing to document assets thrown away or scrapped, and duplicate payment of a vendor bill, all resulting in a potentially huge but unquantified loss to taxpayers.

Findings of the November 16 report were reached after interviews with property custodians, sampling of assets handled from 2006 through the present, and evaluation of the adequacy of internal financial controls, including the way in which a single county employee was allowed to handle cash.

By Matt Potter
Friday, December 16

Happy Talk

Do Manchester, Lynch Read Economic News?

Mission Valley — New *Union-Tribune* owner Papa Doug Manchester and his chief executive, John Lynch, discussed their plans for the newspaper today (Dec. 15) on KPBS's *Midday Edition*.

Manchester, local hotelier, and Lynch, radio entrepreneur, have had their ups and downs in business, and one wonders if they read economic news. The most interesting statement today was "There is no way to report the news if there is lots of negativity associated with that news."

In today's show, Manchester and Lynch reiterated their philosophy of cheerleading for local business and institutions and emphasizing sports. It appears that these biases are already showing up in business, sports, and Char-

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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 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-mentality hospitals often have ("expect the worst"), but I don't see doulas touting those instances in this article. As for the person who delivered her next baby at home, there is no mention of the potential disaster of that. Lots of problems with the article, and once again, it has to do with facts and current medical knowledge, not with my defense of Sharp Mary.

I am new to San Diego, and I won't be picking up

this paper again.

Name Withheld
via email

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.

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'd 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 their consumers express. On the other hand, delivery is a potentially scary event, and

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EDITOR

Jim Holman

NEWS & FEATURES EDITOR

Ernie Grimm

SENIOR EDITOR

Matt Potter

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Scott Ellis, Heather Goodwillie, Robert Mizrahi, Robert Nutting

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS

Hector Lam, Chris Woo

CONTRIBUTORS

Don Bauder, Ed Bedford, Jane Belanger, John Brizzolara, Patrick Daugherty, Joe Deegan, W.S. Di Piero, Barbara Fokos, Mary Grimm, Moss Gropen, Dorian Hargrove, Thomas Larson, Deirdre Lickona, Matthew Lickona, Bill Manson, Linda Nevin, Elizabeth Salaam, Jeff Smith, Leslie Venolia, Naomi Wise

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Deborah Condit

PRODUCTION ARTISTS

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ACCOUNTING MANAGER

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by Barbarella

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 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 severely unstable, potentially violent husband hunting 'bad guys.' When you go in, all you have to do is tell the truth. No one's going to be mad at you for that. Well, Rick might be, but who cares what he thinks — dude's crazy." ■

Find more stories by Barbarella at SDReader.com/barbarella

"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."

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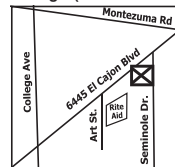
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STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP BY MATTHEW ALICE

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-preferring, 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 knock out 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 kidlets 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 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 of course 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 Tippy'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) "Tippy" in San Diego*

Find more Matthew Alice online at SDReader.com/hip

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

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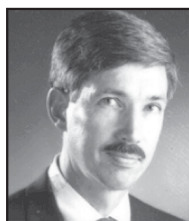


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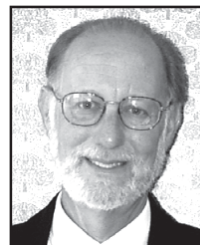
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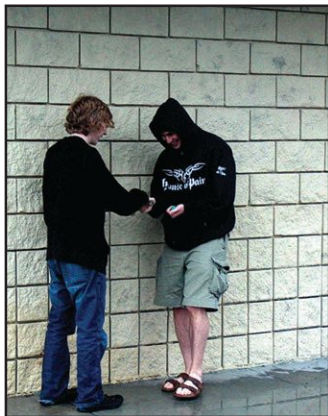


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SD ON THE QT

Almost factual news

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?’ Whatever. 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 unbelievably amazing smell of frying applewood-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 protestors, seeking to break their wills and fill their bellies.

“Oh God oh God oh God,” moaned Kramer as police set up fans behind their frypans, waft-

ing 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 non-profitable 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 Donaldson 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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<p>PACIFIC BEACH TUESDAY FARMERS' MARKET</p> <p>Bayard Street from Garnet to Hornblend</p> <p>Every Tuesday Rain or Shine 2 pm to 6:30 pm</p>	<p>Buy one natural pulled pork sandwich, get one 1/2 off! at Little Italy, North Park and Pacific Beach Weekly</p> <p>Valid through December 29, 2011 only. One coupon per customer per booth.</p> <p>Ranchwood Deli & Catering Located at State & Date</p>	<p>\$1 OFF any 2 Paninis At Little Italy and NOW! at North Park weekly</p> <p>Valid through December 29, 2011 only. One coupon per customer per booth.</p> <p>Seb's Paninis</p>	<p>\$1 OFF any orange purchase of \$5 or more. Valid through December 29, 2011 only. One coupon per customer per booth.</p> <p>Polito Family Farms</p> <p>Little Italy at the SW corner of Date & Columbia</p>
<p>California raised grass-fed beef, free range chicken and natural pork.</p> <p>SonRise Ranch</p> <p>Little Italy at Date and India, and Pacific Beach every Tuesday</p>	<p>Moncai Vegan</p> <p>at Pacific Beach and North Park markets weekly</p> <p>Valid through December 29, 2011 only. One coupon per customer per booth.</p> <p>Buy 2 Dinner, get 1 Free Dessert</p>	<p>Take advantage of all these amazing deals at Little Italy, North Park and Pacific Beach Tuesday Farmers' Markets this week!</p> <p>sdweeklymarkets.com</p> <p>Visit the North Park Farmers Market Thursdays 3 pm to 7pm the Little Italy Mercato Saturdays 9 am to 1:30 pm and the Pacific Beach Tuesday Farmers' Market 2 pm to 6:30 pm</p> <p>Year round, rain or shine.</p> <p>SD Weekly Markets</p>	

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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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DIEGO

TITLE: **Indestructible Ideas!** | ADDRESS: indestructibleideas.com

AUTHOR: **Gino Montessi** | FROM: **Bonita** | BLOGGING SINCE: **September 2011**

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, derogative, 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 love 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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SportingBox

BY PATRICK DAUGHERTY

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 busy 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 karmic 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. SDSU is betting on the come, betting that the Big East will continue to have an automatic BCS 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 rejoins the Big West for everything else in their athletic department, minus four women's programs. I said rejoins 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.

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Helix players celebrate the Highlanders' Division II state championship.

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, and Helix quickly responded. On the ensuing drive, the Highlanders jumped back in front on a Lewis 73-yard pass to Gary Thompson in the middle of the field — one play after a holding penalty negated a long touchdown pass.

"It was a different play, but Coach Starr knew they were open in the middle," Thompson said. "They weren't really keying on me, and I am a key factor in this offense. They used me very well, and we made plays."

Helix extended its lead to 21-10 with a 66-yard scoring drive capped by a Michael Adkins three-yard touchdown run with 2:54 left in the second quarter. The Highlanders had more speed than the Golden Eagles could handle, and it started to show before halftime.

Helix struck again before halftime, moving 67 yards in three plays to make it 28-10 on a Lewis 32-yard screen pass to Kendal Keys with 1:11 to play in the half. Lewis threw for 201 passing yards

in the second quarter, completing all six of his pass attempts as Helix raced out to a comfortable lead.

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 bagpipe players lead the Highlanders onto the field for the Division II State Bowl.



Helix band members make some noise in the stands of the Home Depot Center during the Division II State Bowl.

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—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 Eskimos?” 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** for a 20-inch tree on Amazon.)

“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/ Had a very shiny nose...”

“I’ll find a reindeer outfit for her.” (Top Paw reindeer coat, **\$16.99–\$17.99** at petsmart.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.” “Deck the halls with

“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.”

boughs of holly...”

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

“Figgy pudding, of course,” laughed Alexis. “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, of course,” I said. “Wassail! Wassail! All over the town/ Our toast it is white /And our ale it is 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.)

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Style Stalker

BY KENDRA CLARK

FESTIVE & FASHIONABLE

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).



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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.

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

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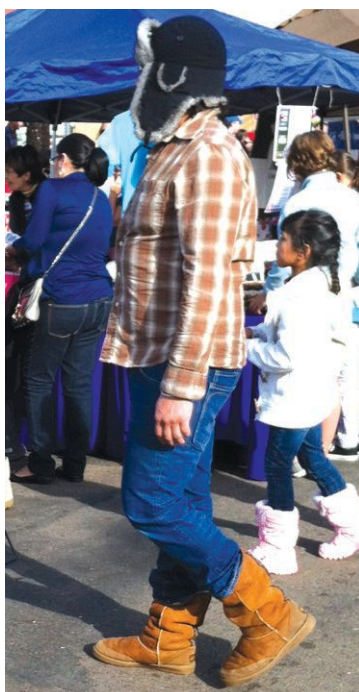
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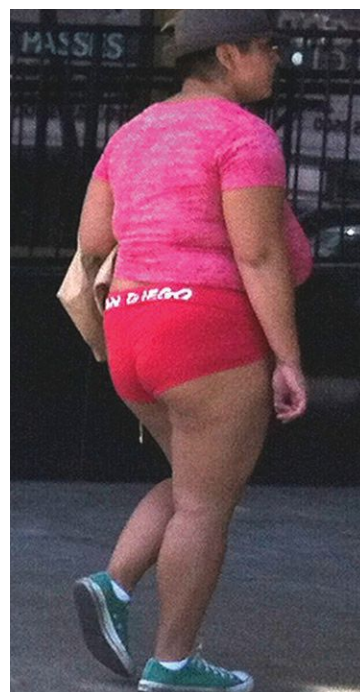
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Scott: The first inkling that Christmas was not a holiday for Hebrews came from a neighbor kid,

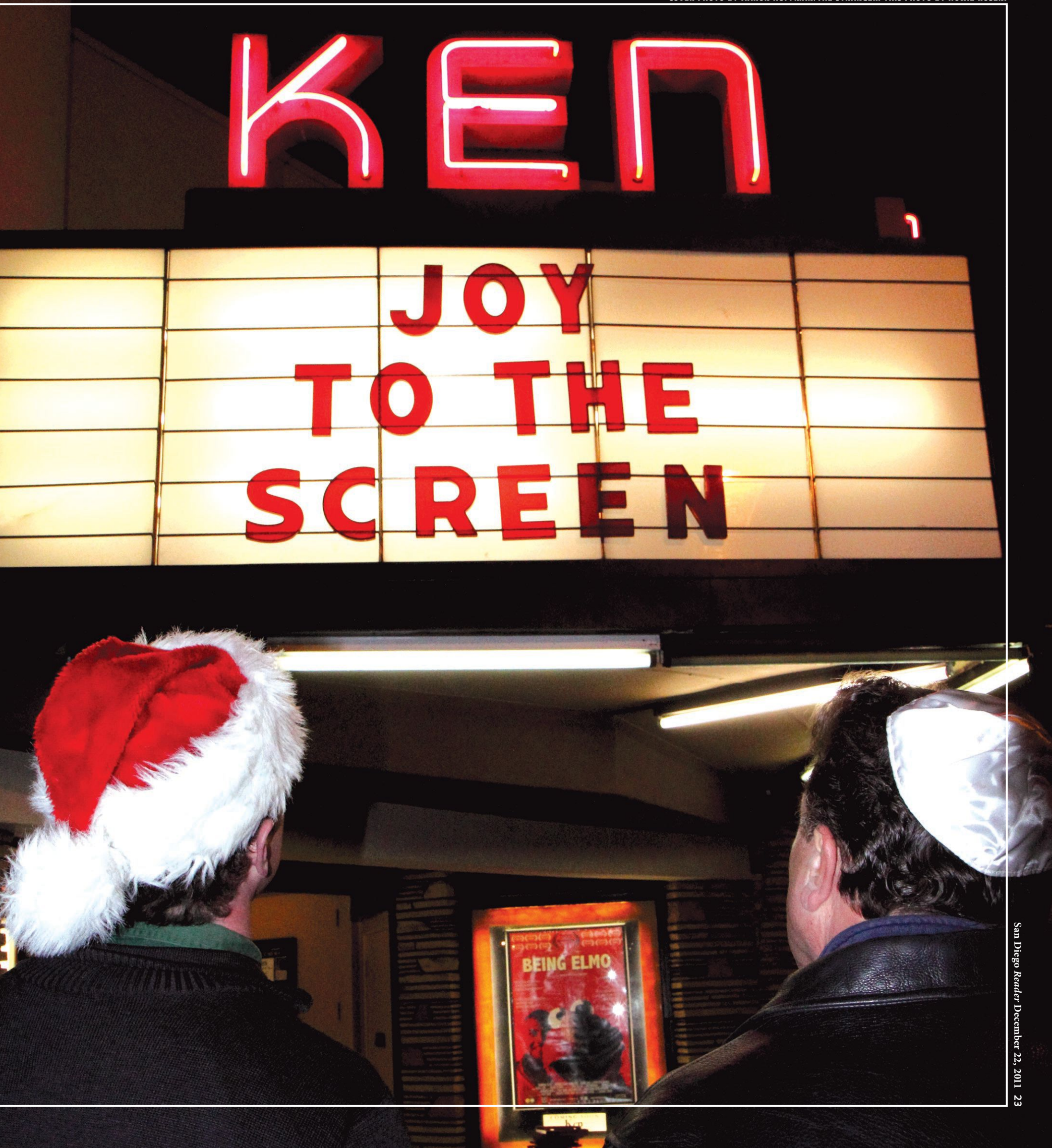
the fine Aryan specimen Timothy Murphy: "My Uncle Roy says Jews celebrate Christmas by staying home and counting their money." In truth, if I had Roy's money — at least the chunk that wasn't deposited at Foremost Liquors — I'd have thrown my own stash away.

Matthew: So much for peace on Earth — them's 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 waiting 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 hammered 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 she would rather pay



retail for my Hanukkah gifts.) Dad's sister Mimi married outside the faith,

the best of both worlds: eight days of unparalleled Hanukkah gelt,

"Wow, they make it all the way through without mentioning Jesus or even going to church — some Christmas movie."

and along with her husband Andy Galuzzi, turned their home into a veritable Christmas wonderland. Her intermarrying afforded me

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



Author Scott Marks, age 9, trying desperately to assimilate

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

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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?

and gift-giving? Speaking of gift-giving, isn’t that what Christmas is all about? Hey, how about the Wizard as Santa? Not quite what you believed him to be, but still a powerful force for gladness and joy.

Scott: The one film

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-

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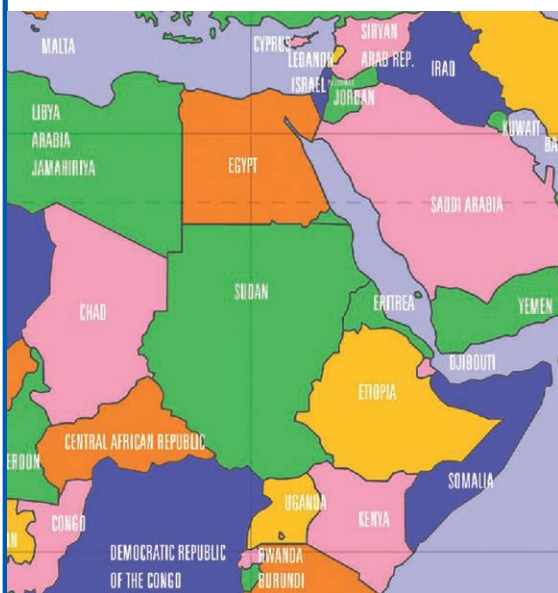
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not touch it.”

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,



Bing Crosby, Virginia Dale, Marjorie Reynolds, and Fred Astaire in Mark Sandrich's *Holiday Inn*.

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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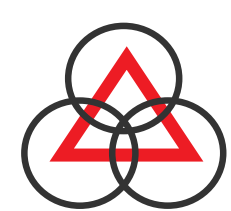
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Bob Hope and Marilyn Maxwell perform "Silver Bells" in Sidney Lanfield and Frank Tashlin's *The Lemon Drop Kid*.

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

the crane elevates the camera within inches of piercing the studio roof.

You want a character ripe for Christmas redemption? Try the Lemon Drop Kid.

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.

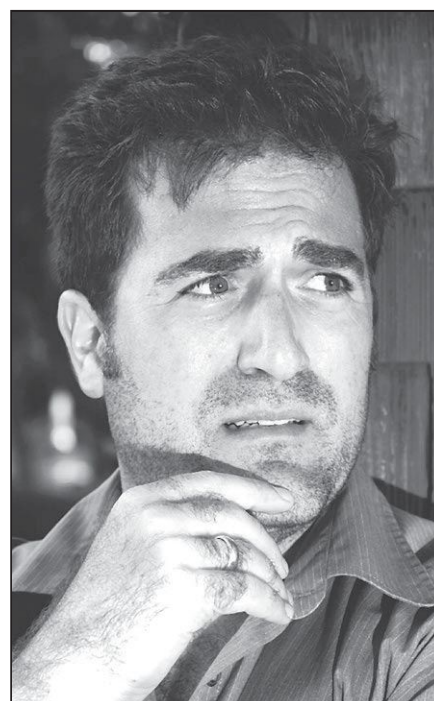
Hope, in full Santa regalia, and alongside leading lady (and off-screen paramour) Marilyn Maxwell, stroll arm-in-arm crooning his signature Christmas tune, through art directors Hal Pereira and Franz Bachelin's meticulous soundstage simulation of a bustling Manhattan snowscape. For its climax, a heavenly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

The farther back we get, the more muffled the city's sounds become. Music and picture gently entwine as a dissolve reveals a miniature cityscape blanketed by white. When it comes to snow, Tashlin's man-made dusting is the closest this lapsed-Midwesterner will ever get to feeling sentimental effusion.

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 down-market 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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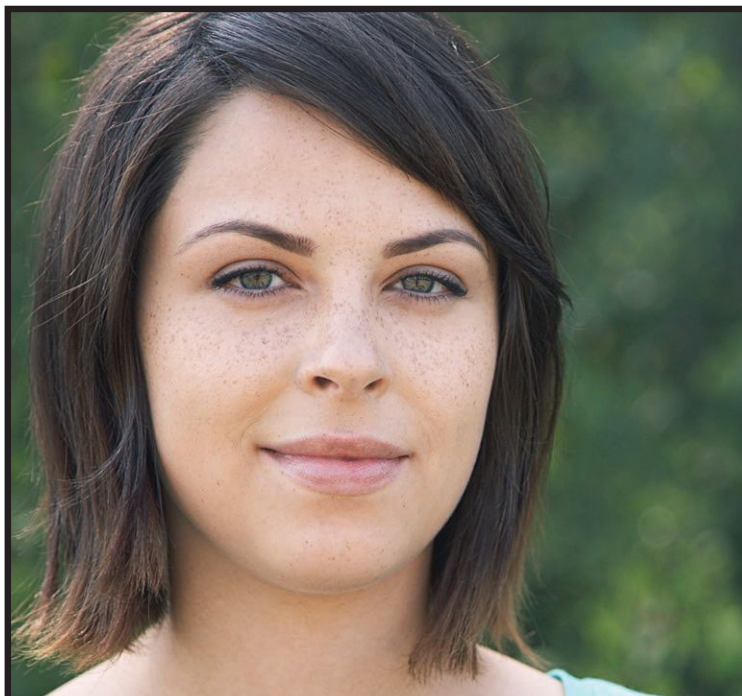
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but I will say that it is my absolute favorite use of the Shopping Days 'Til Christmas countdown. I cannot thank you enough for turning me on to this.

Scott: If ever there was a case to sue a movie studio for false advertising, it's 1944's *Christmas Holiday*. Cute and perky songstress Deanna Durbin stars opposite hooper Gene Kelly's Cheshire grin. But instead of a light, frothy studio musical, audiences were treated to a rare holiday noir. Dave Kehr referred to it as "a must for anyone who has suffered through (Durbin's) *One Hundred Men and a Girl*."

Directed by noir mainstay Robert Siodmak, *Christmas Holiday* is loosely based on a story by W. Somerset

Maugham, retooled for the movies to include heaps of World War II propaganda by screenwriter Herman J. Mankiewicz (who a few years earlier had a hand in *Citizen Kane*). Kelly plays a bow-tied psycho-killer whose prison break coincides with the holidays. Told in intricate flashback structure, the story relates how cabaret singer Durbin recruits the aid of a serviceman passing through New Orleans (Dean Harens, barely registering on screen) to help thwart her husband Kelly's revenge-fueled break. Hardly the stuff mistletoe and holly is made of.

There is one astounding moment of cinematic splendor that demands your attention. The lovers sit amidst a

crowded symphony hall, awaiting a performance of selections from Wag-

a brief displacement in your seat — reminiscent of Kubrick monkeying

What's the quickest way to reduce an audience to tears? Kill a dog!

ner's *Tristan and Isolde*. The conductor raises his baton, and with four jump cuts, we are rapidly drawn into the performance. But edit #5 whisks the audience to an intimate restaurant where the bandleader is kicking off a romantic violin rendition of Irving Berlin's "Always." The startling leap causes

around with that bone and a spacecraft — and it's one that's sure to remind you what's on screen is far tastier than a leftover hunk of *stollen*.

Matthew: Movie-wise, yeah, that switch to the restaurant band is wonderful. Christmas-wise, what demands your attention is the church-going. Soldier Harens gets roped into visiting a brothel on Christmas Eve, but when he shows himself a decent sort of chap, one of the girls asks if he'll take her to Midnight Mass. It's a full-on (and dragged-out) smells-and-bells routine, but set against all that solemn pomp is Durbin's raw emotion; it isn't long before she's sobbing in her pew. "I didn't cry for the reason you think," she tells him later. "Those people were sharing something — feelings, praying together. I've been alone as long as I can remember." She starts the film as an out-cast, covered in shame. She ends — well, Christmas is for everyone, even whores doing penance for past sins.

Scott: What's the quickest way to reduce an audience to tears? Kill a dog! *Boys Town* climaxed with nauseating child star Bobs Watson practically becoming a hood ornament. When it came time for a formu-

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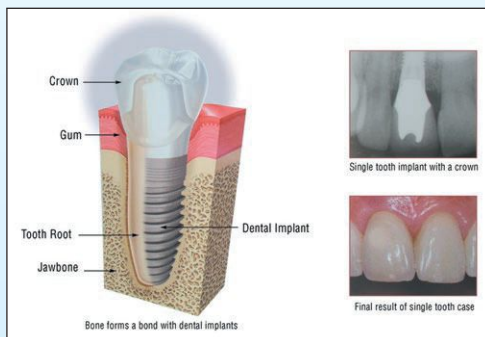
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laic sequel, the screenwriters didn't expect star players Spencer Tracy or Mickey Rooney to take a dive. The task fell to tail-wagging little Bohunk, who wound up taking one for the team, crushed to death under the wheels of a big rig. And were the 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 screenplays, 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 Clamptt, 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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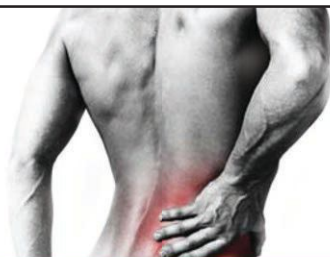
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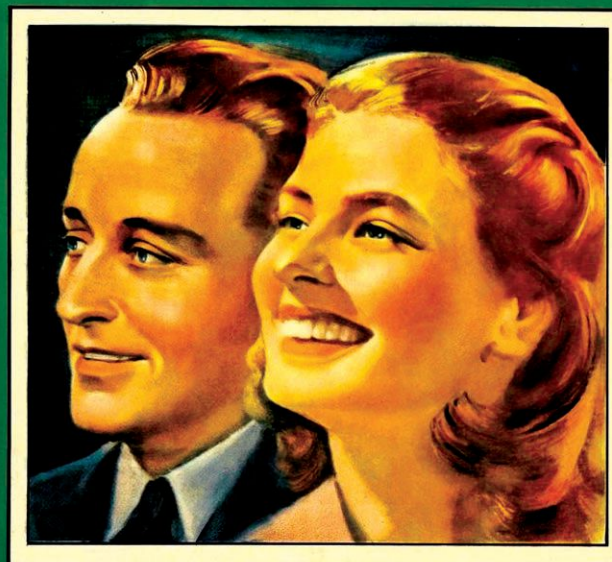
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and-white dupe floating around YouTube.

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*, *Mon-*

sieur 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 fac-

tory 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 a success in pictures to 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 cameras filming an indoor snowstorm adds the surrealistic touch of a funhouse mirror, peeling back layers to reveal moviedom's elusive and

ever-glorious artistry.

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 join-

ing the Roman Catholic order, took an active interest in sports, song,

a priest and a nun have of seeing the arc-light of day in a town where cou-

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.

and dames. Metropolitan Opera great Risë 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

ples 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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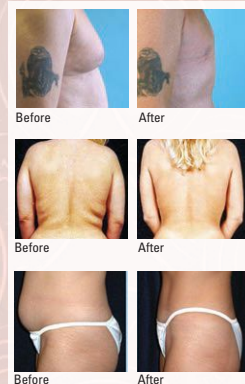
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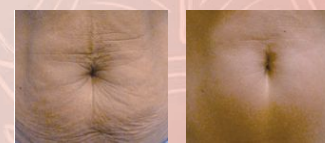
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no way this subject matter could have possibly ended in anything but

obscure it, but there's a mysterious pregnancy at the heart of Christmas. I

"Keep still!" the rabbi would bark. "God understands what you're saying so you don't have to."

auditorium floors littered with soaked Kleenex.

Matthew: For a movie starring a priest and a nun, there is amazingly 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 the 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

rabbis taught, as far as traditions and customs go, is still rattling around inside my brain. After having spent six hours behind a public-school desk, the thought of killing another two in a classroom at Ezras Israel didn't sit well. I have Rabbi Lichstein to thank for my ability to read Hebrew, but God forbid the great explainer could have turned momentary cryptographer to clue his homeroom in on a little translation. "Keep still!" he would bark. "God understands what you're saying so you don't have to."

The biggest mitigating circumstance was an ill-fated screening of a 16mm dye-transfer Technicolor print of *Munster, Go Home!*, the centerpiece of the congregation's annual Purim carnival. Rabbi Lichstein may have been well versed in God's commandments, but when it came to putting on a show, his actions were as revolting to me as washing down a slab of pork loin ribs with a glass of buttermilk was to him. The lights in the Beth



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STUDIO NEWS

Hamedrash dimmed, and the image that hit the screen was both upside down, backwards, and, as if it mattered, out

of focus. Master tumbler 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

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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 between 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 verboten* 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-tsis 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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a passerby in a car, and one who, incidentally, never signed on for any of this mishigas. The 39 Melachot also includes a rider barring one from taking in a Shabbas matinee, a deal breaker if ever there was one. Apart from getting cool gifts in the event of a Bar Mitzvah, I have never for a second drank from the Mogen David-filled cup of organized religion.

I think of this blinding moment of confirmation each year when Frosty the Snowman and full-scale plastic replicas of Santa with a lightbulb in his hollow belly begin popping up on porches. I'm not going play the "Jews for Jesus" card, but if the day is set aside to commemorate His birth, what's with all this talk of Donner and Blitzen, and eaves dripping with strings of mini Italian-lightbulb icicles? Coming from a devout cinephile, who hath spent every second of his life's calling in the service of celluloid, I never could cotton to this part-time approach, particularly when it comes to the man upstairs. If Jesus Christ is indeed the reason for the season, my Christmas picks had to include at least one cinematic telling of His life.

It takes nearly 200 of the film's 205 minute running time for John Wayne to make his infamous cameo in *The Greatest Story Ever Told*. The Duke's starched delivery of his one and only line ("Truly this man was the Son of God") remains the sole reason to subject yourself to George Stevens's pious snoozer. (Though I'd sit through it 100 times before ever again stepping into Mel Gibson's *The Zombification of the Christ*.) Betting men



PHOTO COURTESY WATER BEANER FILMS

Enrique Irazoqui as Jesus Christ in Pier Paolo Pasolini's *The Gospel According to St. Matthew*.

would lay million-to-one odds that Scorsese's *The Last Temptation of Christ* would end the show. As much as I admire Marty's alternate take on spirituality, when all is said and done, it amounts to little more than a handful of New Testament *bubba meises* reverentially transcribed by The Master.

I almost went with Jeffrey Hunter in Nicholas Ray's stunning *King of Kings* (aka *I Was a Teenage Jesus*), but as that mock title suggests, the film doesn't do much to put the holy in Hollywood. Pier Paolo Pasolini's *The Gospel According to St. Matthew*, an epic, cinéma vérité portrait of the life of Christ, told from the point of view of a devout Marxist and avowed atheist, takes home first prize. Pasolini brings us so close to the subject, at times you'd swear Jesus hired a second-unit camera crew to document His every move.

With hand-held cinematography currently a dominating mode of visual expression, directors in search of immediacy generally start by tossing their tripods out the window in favor of the economical, lightweight (in every sense of the word) "palsy-cam" approach. In *The Gospel*, documentary realism and stylistic intervention (the Negro spiritual "Some-

times I Feel Like a Motherless Child" is heard softly in the background as Mary gives birth) converge to form a stark, fly-on-the-wall sense of intimacy.

The Gospel is a revolutionary biblical epic told by a nonpracticing Catholic, who, by his own admission, has a tendency "always to see something sacred, and mythic, and epic in everything, even the most humdrum, simple, banal objects and events." The illusion of reality was not enough for Pasolini, who was pained to discover that he'd be forced to resort to movie trickery upon learning that, even under the influence of hypnosis, his lead actor could not walk on water.

Matthew: "Something sacred, and mythic, and epic in everything..." We're right back to *The Wizard of Oz* — the more vivid reality behind everyday things. Right back to the notion that the Incarnation lends an infinite significance to human activity. And if an atheist-Marxist gets that telling the story of Jesus' life (including His birth) is a way to point to that sacred, mythic character, well, I think I can rest my case. Christmas is for everyone. Merry Christmas! ■

— Matthew Lickona
and Scott Marks

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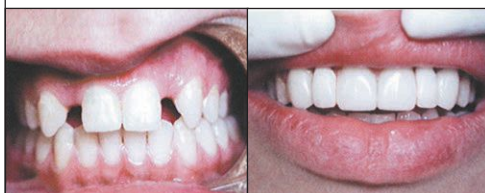
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The Death Ship Comes Alive

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
Jeff
Smith

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



Xoconostles, a type of prickly pear

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-

ties presented at San Diego.”

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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Since Columbus had proved the world was round, cartographers assumed that the globe's upper half would resemble the lower. The southern half had 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 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,

"To hear such cries and lamentations would move the very stones to compassion and pity."

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 scurvy-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

women. 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 at this spot. The natives 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

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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 writhed in bunks or blankets on the floor. Their shouts blurred into babble. The smells — death, excrement, decaying food, and human skin — fogged the air. As in times of plague, the dead became the most common sight. Comrades on a long, dangerous voyage blinked out. And most of their fellows were too far gone to mark the passing.

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

await 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 boat-swain, 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 "Vermillion 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 perish 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 — edibles and clothing from Castile — 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, Martin 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

found themselves much improved," writes Ascensión. Neither "doctors nor

The mule master gave them tortillas, fruit, and wine, and they dined like epicures.

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 smiles 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 *Santo Tomás* had told them, they'd 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 Montesclaros, countermanded the order. Vizcaíno was too inept for such a challenge.

Montesclaros said Vizcaíno tried to bribe him and charged the cosmographer, Geronimo 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

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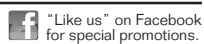
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Hang on tight

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

moderate a debate" at the group's Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo "due to his knowledge and expertise." In his declaration, Gilchrist said he came to "share my knowledge and expertise on public policy initiatives on agriculture and science issues." Gilchrist flew coach and spent an extra night in San Diego "due to distance of travel AND time of presentation on Monday, September 26, 2011"...Behesting, the practice of corporations and other special interests giving to charities in the name of state legislators, continues to be alive and well in San Diego County. According to a list posted online on November 28 by the state's Fair Political Practices Commission, Republican state senator **Joel Anderson** was recognized by the Barona Band of Mission Indians as being responsible for the tribe's \$5000 gift to the University of San Diego and Grossmont Union High School District for a career center. Barona also gave \$5000, on Anderson's behalf to Rio Seco Elementary School in Santee to "fund the purchase of materials to facilitate the teaching of literacy."

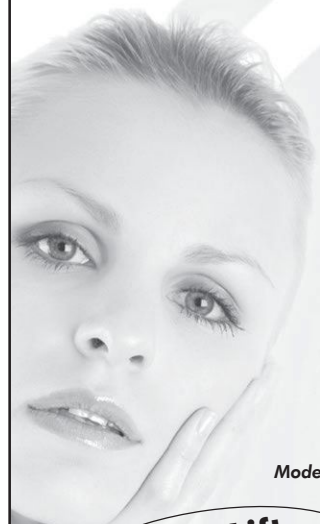
— Matt Potter

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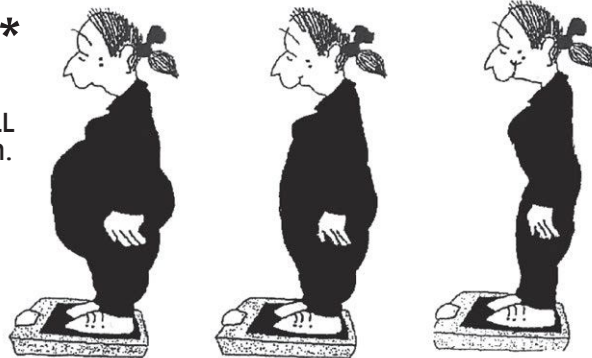


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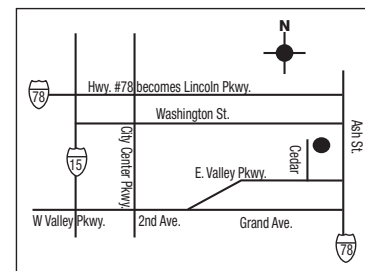
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CITY LIGHTS

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.

"I've probably caught more than 10,000 people during my years," Harris says. "Some nights, especially back in the late '80s, there would be 800 to 1000 people running across."

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,

CITY LIGHTS

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 Colonia 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

CITY LIGHTS

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

gers stadium-subsidy stories in the U-T.

The publication *Poynter* reported today that the USC Annenberg Center for the Digital Future says that most print newspapers will be gone in five years. Unless the Manchester-Lynch philosophy attracts advertisers who only want happy talk (especially about themselves), the U-T print edition may not make it through those five years.

By Don Bauder

Thursday, December 15

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 come from ZIP codes specifically targeted for their low income status. Thirty percent in all live within the boundaries of the school district, and 94

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CITY LIGHTS

percent of workers hail from somewhere in San Diego County.

By Dave Rice
Wednesday, December 14

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-line-backer — 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 sledgehammer.”

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

CITY LIGHTS

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 Luzzaro
Tuesday, December 13

Naked Justice

Gay Prider’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

CITY LIGHTS

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

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

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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

Be Prepared

While I was prepared by the title of your December 15 cover story ("The Unkindest Cut") for an exposé-style piece, I found the intermingling 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

Like It, Like It

Re the "Blurt" story on Joe Stevens's TV show (December 15). I really liked this article. Very good article!

Alan
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. We'd like to do something to help her.

Janis Musante

Carlsbad

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 conventioners 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

Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

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: 8 to 10 p.m.

WHERE: Seaside Center for Spiritual Living, 1613 Lake Drive, Encinitas. 760-753-5786; seasidecenter.com



Steve Blanchard. Our own Jeff Smith says he is “Nasty enough to inspire trepidation but establishes instant rapport with his audience and cements the connection with laughter.”

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

Friday | 23

98 BOTTLES REVUE

San Diego’s most promising young musical theater prodigies perform an evening of holiday music and other selections. Former Broadway performer Steve Anthony hosts an evening of the finest current and former students from UCLA, Stephens College, and Boston Conservatory.

WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHERE: 98 Bottles, 2400 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy. 619-255-7885; 98bottlessd.com

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:



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 Keemoworks, William Bucher, Nite Owl, Konstant



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27: OVERSPRAY: A STENCIL ART SHOW

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

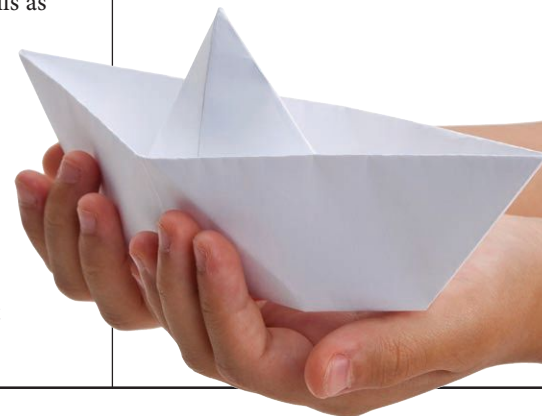
Wednesday | 28

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



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TRAVEL STORIES AND TIPS FROM OUR READERS



"I 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 scraggy 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

continued on page 52.

Other Adventures



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



Damien: La Fortuna, Costa Rica



Ronalyn: Located next to the Midway aircraft-carrier museum

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ROAM-O-RAMA

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

FROM THE TRAILMASTER'S FAVORITES FOLDER

Public access to Adobe Creek Falls is currently problematical.

Originally published: January 2, 1997

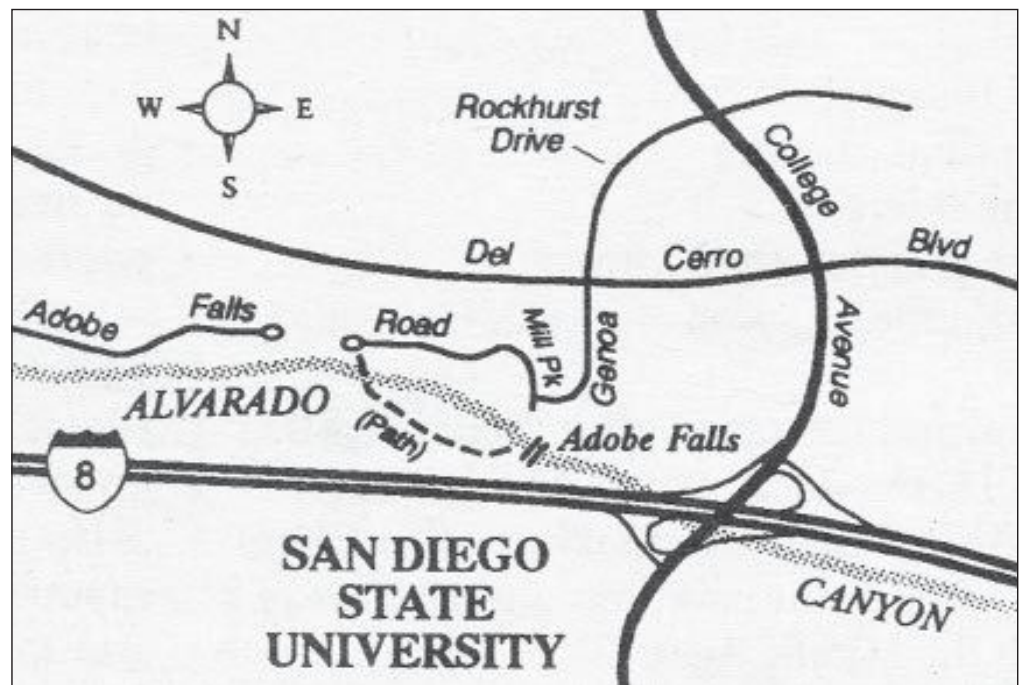
Just north of San Diego State University, the runoff shed by some 15 square miles of chaparral-covered hillsides and suburban streets placidly crosses under ten lanes of Interstate 8 west of College Avenue. Then it tumbles, virtually unseen by anyone today, through a narrow little gorge, forming the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



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

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 24, 8:30am; **free**. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SANTEE)

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 Regional Park, One Father Junípero 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 Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Drink and Draw Pink Boom-Box hosts weekly costumed figure



Coyotes feast on holly berries, birds plant mistletoe — gain “glimpses into the strange and exotic lives of San Diego plants and wildlife” at Holiday Trail Tales.

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 Sunday, December 30, \$5. 21 and up. Air Conditioned Lounge, 4673 30th Street. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

Drumming in the Light Celebrate “birth of light in the dark-

est 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 pro-

vided. Suggested donation: \$15. Thursday, December 22, 8pm; Seaside Center for Spiritual Living, 1613 Lake Drive. (ENCINITAS)

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

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,



Kayakers near downtown Missoula

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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Enter by Wednesday, December 28th at 1PM.



Enjoy ice-skating outdoors adjacent to Horton Plaza.

858-231-6209. Thursday, December 22, 7pm; **free**. 18 and up. Filter, 4096 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

Family Sing-Along Parish hosts its annual sing-along concert. 858-509-4982. Thursday, December 22, 7pm; **free**. St. Thérèse of Carmel, 4355 Del Mar Trails Road. (CARMEL VALLEY)

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

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

(up to five people), \$19 per vehicle with six or more people, \$49 per bus. 858-792-4252. Daily, 5:30pm, through Sunday, January 1, Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

New Year's Eve Soiree! Ages 40-65. Simply The Best Singles, an upscale organization for singles looking for relationships, marriage and more, offers this dance/mixer at the beautiful Carmel Mountain Ranch Country Club. Celebrate the New Year with entertainer Pete Peterkin, a Finalist on America's Got Talent! Complimentary appetizers, lock & key, champagne toast and more! \$52. Must pre-pay at www.SimplyTheBestSingles.com or call 818-577-6877. Saturday, December 31, 8:30pm to 12:30am. Carmel Mountain Ranch Country Club, 14050 Carmel Ridge Road. (CARMEL VALLEY)

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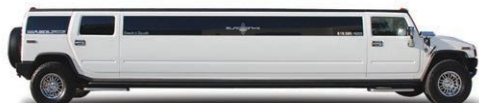
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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

ART MUSEUMS

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

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

"Mexican Modern Painting" Exhibition features selection of 80 paintings dated 1907-1956 from the renowned Andrés Blaisten Collection. View work by artists including María Izquierdo, Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros, Rufino Tamayo, Alfonso Michel,

Federico Cantú, Angel Zárraga through Sunday, February 19.

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

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

"Phenomenal: California Light, Space, Surface" Enjoy in-depth look at 13 artists whose work with light as a medium in the 1960s and '70s defined an era of art making in California. Featured artists: Peter Alexander, Larry Bell, Ron Cooper, Mary Corse, Robert Irwin, Craig Kauffman, John McCracken, Bruce Nau-

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

man, Eric Orr, Helen Pashgian, James Turrell, De Wain Valentine, Doug Wheeler. "Combining key works from the museum's collection" with major loans from public and private collections, exhibit "includes immersive light installations together with rare, ephemeral, and site-conditioned works, some seen in California for

the first time in decades." Through Sunday, January 22.

View "Jennifer Steinkamp: Madame Curie," a new digital video animation through Monday, January 2, inspired by Steinkamp's recent research into atomic energy, atomic explosions, and the effects of these forces on nature. The "enveloping panoramic work will activate a field of moving flowers

and flowering trees." **Free**-\$10. Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown, 1100 and 1001 Kettner Boulevard. (DOWNTOWN)

"San Diego's Craft Revolution" This exhibition reveals important contributions of San Diego craftsmen to the post-war Southern California art scene. Show explores progression from sleek modernism to unconven-

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

"A Fantastic Voyage — The Art of Ynez Johnston" surveys six decades of the artist's wood and bronze sculptures, paintings, prints, ceramics from 1940s to

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Portrait of Natasha by Diego Rivera, one of the featured artists in San Diego Museum of Art's "Mexican Modern Painting" exhibit.

2010, including recent works that have never publicly been shown. Closes Sunday, June 17.

"Maneki Neko — Japan's Beckoning Cats — from Talisman to Pop Icon" includes selections from a collection of 155 cats given to

museum by collector Billie Moffitt. Made in the 19th and 20th centuries, each cat is unique; most are made of clay, but some are wood, metal, ceramic, papier mâché. A fabricated cat with a paw upraised in the Japanese gesture of beckon-

ing has been considered a good luck charm, drawing good fortune to individuals and businesses, since the Edo period (1603-1868). Enjoy the cats through Sunday, January 15. **Free-\$7.** Mingei International Museum, 1439 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

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

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)

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Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day
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SHEEP and GOATS

The Atharva-veda

The great guardian among these gods sees as if from anear. He that thinketh he is moving stealthily — all this the gods know. If a man stands, walks, or sneaks about, if he goes slinking away, if he goes into his hiding place; if two

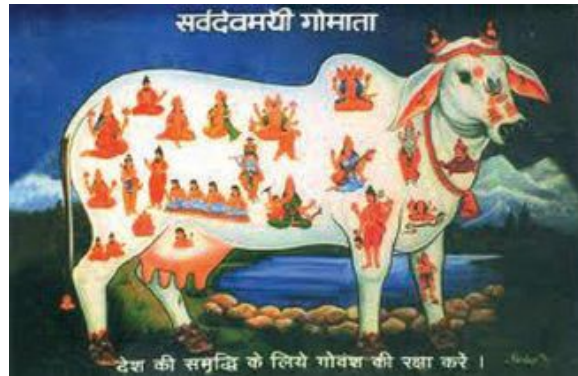
persons sit together and sachim, King Varuna is there as a third, and knows it. Both this earth here belongs to King Varuna, and also yonder broad sky whose boundaries are far away.... King Varuna sees through all that is between heaven and earth, and all that is

beyond. He has counted the winkings of men’s eyes. As a winning gamester puts down his dice, thus does he establish these laws.

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 magic precludes it from being used in solemn rituals and so remains an ambiguous text in Hindu practice and belief.

Find more excerpts online at
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Wonderful Wagashi

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

DINING REVIEW

KIRK K

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: Snacks and confections

VIBE: Little neighborhood snack shop — if, that is, you grew up in my neighborhood on Oahu

PRICES: 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*.

Find more restaurant reviews online at SDReader.com/food

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 *suama*, 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!



Hogetsu Bakery



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 gooey, 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.

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. ■



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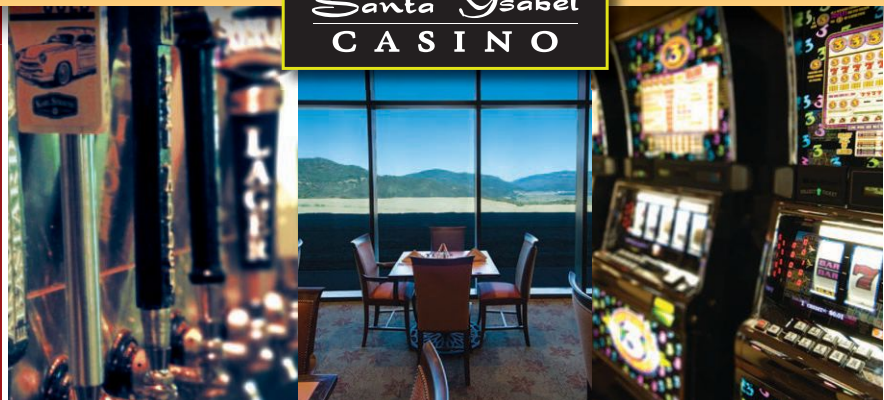
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A SAMPLING: RECENT RESTAURANT BLOGS

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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.



Here's to you, Hal!

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).

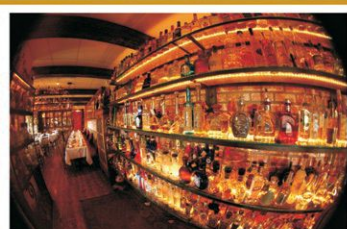
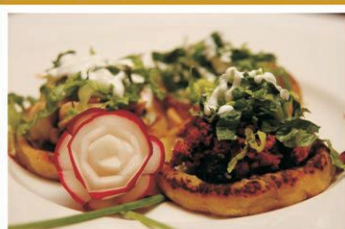
My first impression, after our lovely hostess took us to our banquette, is that LJSC seems to have an identity crisis. It doesn't know if it wants to be a Las Vegas style steakhouse (flashy red, black, and

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),

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and I had the bone-in ribeye (14 oz., \$19.95) and a side of Strip Club garlic and herb fries (\$5.95, serves two to three people). Sides are à la carte and are served family style. The steaks are 21-day aged, corn-fed Angus beef, marinated in olive oil, balsamic vinegar, and herbs and brought to the table wrapped in plastic, ready to grill. All entrées come with a salad, served family style (standard mix of romaine, carrot, cucumber, tomato, red and green bell pepper, house dressing) and ready-to-grill garlic bread. The grill area provides dry and wet seasonings, teriyaki sauce, Tabasco, garlic salt, cajun mix, and a number of others I can't remember. I just used salt and pepper.

The steaks were good, tender and juicy with rich aged flavor, but since I cooked them myself I have no way of knowing whether the kitchen can grill steak properly or not. The fries, unfortunately, were not fries; they were fried potato wedges, a huge difference in my book. They had that weird mystery coating more typical of curly fries on them and were served in one of those big cones that have suddenly become popular, with ketchup hanging off the sides for dear life. We weren't given a serving utensil, which made it a little awkward to eat. Digging into a bunch of potato wedges with my fingers is fine when I'm watching the game with John, or even on a date, but when you have guests at the

table, well, no. I couldn't taste any garlic or herbs. On the plus side, they were screaming hot.

After we were done, Kaitlyn brought Hal a nice complimentary dessert: an ice cream sandwich topped with whipped cream and a candle. With three forks and no additional plates. Were we supposed to all eat it off the same plate? Ew. We had to ask for two more plates. We weren't asked if we wanted a dessert menu or coffee before she brought the check, and getting a cup (\$2.50) took at least ten minutes. I'm going to call this a training/management issue, rather than a server issue, because Kaitlyn was truly friendly and attentive.

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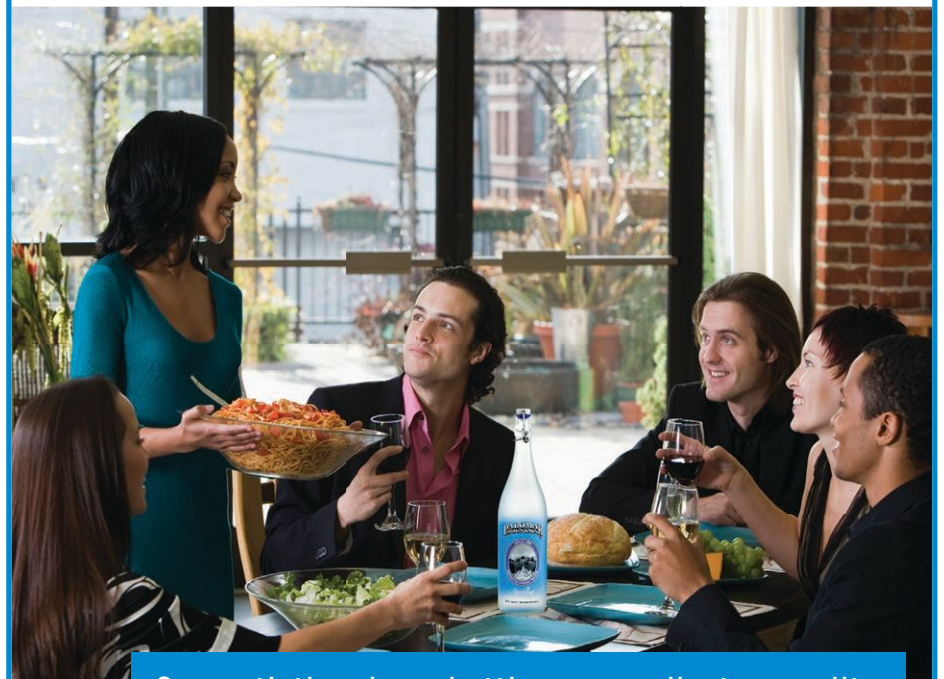
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reaction to take place, so one expects some trick-versus-treat nose candy, but this went a tad too far. Still, the flavors were bold and enjoyable, especially for such an early effort. I'll be keeping my eyes (just not my nostrils) on these guys.

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

The Lady From Rome

Changes keep on comin' in Little Italy.

I was at Caffè 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, winery. 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 piz-

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. One'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 Vincenzo himself — Anthony and 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 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 Calzada 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 Yale 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

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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

Naomi Wise reviewed restaurants
for the *Reader* from October, 2000
through November, 2011.

Before that she wrote for the
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just have to be careful and diligent. 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.

"Well, does that apply to dogs and cats?" asks Crawford. "Does that apply to crows or the hawk 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.

"So 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 pretty drunk people are getting up to leave.

"I'm sorry. I'm sorry!" one of them practically sobs at a girl. He looks like Harry Potter's sidekick, Ron Weasley. "I'm really, really sorry. Uh, can I have a hug?"

Dion comes up to me. "Hope you're not going to give me trouble," she says.

I just need a snack, but I can't afford their Southern main dishes like crawdads or ribs. They run \$13, \$20 a plate.

Can't even afford a beer at this end of the day, truth be known. So I ask for water and a plate of Gator Bites (\$7.99). Here's what the menu says about them: "Dat der be deep fry'd alligator baby! Served with chipotle ranch fer dippin'. Oh, go ahead and try 'em, ya sissy!"

The gator tastes great. No fishiness. More like chicken. It's cooked in batter, and when you dunk it in the chipotle dip, it's delicious.

"So, who is Dick?" I ask Dion.

"He's a guy in Texas who started this fine dining place, in Dallas," says Dion. "Wasn't doing that great. Then they had some kind of an accident. A wall fell. It destroyed the business. So they took what they could, kinda set it back up haphazardly, got a bunch of crummy, loud-mouthed waiters, and created a new atmosphere. They didn't care that they weren't cool or smooth, and it worked. Still going after 25 years; [there are now] 11

Dick's Last Resorts. San Diego was the third."

Two tables over, a bunch of girls — okay, young ladies, seven of them — are giggling and shouting up a storm.

One of the waiters has put a sorta chef's toque — or, like what whirling dervishes wear — on Anna. It's her party. She's 19 today. The waiter has scrawled a message on it. "Lookin' For Hot B'Day Action," it says.

Posted Dec. 9, 8:54 a.m.
by Ed Bedford

Best in Westin

Problem on the Blue Line. Accident, they told us.

It's the end of the line till they get buses organized to Old Town, which is where I was going. So, everyone off the trolley. This is at the temporary America Plaza stop on C between Columbia and State. Everybody scatters, looking for plan B. It's about 6:30 at night.

Me, I wander down in the general direction of Broadway.

Pass this hotel. Called the Westin now, I see (400 W. Broadway, 619-239-4500).

Oh, yeah. The multitower building with the uneven dark colorings on the tower tops that spill down the sides like some giant poured treacle from on high. Or worse. Remember when it was called the Pterodactyl Droppings building?

Inside it looks warm and, well, cool, if you know what I mean. Wonder if they have a happy hour at that bar...

Two seconds later, I'm sitting up to this cool white-marble counter, watching my neighbor dig in to a wicked-looking bowl of thick soup. Tomato? It's steaming and scarlet, with gold tortilla strips hatching out the top. He has a martini in a glass with a sexy curvy stem.

"That cost me \$9, but the soup was only \$7," he says. His name's Alan. "And that's on the regular menu, not the happy hour."

Melissa, the cheery gal behind the bar, brings the



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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.

Twelve buckeroos in all. But the wine comes with a carafe of salty chewies, and the soup comes with a chunk of sliced French bread wrapped in a napkin.

Bottom line: it fills me up. And super delish? You betcha. And, yes, I could've just asked for the soup and a glass of water and Melissa wouldn't have sent

me packing. So I could have gotten out for under \$10. And that's not even happy hour (4 to 7 p.m., seven days).

Plus, good conversation. Alan has stories from all around the world. And Melissa — she's been here for 15 years — knows how to keep a lively bar.

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*

Upcoming PB Nanobrewery Aims to Turn Things Up

Several new local restaurants have opened, featuring beer lists

as long as Santa's delivery manifest, 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.

*Posted Dec. 14, 12:33 p.m. by
Brandon Hernández*

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C-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 sam-miches, 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 this," 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?

Posted Dec. 14, 12:24 p.m. by Ed Bedford

Quiet Time at Infusions of Tea

After two days of clouds and rain, I needed to take a walk. I also needed to get some office work done, so my destination would require free Wi-Fi. Starbucks would be the obvious choice, but I wasn't in the mood. I wasn't hungry either, so taking up space in a restaurant

seemed sort of selfish. Then I remembered Infusions of Tea in University City, on my list of "places I really want to try but it's never quite the right time." This seemed like the right time.

Infusions of Tea is a pretty, calming place. I like the colors, the spare lines, and the tea bar. The menu lists dozens of white, black, green, silver, flowering, herbal, caffeine and non-caffeine teas, and tisanes. I order a yerba mate (\$2.60) and an apple spice scone (\$1.95).

Drinking yerba mate is a national pastime in Argentina, where I first tried it. It's probably an acquired taste; it's very vegetal. It reminds me of freshly mown grass, but I get that while you might enjoy that scent, actually drinking freshly mown grass may not be your cup of, well, tea. Or, more properly, tisane.

If made with boiling water, it can be very bitter. Mine is delicious. It reminds me of some types of green tea. My scone is warm, spicy, and has a nice apple flavor. Not too sweet, either. My server says that it's a mix they get from a company in Northern California but make fresh on the premises using heavy cream. No problem there; I confess to having a few mixes at home that I like.

An hour later, my office work is done, and I leave a much calmer person. And it's finally stopped raining.

Infusions of Tea, 8750 Genesee Avenue, University City, 858-450-6500.

Posted Dec. 14, 12:24 p.m. by Mary Beth Abate


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Good-Bye Whiskey Girl, Hello, Barleymash

Whiskey Girl, one of Downtown's most popular spots for late-night/early-morning drunken debauchery, is moving out of its space on the corner of Fifth and Market. But fear not, stoked frat boys, bachelorette gaggles, and metrocentric boozehounds, a new tenant with an enthusiasm for good times and alcoholic beverages is moving in.

The space is being taken over by the Verant Group, which includes Tavern at the Beach, True North Tavern, Sandbar Sports Grill, Offshore Tavern and Grill, West Coast Tavern, and Brewery's Pint. The name for the new venue, the group's first in downtown, will be Barleymash. It's an homage to barley's role 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 Searsucker, 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

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 Saison, cask and draft varieties of Sculpin IPA, and barrel-aged versions of Black Marlin Porter and Sea Monster Stout.

The most interesting and fit for holiday consumption of the bunch is a version of Ballast Point’s Victory at Sea Imperial Porter that’s brewed with candy canes. That holiday confection (and occasional tree ornament) combines with vanilla and coffee from North Park’s Caffé Calabria to create a brew that comes across as an iced dark-chocolate cocoa with a shot of peppermint schnapps. It’s perfect for the season, and with any luck will become a

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

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 go, to heat 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 heaven. The mozzarella has just the right string to it.

Try as I might, I’ve never been able to eat more than one slice.

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858-550-0406.

Posted Dec. 13, 4:51 p.m. by
Mary Beth Abate

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 shrine with candles to Juanita at a table on the left wall.

"I'm 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

Temecula Has an Iron in the Fire

Temecula'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 brews 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 year-around core beers. Beyond that, his focus will be on craft-

ing darker ales — porters, stouts, and the like. Those types of brews don't get a ton of attention in Southern California, due to our perpetually warm weather and our citizens' love of sun-friendly pale ales and IPAs.

Maino is completing the legalities for the company's base of operations. Ironfire will be located off of Winchester Road, just north of Temecula's Old Town District. The company is set to open no later than June, but more likely in the spring.

Posted Dec. 13, 10:02 a.m. by
Brandon Hernández

The Marina District's Got Game

My laments over the closing of Little Italy's Red Velvet are well publicized. The combo wine bar-resto had great food. So it pleases me to know that one of the culinary minds behind that venture, Lhasa Landry, is at the heart of a new spot to hit SD: the Lion's Share.

Located in Downtown's Marina District (and destined to be referred to as "that place by Kansas City Barbeque"), it's a bar serving craft cocktails using simple, fresh ingredients and high-quality spirits. Such is the MO of many bars opening and embracing the craft cocktail movement. What will make the Lion's Share different from others places like it is the food.

Landry, the Lion's Share's executive chef, has created a menu that's focused on game meats. While the word "game" conjures imagery of large hunks of ruby-red meat with foot-long rib bones, expect more than Stone Age-style chops thrown on the grill.

The food at the Lion's Share will be geared toward its bar setting, meaning the dishes will be smaller and more casual yet still feature plenty of Landry's cooking chops. Expression will come in creative takes on bar staples, rich sauces, and classic techniques.

Aesthetics-wise, expect a mix of worldly relics and contemporary design features, exposed brick, and the ubiquitous animal head on the wall.

The bar opened to the public last Friday.

The Lion's Share is located at 629 Kettner Boulevard, Downtown.

Posted Dec. 12, 10:14 a.m. by
Brandon Hernández

Jack's Place

The first time I came by Cozines



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Grocery (402 Civic Center Drive, National City, 619-477-8488), I was taking a picture so I'd recognize it. I wanted to come back and try the fried chicken someone told me about. So I'm clicking away when a car cruises up. Guy watches me.

"What're you doing?"
"Just taking a picture."

"Because if you're going to change anything, don't. If you want to buy Cozines out or try to tear them down, don't. We won't allow it."

I end up talking with the guy. He says everybody watches out for Cozines. "They've always been there for us, the community. Cash checks, groceries, pay bills, 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 son Joseph right there at the counter.

The good news? They still have plenty of tortas and sand-

wiches. 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.

"But 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

Green Truck Dishes Out Gourmet Local, Organic Eats

"The biggest impact you can have on the environment is changing your eating habits," says David Holtze of the gourmet organic Green Truck. "Like, thinking about where your food comes from and eating less meat."

The Green Truck debuted in San Diego this March at an Ocean Beach block party and has since been "Healing Our Planet One Meal at a Time" at eco-fairs, catered events, and across town at locations updated via Twitter and Facebook.

"So much food is just frozen, processed stuff coated in a weird flurry of chemicals and fried in hydrogenated oil," says Holtze. "In the Green Truck, everything comes from scratch, nothing is frozen, and the produce is a seasonal selection from local organic farmers."

The 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're 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.

"The seasonal eggplant tacos have been popular," says Holtze. "They're Mediterranean style on a handmade corn tortilla with local heirloom eggplant grilled with garlic, hummus, arugula,



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tomato, basil pesto, and a goats' milk feta."

Posted Dec. 11, 6:37 p.m. by
Chad Deal

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

Temecula Valley Slow Food Announces Fifth 100-Mile Dinner

Temecula Valley Slow Food has just announced its Fifth Annual 100 Mile Dinner, to be held January 28 at Stone Brewing World Bistro and Garden in Escondido.

The 100 Mile Dinner is a five-course feast featuring ingredients that have been foraged from within 100 miles. Each course will be paired with a complementary Stone brew. The menu has yet to be decided. Cocktail hour begins 6 p.m.; dinner is 7 p.m.

Proceeds from the event benefit local Academic and Edible School Garden programs. Only 100 seats are available, and this event usually sells out quickly. Tickets are \$100 per person and can be purchased at Brown Paper Tickets.

More details to come.

Posted Dec. 16, 3:36 p.m. by
Mary Beth Abate

Naomi Wise, R.I.P.

Got some sad news, folks. Naomi Wise, the *Reader's* food critic and my colleague, passed away yesterday from complications after surgery. She had been in the hospital for a week. Those are all the details I have.

We had a lot in common, although I don't know where to begin to discuss her knowledge of food. And, actually, her knowledge of the world. Ask her anything about the Caribbean, she'd been there. I mean really lived and eaten there. Ask about New Orleans, she'd lived there. San Francisco, Delhi, Paris, Chiang Mai, Beijing, Mexico City....

And she wrote books. She could write about anything. She cowrote *On the Edge: The Life and Times of Francis Coppola*; *Cooking with Queen Ida*, about low-fat versions of Creole cooking; *Meat and Game Cooking*; *Totally Hot*, about every "hot" dish you can think of around the world. And on and on. I felt like a gnat by her side, to be honest.

She came steaming in from San Francisco in 2000, and she sure did bring her tasting standards with her. This was an unreformed hippie with Alice Waters standards who never took to corporate bullshit, especially when it came to pretentious food that looked good and tasted lousy. Smoke and mirrors made her mad. As a result, she made a lot of us sit up and pay attention. This woman knew what was real, what was healthy, and what was BS. Even though what we wrote appeared together in the food section, she wrote on a different level. And we hardly ever had time to get together.

But when we did, the thing I remember is how totally anonymous she could be, scurrying tidbits into bags without anybody noticing, so she could analyze them later. She was fierce about not being a star, not being recognized. It was about getting the same eats as everybody else. Once they know you, the jig is up. You'll never know if you're getting special treatment.

And sensuality? Her writing about food when she loved it read like descriptions of nights out with your fantasy lover. You wanted it to go on forever.

I guess I wanted her to go on forever, too. All storms headed her way, and I think she relished it. But she sure taught me about holding the line and making the

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eating business a proud affair, with standards worth fighting for.

I wouldn't know where to begin in her world. It was work. Hard work. Tense work. Still, the one thing I saw in her that I loved was that, for all the pressures, she actually did relish it. It was about enjoying one of life's great pleasures. She practically swooned when something was really good. She wasn't polite, so you knew if she said, "Oh, my God!" that she truly was entering the seventh level of Nirvana.

I hope she's doing that now. Getting, as they say, her just desserts.

Still, right now, I'm really just sad. Gonna miss you, Ms. N.

Posted Dec. 16, 2:32 p.m. by Ed Bedford

Sunday Suppers at the Mediterranean Room

The Mediterranean Room at La Valencia Hotel 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-per-simmon 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 and 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 Mentholyptus cough drops on a snowman cake for a while. Enough to start wondering what the heck was taking my sandwich so long. The buzzer finally goes off, and I grab 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 schmear 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



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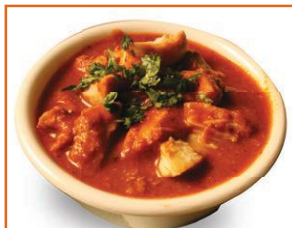
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Private Eye Rock. “I’ve worked on some heinous cases involving polygamists, murder, various detached body parts, the Mexican mafia, and Los Palillos, a kidnapping and extortion ring” says Psychosally frontman Trevor Sesma, who works as a private

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 sentenc-

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 Guux play bass for live performances. “He likes a lot heavier stuff than I do.... He and I have seen Crüe 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 Horgen describes the junket as “a test run” for an alliance between the band and Australia, adding, “James was happy with everything. He’d like 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 Horgen. “‘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 rocker!’ 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

funny when I realized how much cleaning we had to do.”

In February, the Bloody Hollies embark on a Northern



The Bloody Hollies bring back rock-roll tales from Down Under.

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

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 entourage 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 Rootstrickers, the Proles, spoken-word artists, and guest speakers Martin Eder of Activist San

(continued on page 72)

the inside track blurt

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

ing, either by showing that the defendant is not so bad or that the alleged victim or



Sesma would probably like to quit his day job, but it inspires his songwriting.

witnesses are not angels or, in some cases, credible witnesses.” Among his high-profile assignments was working on

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Thursday, January 5
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Saturday, January 21
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3/2 The Aristocrats • Science Fiction 3/10 LongFellow 4/6 Kings X 4/7 Flight 93 Benefit

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Diego and Occupy San Diego media liaisons Ray Lutz and John Kenney, both of whom have been arrested for their participation in the Civic Center protests.

Liquid Blue's set included their single "Earth Passport" (a song about world peace that holds a

Guinness World Record for "Song Sung in Most [nine] Languages") and classic protest songs from Dylan, Springsteen, Lennon, and others.

"We believe that the power

of an individual voter has greatly diminished and the wealthy [one percent] now control the majority of influence and power in the United States," their website reads. "We advocate a nonviolent

people's revolution that aims to bring power back to the people. Music has always played a significant role in movements of social change, and it's our desire to help uplift and

unify citizens willing to stand up for their rights and the rights of others."

A San Diego County certified-green business, Liquid Blue has hosted a monthly



Turn on, tune in — Liquid Blue's throwing an Occu-Party.

daily blogs

Steph Johnson Live in North Park

By Robert Bush — Dec. 18, 9:14 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.

Blame Astrology - Third Thursday Experimental Radness

By Chad Deal — Dec. 14, 3:14 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

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documentary movie night since 2004, focusing on social and environmental issues. Stephens says the band's priority issues are human rights, prosecution of white-collar criminals, getting money out of politics, the environment, higher education, and industrial regulation.

Named after a form of LSD from the '60s ("We believe everyone should 'turn-on' at least once or twice"), Liquid Blue has been dubbed the "World's Most Traveled Band," with performances in over 115 countries.

The next Liquid Blue Occu-party is on Friday, January 20, at the World Beat Center at 8 p.m.

— Chad Deal

Sgt. Pepper's Amp?

Those who may have searched Bonham's auction website in the days following November 29 for news about "sale 19037,

lot 373W" found a cryptic message posted in red: "This lot has been withdrawn." Lot 373W consisted of a rare

Vox UL730, made all the more rare by the discovery that it was said to have belonged to George Harrison.

"If this is the actual Vox UL730 used by George Harrison on sessions for *Revolver* and *Sgt. Pepper*," says Greg Dorsett, a San Diego-based rock memorabilia dealer, "this would have to be one of the most coveted and most valuable amplifiers in existence."

Dorsett, an ex-roadie, founded the San Diego-based

Rock Stars Guitars in 1996 with record producer and Hendrix aficionado David Brewis. Rock Stars Guitars is



"One of the most coveted and most expensive amplifiers in existence" — maybe.

binational — Brewis lives in the U.K., while Dorsett resides in the San Carlos area. The two deal in collectible guitars, amps, and tour gear, and they

have a private reserve of their own.

In their collection is Harrison's 1964 Gibson SG Standard, a guitar used in both the "Paperback Writer" and "Rain" videos; it is likely that Harrison played that guitar through the UL730 amp that was to be auctioned — *if that was his amp*. But the key to authentication of ownership of any equipment, Dorsett says, lies in the provenance.

"It will be very interesting to see what happens with this amp," Dorsett said upon hearing of the amp discovery. But for many who collect such musical rarities, the actions of the mystery vendor raise more questions than answers.

— Dave Good

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORS

Chad Deal, Dave Good, Dorian Hargrove, Mary Leary, Ken Leighton, Bart Mendoza, Jay Allen Sanford, David Stampone

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Wish You Were Here

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

It first came across acoustic singer/songwriter Celia St Croix on Twitter via local-bandleader and fellow-tweeter Scott West, who cowrote 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 does evening actually begin? Cuz a construction worker told me good evening today at like 11:30 a.m.”

I was curious, so I played some of her songs online. The tunes tended toward lovelorn balladeering, the kind of musical storytelling that would sound at home on an album by Harry Chapin or Joni Mitchell, often delivered in a warbly Jewel-like vibrato.

The opening cut on her EP, “Waiting for Your Touch,” is an unabashed wish-you-were-here love note (“I don’t wanna make you rush/ But I need you right away”), a theme recast more darkly in a newer song I found on YouTube, “Tragedy,” where “a week away from you is like a year’s gone by” was given added weight by a guest backup vocalist who filled out St Croix’s sparse arrangement.

I particularly enjoyed “Mr. Singh,” with its plain-

tive and poignant chorus, “Guarding a broken heart/ Mr. Singh sits alone once again/ Breathing in/ Sinking his head in his hands.”

“It’s the true story of a man who was working at a gas station one night,” says St Croix, “when I was driving up to Sacramento. When I met him, I knew I was going to write a song about him.”

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

MUSIC

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

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. Miiike 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.”
 5. Arcade Fire, *The Suburbs*. “An amazing record, very inspiring.”

CD YOU’RE TOO EMBARRASSED TO MENTION?
“Probably Jordin Sparks’s debut record, but what can I say...I love her voice.”



Recovering *meetup.com* addict Celia St Croix

WHERE DO YOU HANG OUT?
“Bar Eleven, especially on Bosen & Suede acoustic Mondays.”

BEST CONCERT?
“Regina Spektor at Canes 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?
“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.”

FAVORITE MOVIE?
“Still in love with *American Beauty*, after all

these years. Has there been a film since that even compares?”

FIRST TIME DRUNK?
“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.”

- THREE THINGS WE DON’T KNOW ABOUT YOU?**
1. “I’m a recovering *meetup.com* addict.”
 2. “I carry a fresh pair of chopsticks with me at all times.”
 3. “I have a pink ukulele.” ■

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12/24 - Christmas Eve - Open at 8pm

12/25 - Closed for Christmas

12/26 - Soul Jazz Jam with The Fire Eaters

12/27 - Tiki Tuesday with Mr. Craig Prior

12/28 - Dj L

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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 Buddy
"Dick Blue Ball" - A Farmer's
Celebration with
Buddy Blue Reunion Band,
Steve Poltz, Joey Harris and
Rolle Love
1/8 Elvis 77th Birthday
Celebration with
James Kruk's Elite
Elvis Tribute
1/12 Sister Hazel
1/13 40 Oz to Freedom
1/14 Wayward Sons and
The Pettybreakers
1/15 Handsome Furs
1/17 BFD Comedy Show
- Chris Porter (Last Comic
Standing, Comedy Central)
1/18 Wag Halen Beach Cities Jam
with The Grass Heat
1/19 On Point Promotions pres
Ease Up

1/20 Agent 51 and Pivit
1/21 Dead Man's Party
1/22 The Steve Morse Band
1/23 Mark Hummel's Blues Blowout
1/24 Alabama Shakes
1/25 The Wood Brothers
1/26 Lucinda Williams
w/Blake Mills - SOLD OUT!
1/27 & 28 Ozomatli
1/29 MarchFourth Marching Band
1/31 The Jayhawks
2/2 Joe Walsh - SOLD OUT!
2/3 Keller Williams
2/4 Martin Sexton
2/7 Dr. Dog
2/8 & 9 Groundation
2/11 ALO
2/13 The Asteroids Galaxy Tour
2/18 The Mar Dels Matinee
2/18 The Atomic Punks
2/19 Steve Poltz 3rd Annual
50th Birthday Bash featuring
The Rugburns, Bob Schneider,
AJ Croce and Sara Petite

2/21 Gomez
2/22 BoomBox w/III-Esha
and Chris B
2/23 Ra Ra Riot
2/24 Tommy Castro
2/25 Bulky Jones Matinee
2/26 America
2/28 Los Lonely Boys
Acoustic Show
2/29 Boz Scaggs
3/10 Who's Bad
(Michael Jackson Trib)
3/17 MONIQUE: Not Skinny,
Not Blonde - Matinee
3/21 Cults
3/28 Galactic feat Corey Glover
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3/30 Michael Rose
3/31 Super Diamond
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Classical listings can be found in the *Classical Music Guide*. Music videos, driving directions, maps, event alerts, coupons, and more available online at SanDiegoReader.com.

HOW TO SUBMIT A MUSIC LISTING: To send a weekly or monthly schedule, fax to 619-231-0489 or mail to Reader Music Scene, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186. You may also submit information online at SanDiegoReader.com/music/.

THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

4th&B: 345 B St., Downtown, 619-231-4343.
Thursday, 8pm — Black Cherry X-Mas Party. Pop.
Friday, 7pm — Dopamaina. El Ritual X-Mas 2011.

710 Beach Club: 710 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-483-7844.
Friday, 9pm — Ottly Mercer, the Amalgamated, 2000 Tons of TNT. \$6.

98 Bottles: 2400 Kettner Bl., Little Italy, 619-255-7885.
Thursday, 8pm — Movimiento Afrojazzia. Contemporary and traditional Afro-Cuban, jazz, funk. \$3-\$10.
Friday, 8pm — 98 Bottles Revue. San Diego's most promising young musical theater prodigies perform an evening of holiday and other music. \$20.

Anthology: 1337 India St., Little Italy, 877-828-0891.
Friday, 7:30pm and 9:30pm —

Hiroshima. Jazz fusion.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Dave Mason. Acoustic classic rock.

Balboa Theatre: 868 Fourth Ave., Downtown, 619-570-1100.
Friday, 8pm — Dave Koz and Friends Christmas Tour. With Rick Braun, Jonathan Butler, and Candy Dulfer. Covers/funk/jazz.

Bar Pink: 3829 30th St., North Park, 619-564-7194.
Friday, 9pm — Bonkers! Dance Party. EDM dance party with Junior and Vaughn.
Monday, 8pm — The Fire Eaters. Soul-jazz jam.

Belly Up: 143 South Cedros Ave., Solana Beach, 858-481-1840.
Friday, 9pm — Cash'd Out. A tribute to Johnny Cash. \$16-\$18.
Tuesday — Cracker and Camper Van Beethoven. Alt rock. \$20-\$22.
Wednesday, 8pm — Leftover Salmon. Polyethnic Cajun slam-grass. \$25-\$27.

Brick by Brick: 1130 Buenos Ave., Linda Vista, 619-275-5483.
Thursday, 7pm — Static Bloom. \$8.
Friday, 8pm — Chasing Claymores, Curt Owen, Red Ribbon Army, Lucky Wild. \$7.

The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Bl., Little Italy, 619-232-4355.
Friday, 8:30pm — Phasers on Stun and the Makeup Sex. \$8.
Saturday, 8:30pm — Exile on Kettner Blvd. **Free**.
Monday, 8:30pm — Gran Sasso. \$5.
Wednesday, 8:30pm — Irradio, Subsurfer, the Amalgamated. With live art. \$8-\$10.

!

NOTE

BY WILLIAM CRAIN

The first thing you notice about TV Girl is that it sounds old-fashioned and modern at the same time. Brad Petering and Trung Ngo piece their music together from digital beats and samples of old songs from artists including Todd Rundgren, Bob Dylan, and Tracy Chapman, among more obscure sources. (The Rundgren sample got the band in some trouble when Rhino Entertainment, which owns the rights to the original recording, issued a takedown notice.) It's a relaxed sound, even when the synth drums hit hard, and it seems a little retro even when it's obviously put together on computer.

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 lascivious title "Sarah (Meet Me in the Sauna)," but it's really an innocent love song from a teenager to a female life-guard, who is obviously never, ever going to meet him in the sauna.

Several of the songs are about songwriting itself. "Benny and the Jetts" 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

Dirk's Niteclub: 7662 Broadway, Lemon Grove, 619-469-6344.
Friday, Saturday — Zone 4. Covers/rock.

Eleven: 3519 El Cajon Bl., City Heights, 619-450-4292.
Thursday, 9pm — Black Sands. \$5.
Friday, 9pm — Napoleon Complex, Misc. Ailments, Pilots. Ugly X-Mas sweater party. \$6.

Flying Elephant: 850 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, 760-434-2660.
Friday, 8pm — Irieside.

Gallagher's Pub & Grill: 5046 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach, 619-222-5300.
Friday, 9pm — Off the Wagon. Country. **Free**.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Shelter Island, 619-224-3577.
Friday, 9pm — Detroit Underground. Motown/dance. \$12.
Saturday, 8pm — DJ John Phillips. \$5.

Molly Malone's: 1270 Main St., Ramona, 760-789-9050.

Friday, 9pm — Natural Selection. Rock. **Free**.

Pannikin Coffee & Tea: 2670 Via de la Valle, Del Mar, 858-481-8007.
Friday, 8pm — Mark Lopez and Tony Taravella. Jazz guitar. **Free**.

Patrick's II: 428 F St., Downtown, 619-233-3077.
Friday, 9pm — Michele Lundeen & Blues Streak. **Free**.
Saturday, 9pm — Whitney Shay & the Shakedown. Jazz/blues. **Free**.

Queen Bee's Art & Cultural Center: 3925 Ohio St., North Park, 619-255-5147.
Friday, 7:30pm — London Below, the Orphics, Bricklayer Bash. \$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. \$3.
Saturday, 7pm — Hannibal Selector Holiday Dance Party. DNB/jungle/dubstep. **Free**.

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Colleen Kollar Smith • photo by Nathan Peirson

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ReaderAndy doing interviews
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Ladies of Ali Baba

see these photos, and many more on our [f](#) [t](#) @sdreader

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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DEC 23



DEC 30

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NYE 2012

8PM - 4AM



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DJ SLYNKEE
MISS LISA

DEC 31

Sizzlin' Hot Adult Comedy
Hypnosis Show
Featuring Master Hypnotist
James Kellogg, Jr.

JAN 06



JAN 07



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JAN 15



JAN 20



JAN 21

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02/04 : ADAM ANT

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Wednesday, 8:30pm — Idlehands, Sweeteverafter, Shrewd Lucy. Rock. \$5.

Saint Germain's Café : 1010 S. Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-753-5411.

Friday, 6pm — Jazzy Christmas Beats. KUSI's Dave Scott on trombone; Joey Carano on guitar. \$10-\$30.

Santa Ysabel Resort & Casino: 25575 Highway 79, Santa Ysabel, 760-787-0909.

Friday, 8pm — Bobby Sanchez Combo. Rockabilly.

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

Friday, 10pm — Clepto, Abject, and the Scoundrels.

Wednesday, 8pm — Screamin Yeehaws.

The Shores Restaurant: 8110 Camino del Oro, La Jolla, 858-456-0600.

Friday, 9pm — Hi Roots. Reggae/ World.

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

Thursday, 8:30pm — TV Girl, Tropical Popsicle, Clockart, Kynan. \$5.

Friday, 9pm — Writer and Ditches. Free.

Soma: 3350 Sports Arena Bl., Midway District, 619-226-7662.

Friday, 6:30pm — Draind. \$8.

Wednesday, 6:30pm — Stick to Your Guns.

The Stage Rock Bar & Grill: 762 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-696-9436.

Thursday, 10pm — Seismic Dubstep. \$5.

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

Thursday, 8pm — Skyline Union, Tracy Shedd, Kelsea Ray Little. \$5.

Tio Leo's: 5302 Napa St., Linda Vista, 619-542-1462.

Friday — Shady Grey.

UPCOMING SHOWS

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

December 30 — All-4-One.

December 31 — Kinky.

January 7 — DJ Quik.

January 20 — Pat Travers.

January 21 — Jackyl and Sledd.

January 28 — Nada Surf and the Soft Pack.

February 3 — Mutemath.

February 4 — Adam Ant.

February 18 — San Diego Brazil Carnival.

February 26 — McAuley-Schenker Group.

AMSDconcerts: 4650 Mansfield St., Normal Heights, 619-303-8176.

January 7 — Dave Stamey.

January 20 — Elephant Revival.

January 21 — Dave Alvin.

February 10 — Chuck Pyle.

February 23 — Gretchen Peters.

February 24 — Goitse.

March 3 — Blame Sally.

March 15 — Cheryl Wheeler.

March 21 — Ian Tyson.

March 29 — David Wilcox.

April 1 — Tom Paxton.

Andaz San Diego: 600 F St., Downtown, 619-849-1234.

!

NOTE

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" girlpop 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 underrated 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



TRACY SHEDD

such as Sonic Youth, with whom she shares a distinct facility for feedback.

Skyline Union and Kelsea Rae Little also perform.

TRACY SHEDD: Tin Can Alehouse, Thursday, December 22, 8 p.m. 619-955-8525. \$5.

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

December 31 — Euphoria NYE 2012.

Anthology: 1337 India St., Little Italy, 877-828-0891.

December 29 — Dave Mason.

December 30 — Dazz Band.

December 31 — Rockin' New Year's Eve.

January 4 — Maile.

January 5 — Meshell Ndegeocello.

January 11 — The Milk Carton Kids.

January 12 — Sista Monica Parker.

January 13, January 14 — The Pete Escovedo Orchestra.

January 15 — Maceo Parker.

January 19 — Johnny A.

January 20 — John Cruz.

January 27 — Albert Lee Band and the Farmers.

January 29 — Lucy Kaplansky.

January 31 — Richie Furay Band.

February 1 — Eric Bibb.

February 3 — Lisa Loeb and Jill Sobule.

February 5 — Cherry Poppin' Daddies.

February 10, February 11 — Eddie Palmieri and Brian Lynch.

February 15 — Ottmar Liebert & Luna Negra.

February 17 — Goapele.

February 18 — Big Bad Voodoo Daddy.

February 24 — Arturo Sandoval.

Balboa Theatre: 868 Fourth Ave., Downtown, 619-570-1100.

January 15 — David Garrett.

February 14 — Tommy Emmanuel.

February 25 — Jake Shimabukuro.

February 26 — Lila Downs.

Bar Pink: 3829 30th St., North Park, 619-564-7194.

December 30 — Wendy Bailey.

December 31 — Beehive & the Barracudas, Christmas Island, Mrs. Magician.

Belly Up: 143 South Cedros Ave., Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.

December 30 — The Greyboy Allstars.

December 31 — The English Beat.

January 4 — Dick Dale.

January 6 — Pato Banton.

January 13 — 40 Oz. to Freedom.

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Sunday, December 25
10am • Smooth Jazz Brunch
Aubrey Fay Holiday Brunch - Merry Christmas

Monday, December 26
7pm • Blues
Lady Dottie & The Diamonds

Tuesday, December 27
7pm • Blues
Stoney B Blues Band

Wednesday, December 28
7pm • Jazz Vocalist
Jesse Davis - Pre NY Eve Celebration

Upcoming
Friday, January 13
Rosie Ledet

Saturday, January 14
Pod Piazza

January 15 — Handsome Furs.
 January 20 — Agent 51 and Pivit.
 January 23 — Mark Hummel's
 Harmonica Blowout.
 January 26 — Lucinda Williams.
 January 27, January 28 —
 Ozomatli.
 February 2 — Joe Walsh.

Birch North Park Theatre:
 2891 University Ave., North
 Park, 619-239-8836.
 January 27 — Arturo O'Farrill
 Afro-Latin Septet.
 April 21 — Tiempo Libre.
 May 19 — Poncho Sanchez
 Latin-Jazz Band.

Brick by Brick: 1130 Buenos
 Ave., Linda Vista, 619-275-5483.
 January 5 — Erin and the
 Project.
 January 7 — Spiders from Bars.
 January 13 — Allan Holdsworth
 Band.
 January 19 — Total Chaos and
 D.P.I.
 January 21 — Bazerk, Fuzz-
 Huzzi, Cory Wilkins Band,
 Fairfield Fats Band.
 February 11 — Hell on Heels
 Burlesque Revue.

The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Bl.,
 Little Italy, 619-232-4355.
 December 30 — Get Back Loretta,
 the Burning of Rome, Kut U Up.
 December 31 — The Growlers.
 January 6 — Nervous
 Wreckords, Blackout Party,
 Grand Tarantula, Heavy Guilt
 Duo.
 January 7 — A Scribe Amidst the
 Lions, Black Hondo, Children of
 Nova, Flowerthief.
 January 13 — Everest.

Copley Symphony Hall: 750 B
 St., Downtown, 619-235-0804.
 January 22 — Wilco and White

Denim.
 February 10, February 11 — "A
 Valentine's Romance."
 April 13, April 14 — "Tribute to
 Ray Charles."

**Cosmopolitan Hotel and
 Restaurant:** 2600 Calhoun St.,
 Old Town, 619-297-1869.
 December 31 — The Bayou
 Brothers and Michele Lundeen.

Dirk's Niteclub: 7662
 Broadway, Lemon Grove, 619-
 469-6344.
 December 30, December 31 —
 FX5.

Dizzy's: Second Avenue & J St.,
 Downtown, 858-270-7467.
 December 30 — Daniel Jackson,
 Marshall Hawkins, Gilbert
 Castellanos, & Joshua White.

Eleven: 3519 El Cajon Bl., City
 Heights, 619-450-4292.
 December 29 — Chinese Rocks,
 Cardiac Kidz, Billy Rath's Street
 Pirates.
 December 30 — The Suicide
 Chords.

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

House of Blues: 1055 Fifth
 Ave., Downtown, 619-299-2583.
 January 9, January 10 — NOFX.
 January 11 — The Wailers.
 January 13 — Andy Grammer.
 January 20 — Dashboard
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 January 22 — Eric Johnson.
 January 27 — Allstar Weekend.
 January 29 — The Adicts.
 February 3 — August Burns Red.
 February 4 — Where's the Band
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February 11 — Dweezil Zappa
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Humphreys Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Shelter Island, 619-224-3577.
December 29 — The Soul Persuaders.
December 30 — Rising Star.
December 31 — Rockola.

La Paloma: 471 S. Coast Hwy. 101, Encinitas, 760-436-7469.
January 19 — Jon Foreman, Sara & Sean Watkins, Jack Tempchin.

Lacey J's Roadhouse Saloon & Grille: 8861 Magnolia Ave., Santee, 619-448-8550.
December 30 — Lightning Train.

Lestat's Coffee House: 3343 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, 619-282-0437.
December 30 — Josh Damigo.

The Loft: 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-534-8497.
January 20 — Mexican Institute of Sound.
February 4 — Talkdemonic.
February 8 — Ben Russell.

Molly Malone's: 1270 Main St., Ramona, 760-789-9050.
December 30 — Outta Line.
December 31 — Cory Wilkins.

Pala Casino: 35008 Pala Temecula Rd., Pala, 877-946-7252.
January 20 — Engelbert Humperdinck.
February 2 — Colbie Caillat.
February 16 — Tony Bennett.
February 17 — Glen Campbell.

Patrick's II: 428 F St., Downtown, 619-233-3077.
December 29 — Len Rainey & the Midnight Players.

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 no 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 song-writing of the Beatles and Ray Davies.

Some might say otherwise, but the elder Gallagher's voice is hard work to listen to for an entire album — he needs his little brother.



"What if I'm already dead, how would I know?"

Music Reviews from Our Readers

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 heavily 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."

Vintage Moz moment: upon finishing Smiths classic "Meat Is Murder," Morrissey jokingly told the crowd, "The name of that song is 'Kentucky Fried Shit.'" Although that created a bit of an awkward silence in the crowd, Morrissey's baritone voice brought us back with another Smiths classic, "I Know It's Over." The crowd seemed to realize that they were hearing one of the Smiths' best songs as they sang along with the 52-year-old icon.



Moz cradled the audience in his arms.

Concert: Morrissey
Date: November 22
Venue: California Center for the Arts Escondido
Seats: Orchestra row 9, seat 7

Up to \$100 for your concert review, \$25 for your CD review. Submit at SDReader.com/critic

December 30 — The Nik Simon Band.
December 31 — Myron & the Kynptionz.

Pechanga Resort & Casino: 45000 Pechanga Parkway, Temecula, 951-693-1819.
January 6, January 7 — The Fab Four.
January 21 — Aaron Lewis.
January 27 — Styx.

February 11 — Brian McKnight.
February 24, February 25 — Roger Hodgson.
March 9 — Peter Frampton.

Poway Center for the Performing Arts: 15498 Espola Rd., Poway, 858-748-0505.
January 21 — BeauSoleil.
February 14 — Crystal Gayle.
February 25 — Guitar Masters:

Andy McKee, Antoine Dufour, and Stephen Bennett.

Ramona Mainstage Nightclub: 626 Main St., Ramona, 760-789-7008.
January 14 — Blacksburg.
January 21 — The Miles Schon Band.
January 22 — Uli Jon Roth, Richie Kotzen, Tony MacAlpine.
January 28 — Leatherwolf.

February 24 — Drama Club.
March 2 — Sophie B. Hawkins.

Ruby Room: 1271 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-7372.
December 30 — Bonded by Blood and Warbringer.
December 31 — NYE Rock N' Roll Tribute Show.

Santa Ysabel Resort & Casino: 25575 Highway 79, Santa Ysabel, 760-787-0909.

December 31 — 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 Bl., City Heights, 619-255-7224.
December 29 — The Bruises and the Fixtures.
December 31 — El Ten Eleven.

Soma: 3350 Sports Arena Bl., Midway District, 619-226-7662.
January 6 — Wednesday 13.
January 7 — City Delivered.
January 13 — Slightly Stoopid, the Aggrolites, Perro Bravo.

Sound Wave: 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-320-2100.
February 24 — Tomorrows Bad Seeds and Pacific Dub.

Sycuan Casino Showcase Theatre: 5469 Casino Way, El Cajon, 619-445-6002.
January 7 — Ed Kowalczyk.
February 11 — Terri Clark.
February 12 — Oak Ridge Boys.

Til-Two: 4746 El Cajon Bl., Kensington-Talmadge, 619-516-4746.
December 31 — Grand Tarantula, Lady Dottie, the Bloody Hollies, Westside Inflection.

Tin Can Ale House: 1863 Fifth Ave., Bankers Hill, 619-955-8525.
December 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 Laboe'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, Title Fight.

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	22 nd Dec	(MEMBERS OF SLIGHTLY STOOPID) C. MONEY AND THE PLAYERS INC.
	23 rd Dec	OBC-AUSTIN TRAIN AND ERIK WESTLAND (NATIONAL TOURING BLUEGRASS BAND) (NO COVER FOOD AND TOY DRIVE) (LIVE HIP HOP) DESTRUCTO BUNNY APAULO 8 & DJ INFORM -LEAGUE OF IMMORTALS
	24 th Dec 10AM	SKINS VS EAGLES (NATIONAL TOURING BLUEGRASS BAND) CHRISTMAS EVE SPECIAL HO-HO BOKE WITH JOSE SINATRA MERRY CHRISTMAS CLOSED
	25 th Dec	(1002ND SHOW) THE ELECTRIC WASTE BAND
	26 th Dec	(NO COVER) A TRIBUTE TO PHISH • SQUIRMING COILS
NO COVER NEW YEARS EVE WITH THE DEVASTATORS	27 th Dec	CLUB KINGSTON (CD RELEASE PARTY) PIRACY AND REVIVAL WITH DJ CARLOS CULTURE
	28 th Dec	CLUB KINGSTON (JAZZ, FUNK AND LIVE HIP HOP) THE LEGACY PACK AND THE GOODS
	29 th Dec	OBC-TOMMY LUCERO AND MARIO MANN (NO COVER WORLD MUSIC) TODO MUNDO
WWW.WINSTONSOB.COM Now Hiring Doormen and Security Staff	30 th Dec 9AM	NO COVER NYE PARTY - THE DEVASTATORS
	31 st Dec	

HAPPY HOUR

More information about these establishments can be found online at SDReader.com/drinks, including driving directions, coupons, and more.

HOW TO SUBMIT A DRINK SPECIAL: Please fax to 619-231-0489, mail to Reader Happy Hour, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186, or submit information online at SDReader.com/drinks.

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, 3-7pm: \$2.50 drafts, \$3.75 wells, house wine, \$4.75 calls.

BALBOA PARK

The Prado: Tuesday-Friday, 4-6pm, 8-10pm: \$3.50 wells, pints, house wine, house margaritas. Lounge only.

BANKERS HILL

Pizzicato: Daily, 4-6pm: \$3 pints, house wine.

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.

BONITA

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

CARDIFF

Besta-Wan Pizza House: Daily, 11am-6pm: \$1 off pint, glass of house wine. \$3 off pitcher.

CARLSBAD

Flying Elephant: Monday, \$8 domestic pitchers during Monday Night Football. Wednesday, 4pm to close: \$9 beer pitchers, \$9 margarita pitchers. 1/2-off appetizers. Thursday, \$3 you-call-it Thursdays. Sunday, \$8 domestic pitchers all day.

Mr. Peabody's: Monday-Friday, 10am-6pm: \$2.50 domestic beer, wine, spooli shots, wells + juice. \$3.50 margaritas. Free taco bar 3pm to 6pm with drink purchase.

CARMEL MOUNTAIN

Oggi's Pizza & Brewing Co.: Tuesday-Friday, 3-7pm, 9-11pm: \$1 beer, mixed drinks. 1/2-off appetizers.

CARMEL VALLEY

Tio Leo's: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$3 domestic & Mexican pints, \$4 house margaritas & well drinks.

CHULA VISTA

Veni Vidi Vici: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: \$1 off all drinks.

CITY HEIGHTS

Black Cat Bar: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: \$3.50 import drafts, \$2 PBR cans, \$5 martinis.

The Tower Bar: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$3 wells and import drafts.

CLAIREMONT

Joe's Pizza: Thursday, 6-9pm: \$2 any tap or bottled beer, glass of wine.

Viva Vino: Monday-Saturday, all day: \$.99 domestic beer.

COLLEGE AREA

Pal Joey's: Daily, all day: \$3 personal pitchers.

Satin Lounge: Thursday, 9pm-close: \$1 Bud drafts.

CORONADO

Costa Azul: Monday-Friday, 3-6:30pm: \$3 Bud Light pints, domestic bottles. \$3.50 imported bottles, wells, house wine, sangria. \$3.75 drafts. \$6 margaritas, mojitos. \$2.95 tacos, \$3.50 shrimp, \$5.95 nachos.

DEL MAR

Del Mar Rendezvous: Monday-Saturday, 4-6pm: \$3 Sapporo pints, \$4 glass of wine, \$14 bottle of wine. Sunday, 1/2-off bottles of wine.

DOWNTOWN

House of Blues: Daily, 4-7pm: \$2 domestic drafts, \$3 wines, \$3 wells, \$4 martinis. Killer happy hour menu.

Patrick's II: Daily, 10am-8pm: \$2.50 bottle beer, \$3 wells, Bud Light pints, \$4 calls, margaritas, bloody marys.

The Stage Rock Bar & Grill: Daily, 5-8pm: 1/2-off all wells, beer, wine.

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Time Out Sports Bar: Monday-Wednesday, Friday, 3-7pm: \$2.50 16-ounce draft Time Out Lager, Bud, Bud Light. Sam Adams, \$3.50. 1/2-off appetizers. Thursday, all day: Thirsty Thursdays: Buy one pitcher, get second 1/2 off.

Yard House: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$3.50 domestic pints, \$4 craft/import pints, \$4.50 goblets, \$4.25 wells, \$5.75 house martinis, \$2 off wine by the glass. \$6.50 sliders, 1/2-off select appetizers & pizzas.

EAST VILLAGE

Hive Sushi Lounge: Daily, 5-7pm: \$2 domestic, \$4 micro, \$2.50 sake, \$3.50 well, \$4 house wine. Miso, edamame, \$9.99.

Monkey Paw: Monday-Friday, 5-8pm: \$1 off drafts and cocktails.

EASTLAKE

Chili's: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$1 off drafts, house margaritas; \$4.99 premium margaritas. \$.50 wings.

EL CAJON

Calypso: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$2.75 bottled beer (12 oz.), \$3.75 beer (22 oz.), \$7.50 pitcher.

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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.

FALLBROOK

Aqua Terra: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: \$3 domestic, \$9 pitcher; \$4 imported, \$12 pitcher; \$1/2-off sushi rolls (no sushi on Monday).

GOLDEN HILL

Turf Supper Club: Friday-Sunday, noon-4pm: \$1 off all beer/wine/spirits. \$5 lunch: 1/2-lb. burger, chicken sandwich, or two Louisiana hot links + chips.

GRANTVILLE

JT's Clubhouse Pub & Grill: Monday, 11am-7pm: \$3 domestic pints. 11am-4pm: 25¢ wings. Tuesday, 11am-7pm: \$3 domestic pints. 11am-4pm: \$1 tacos. Wednesday, 11am-7pm:

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5-7pm Daily
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\$3 Doggie Bites

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Blues, Jazz, Classic Rock

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Sat. 12/24 Merry Xmas

Fri. 12/30 Left Coast Willie

Sat. 12/31 New Years Eve with Jimmy Patton and Enrique

VINZ WINE BAR
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201 E. Grand Ave., Escondido
www.vinzwinebar.net

\$3 domestic pints. 11am-close: \$1 sliders. Thursday-Friday, 11am-7pm: \$3 domestic pints. \$5.25 1/2-lb. burger with fries. Saturday, 11am-7pm: \$3 domestic pints. 4-8pm: 1/2-off all food. Sunday, 11am-7pm: \$3 domestic pints.

Tio Leo's: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$3 domestic & Mexican pints, \$4 house margaritas & well drinks.

HARBOR ISLAND

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

HILLCREST

The Alibi: Daily, all day: \$3 dipper, wells.

IMPERIAL BEACH

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

KEARNY MESA

Rayo Grill: Daily, 4:30-7pm: \$4 drafts, wines; \$3 domestic bottles.

KENSINGTON-TALMADGE

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

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DJ Digital Opinion
DJ Fish Fomics

Friday, December 23
Copper Still

Saturday, December 24
Ishmael & The Peacemakers

Sundays
Karaoke Sunday's w/ Mike from Nude BBQ Band

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HERE'S the DEAL

Analog Bar, F801 Fifth Ave., analogbar.com

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 ironically, 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 (\$6–9 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



PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS WOO

Analog appears to be nostalgic for times predigital.

Fridays (4–6 p.m.), \$3 drafts and half-off appetizers.

DJ Artistic plays music videos from the '80s and '90s on Wednesday nights, karaoke runs Friday and Saturday from 7 to 10 p.m., and the Unplugged Sunday Brunch starts at 11 a.m. with an

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 atmo-

Hours: OPEN AT 4 P.M. DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAYS, 11 A.M.
Cover: SOMETIMES, \$5–10
Credit cards: YES

sphere and no-nonsense cocktails, but only if it's happy hour.

Find more stories by Chad Deal at SDReader.com/deal

LA JOLLA

La Jolla Brew House: Tuesday-Thursday, noon-7pm: \$2 off craft beer; \$3 wells and house wines; \$3 off appetizers. Friday-Saturday, 10pm-close: \$2 off craft beer; \$3 wells and house wines.

Su Casa: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: 1/2-off wells and appetizers (excludes seafood & guacamole).

LA MESA

Hoffer's Cigar Bar: Monday-Saturday, 11am-7pm: \$2 off all beer, \$1 off wine. Sunday, 1-7pm: \$2 off all beer, \$1 off wine.

LAKESIDE

Coo Coo Club: Monday-Friday, 6-8pm: \$2.75 wells, domestic bottles, drafts.

LEMON GROVE

Dirk's Niteclub: Monday-Saturday, 4-7pm: \$.50 off all drinks \$4.50 or less. Sunday, 6am-2pm: \$1 off bloody marys.

LEUCADIA

Bar Leucadian: Daily, 4-7pm: \$2.75 wells, \$2.50 beer of the month, shot special.

LINCOLN PARK

L & L Hawaiian BBQ at Market Creek Plaza: Monday-Friday, 4-8pm: \$2 domestic drafts. \$1 off appetizers. Sunday, all day: \$1 drafts. \$1 tacos & wings.

LINDA VISTA

Tio Leo's: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$3 domestic & Mexican pints, \$4 house margaritas & well drinks.

LITTLE ITALY

Fat City Steakhouse: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$2 drafts, \$3 wells, \$4 wine. 1/2-off appetizers.

Puerto la Boca: Daily, 4:30-7:30pm: \$3 house wine, \$3.50 drafts, wells, \$6 house martini. 30% off appetizers.

MIDWAY DISTRICT

Brick Alley Bar & Grill: Daily, 3-7pm, 9pm-close: \$1 off pints, \$2 off tall beers.

MIRA MESA

Callahan's Pub & Brewery: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$3 house beer, domestic drafts, well drinks, house wine, \$1 off appetizers.

MIRAMAR

The Filling Station: Monday, 7pm-close: \$4 margaritas. Tuesday,

7pm-close: \$2 kamikazes. Wednesday, 7pm-close: \$3.50 premium drafts. Thursday, 7pm-close: \$2.50 wells, domestic beers; \$7.50 domestic pitchers. Saturday, noon-7pm: \$3 mimosas. Sunday, noon-7pm: \$3 bloody marys.

MISSION BEACH

Guava Beach Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: Two-for-one cocktails, beer, shots.

MISSION HILLS

Bar Dynamite: Monday-Saturday, 5-9pm: \$2 domestics bottles and drafts, \$3 wells. Free food from Lucha Libre Taco Shop.

MISSION VALLEY

The Amigo Spot at Kings Inn: Monday, 4-7pm: \$3 Gold margaritas, house wine, \$2 drafts, \$3.50 wells. Tuesday, Saturday, 4-7pm: \$3 house wine, \$2 drafts, \$3.50 wells. Wednesday, 4-7pm: \$5 any martini, \$3 house wine, \$2 drafts, \$3.50 wells. Thursday, 4-7pm: \$3 house wine, wells, \$2 drafts. Friday, 4-7pm: \$1 off any tequila shot, \$3 house wine, bottled beer.

NATIONAL CITY

Pier 32 Waterfront Grill: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$2 domestic beer, \$3 import & local beer, \$4 house wine. Saturday-Sunday, all day: \$4 mimosas, bloody marys.

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Dec 23-Firkin Friday
w/Ballast Point

On Cask: Habanero Sculpin

Dec 24th-Christmas Eve w/Alpine
On Cask: Alpine Duet Tapping 1pm



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Self Righteous Cask
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HOLIDAYS WITH IRIESIDE**

Saturday, December 24

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WEAR A HIDEOUS SWEATER,
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Friday, December 30

**TROUBLE IN THE WIND WITH
TAN SISTER RADIO**

Saturday, December 31

**EAST COAST TOAST
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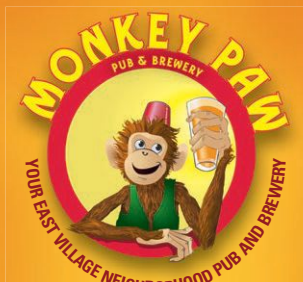
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Aryana at Holiday Inn: Daily, Pier View Pub: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$1 off drafts, \$2 off pitchers.

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Cosmopolitan Hotel and Restaurant: Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 3-6pm: \$3 wells, house wine, and drafts.

Old Town Mexican Café: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm, 11pm-close: Drink & beer specials. \$2 Taco Tuesday (chicken, beef, fish, carnitas); \$2.50 margaritas, Tecate, tequila.

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Pacific Beach Ale House: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$3 drafts, wells, house wines. 1/2-price appetizers.

SD Tap Room: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$1 off drafts, \$2 off appetizers. \$3.50 wine and sake.

Sinbad Café: Daily, 4-8pm: \$1.50 drafts, \$2 wells, shots, \$2.50 imports. 11am-8pm: \$12-\$15 hookahs.

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RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Cottonwood Golf Club Bar & Restaurant: Daily, 4-6pm: \$2 drafts. 1/2-off all appetizers including pizza, quesadillas, wings, calamari.

RANCHO SANTA FE

Delicias: Daily, 4-6pm: \$5 draft beers, house wines, wells.

SAN MARCOS

Cowshed Bar and Grill: Monday, Wednesday-Sunday, 4-7pm: \$3 domestic. \$3.50-\$4 wells. Tuesday, 4pm-2am: \$3 domestic. \$3.50-\$4 wells.

SANTEE

Landre's Sports Bar & Grill: Daily, 4-7pm: \$1 off all drinks. \$5 appetizers: potato skins, garlic/bacon fries, shrimp cocktail, more.

SCRIPPS RANCH

Stone Flats: Daily, 3-5pm, 7-9pm: \$1 Bud/Bud Light; 1/2-off all other beer/wine.

SERRA MESA

Channel 1 Sports Bar and Grill: Sunday, \$2.50 mind erasers, kamikazes. \$3.50 mimosas, bloody marys.

SHELTER ISLAND

Blue Wave Bar & Grill: Daily, 4-7pm: \$1 off drinks; \$3-\$5 appetizers, including jumbo shrimp cocktail and crispy fried calamari.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club: Daily, 5-7pm: 1/2-off all drinks & menu items (excludes holiday/concert nights).

SOLANA BEACH

Chief's Burgers and Brew: Tuesday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$2.50 domestic, \$3.50 microbrew. 1/2-off appetizers.

SORRENTO VALLEY

Ali Baba's Cave: Daily, 3-7pm: 22-oz. beer \$4 (including tax). \$12 hookahs, \$5 refills.

Karl Strauss Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: \$3.50 beer.

SOUTH PARK

Hamilton's Tavern and Café: Daily, 5-8pm: \$1 off local drafts.

SPRING VALLEY

California Comfort: Daily, 4-7pm: \$2.50 domestic pints, wells, house wine.

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JP's Pub: Monday-Friday, 3-5pm: \$2.50 wells, domestic drafts, \$3.25 house wine.

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Michael's Lounge in the Hyatt Regency: Daily, 5-7pm: \$4 drafts and well cocktails.

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THEATER LISTINGS

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas

There's a new Grinch in town and he's a hoot. Steve Blanchard's nasty enough to inspire trepidation but establishes 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 one: it hires local actors, among them Steve Gunderson (terrific as Old Max the dog), Geno and Nancy Snow Carr, Randall Dodge, Phil Johnson, and eight-year-old Caitlin McAuliffe, who alternates as Cindy Lou Who with Remy Margaret Corbin. Robert Morgan's candy-stripe costumes combine with John Lee Beatty's set — snowdrifts that resemble giant marshmallows — to create the appropriately cartoon-like stage picture. *Worth a try.* OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 7PM TUESDAYS THROUGH FRIDAYS; 11AM, 2PM, AND 5PM SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 31.

Emilia's Sugarplum Nightmare

Fifteen-year-old Emilia romps through history "and all the way to the North Pole" in this "Vaudeville-flavored comedy." LIBERTY HALL THEATRE AT PARADISE VILLAGE, 2700 EAST 4TH ST., NATIONAL CITY. 8PM THURSDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 22.

It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play

This year's is Cygnet Theatre's final rendition of the "radio play" based on the Frank Capra movie. Nine actors read scripts, focus on stand-up microphones, and tell the tale of George Bailey, guardian angel of Bedford Falls, fallen on hard times. Tom Andrew re-creates his award-winning role as George. Amanda Sitton (who gives languid, beauty-pageant waves to the audience) heads a fluid ensemble cast, directed by Sean Murray. And ingenious Jason Connors improvises sounds, including cricket chirps from an ice cream scoop. In the brief second act, the bells and whistles vanish as George rediscovers his purpose. *Critic's Pick.*

CYGNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. 7:30PM TUESDAYS THROUGH THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 3PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 31.

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol

Oceanside Theatre Company presents Tom Mula's tale about what happens to Ebenezer Scrooge's business partner after his death. Christopher Williams directed. SUNSHINE BROOKS THEATRE, 217 N.



(Left to right) Eileen Bowman as Grandma Who, Melinda Gilb as Mama Who, James Vasquez as Papa Who, and Phil Johnson as Grandpa Who in the 2010 production of *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

COAST HWY., OCEANSIDE. 760-529-9140. 7:30PM THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, 2PM AND 7:30PM SATURDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 24.

Jesus Christ Superstar

Big, splashy on the outside, humble and personal within, Des McAnuff's *Superstar* has taken the pranksterism out of the original. The show is much more reverent than ir-. And everyone's fallible, including the Nazarene. The leads — Paul Nolan (Jesus), Josh Young (Judas), and Chilina Kennedy (Magdalene) — belt songs with verve and ease. And so does everyone else. The musical is "through-composed." Songs follow songs with almost no dialogue. You could say the production is "through-directed." Scenes evolve with near constant movement. Time speeds up. Days become hours become minutes. The theatricality is extraordinary. *Critic's Pick.*

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DR., UCSD. 858-550-1010. 8PM THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS, 2PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM TUESDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 31.

Jingle Bell Rock

Welk Resort Theatre presents the Alley Cats' new Christmas show, singing popular holiday songs in a doo-wop, a cappella style. WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DR., ESCONDIDO. 888-802-7469. 1PM AND 8PM THURSDAYS AND SATURDAYS, 1PM SUNDAYS, 1PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 31.

Kick the Dickens Out of the Holidays

Celebrationworks presents six one-act comedies for the yuletide season, including "Oy Vey Maria," by Mark Harvey Levine, "Santa on Call," by Joan Anderson and Dorothy Sanders, and "Night of the Living Debutante," by Brett Hursey. SEASIDE CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING, 1613 LAKE DR., ENCINITAS. 760-753-5786. 7PM FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.

La Pastorela de Valor

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

LYCEUM THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN. 619-544-1000. 7:30PM THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, 2PM SATURDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 24.

Lamb's Festival: The Spirit of Christmas Present

Kerry Meads set her annual Christmas story "somewhere uptown," today. Neighbors isolated from each other come together and experience the play's title: "The Spirit of Christmas Present." The outcome is never in doubt. What propels the production are terrific musical arrangements (Jon Lorenz and Leonard Patton) and real close to the vest harmonies. Kathi Gibbs Woods heads the cast as Mrs. Riley, a homeless, mystical woman able to forge unsuspected links. Jeanne Reith's excellent costumes range from chic to hand-me-down. *Worth a try.*

LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-437-0600. 7:30PM TUESDAYS THROUGH THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 4PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 6PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 30.

National Comedy Theatre

The National Comedy Theatre presents a 100-minute improv comedy show based completely on audience suggestions. The show is "appropriate for all audiences." NATIONAL COMEDY THEATRE, 3717 INDIA ST., MISSION HILLS. 619-295-4999. 7:30PM AND 9:45PM FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS, OPEN-ENDED RUN.

Night Stage to Big Shaft

Peggy Sue Productions presents a dinner-theater show set in 1853. "When a new mine and a dead lawyer are discovered, everyone becomes a suspect."

MIKKI'S CAFE, 1639 EAST VALLEY PARK-

WAY, ESCONDIDO. 7:30PM FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS, OPEN-ENDED RUN.

Some Lovers

As in a play by Alan Ayckbourn, the new Burt Bacharach/Steven Sater musical takes place in multiple dimensions. Young Ben and Molly share the stage with older Ben and

Molly. They become, for each other, Ghosts of Christmas Past and Future. 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.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 7PM TUESDAYS THROUGH FRIDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 31.

CRITIC'S CHOICE!

"If you're a fan of Burt Bacharach's rich song catalog from the '60s and '70s, then you'll find much to enjoy in his new holiday musical **SOME LOVERS**. The show's four-member cast are exceptional singers-actors. It's easy to get swept back in time with the likable, ear-pleasing 90-minute musical."

-North County Times

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*It's the Cold War of the 1970s.
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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



Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy makes much, without fuss, of even tiny scenes.

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 atmospheric, 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

Great Moments in Celebrity Broadloom

By Scott Marks — Dec. 19, 8:58 a.m.

We Need a Little Christmas Music

By Scott Marks — Dec. 19, 8:16 a.m.

Great Moments in Celebrity Hair

By Scott Marks — Dec. 16, 11:26 a.m.

Support Your Local Film Festival and Art House: Give the Gift of Movies

By Scott Marks — Dec. 16, 2:01 p.m.

Overheard: Spielberg and a Very Method-y Daniel Day-Lewis on the Set of Lincoln

By Matthew Lickona — Dec. 15, 11:01 a.m.

A Dusting of Dandruff from the Reader Christmas Party

By Scott Marks — Dec. 16, 8:50 a.m.

Golden Globe Nominations Spark "Scorsez" Snub!

By Scott Marks — Dec. 15, 10:45 a.m.

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Daily newspapers - So yesterday.

THE BIG SCREEN



San Diego Asian Film Foundation Screens *A Good Husband* Tonight
Posted Dec. 13, 11:56 a.m. by Scott Marks

JAM SESSION



I Just Can't Get Enough
Posted Dec. 13, 1:40 p.m. by Garrett Harris



U.K. Nu Skool Breaks and Electro Legend Krafty Kuts at Spin
Posted Dec. 13, 12:44 p.m. by Chad Deal

GAME DAY



All-CIF Football Selections
Posted Dec. 13, 1:24 p.m. by Anthony Gentile

FEAST!



El Porvenir Takes Back the Future
Posted Dec. 13, 12:14 p.m. by Ed Bedford

Daily blogs at SDReader.com



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 to him by aging Control (John Hurt, yet not enough Hurt — when is there *ever* enough Hurt?). After both are shunted aside by more sinister players, Smiley leads a secret team (a key member is Benedict Cumberbatch, British TV's recent Sherlock Holmes) to ferret through the subtle, covert clues. Those must lead to one or more of the four men who are so smugly rising at London HQ: Percy (Toby Jones), Bill (Colin Firth, not stuttering), Roy (Ciarán Hinds), and Toby (David Dencik).

The British do group acting the best. This is a master class, its lessons set in the aspic of sardonic wit. In the infallible cast Christian McKay (of *Me and Orson Welles*) is sadly wasted, but Tom Hardy is remarkable as a sexy, squirming agent, the one who most needs to come in from the cold. As truths spill and merge in murk, the infidelity of Smiley's wife is only a passing stain.

Alfredson and cinematographer Hoyte Van Hoytema make much, without fuss, of even tiny scenes. Details grip our interest: teeth dryly crunching toast, a buzzing bee in a car, the urgency of a bike's bell, the sign "Remember: Telephone Service Is Not Secure" deep in the entrails of the Circus, a nursing mother in dire peril, the sound of Julio Iglesias singing "La Mer," the subversive humor of the boozed Circus staff capping their Christmas party with the Soviet anthem. "Nothing's genuine anymore," laments Control, but *Tinker*, crawling across its tense, clinging web of shame and betrayal, feels absolutely genuine.

★★★★

The Adventures 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 Rémi), 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 glaze 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 with racism and anti-Semitism, and he snuggled up to Hitler's "New Order" in

Belgium (later apologizing as if to say, "Oh, you know, us artists...").

Boys aged 7 to 12 may enjoy the action. Anyone much older will drop into a funk. The movie is a crank up that just keeps cranking. How odd it is, that two top American directors currently celebrate old French-culture 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.

★

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,

though Sabina was a Russian Jew fluent in German. Virginal, love-hate fears about her cruel, domineering father caused hysteria, and then she met Dr. Carl Jung (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 *Freud* (1962), in part because star Montgomery Clift

Rolling Stone
—PETER TRAVERS—

"A DEVILISHLY CLEVER, MIND-BENDING THRILLER, THAT IS EASILY ONE OF THE YEAR'S BEST PICTURES!"
Gary Oldman gives a performance that is flawless in every detail. He is one of the best actors on the planet. A master class in film artistry."

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FOCUS FEATURES and STUDIO CANAL PRESENT A KARLA FILMS PARADIS FILMS KINOVELT FILM PRODUCTION CO-PRODUCTION WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF CANAL+ AND CINEMA A WORKING TITLE PRODUCTION GARY OLDMAN "TINKER TAILOR SOLDIER SPY" KATHY BURKE BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH COLIN FIRTH STEPHEN GRAHAM TOM HARDY CIARÁN HINDS JOHN HURT TOBY JONES SIMON MCBURNEY MARK STRONG COSTUME DESIGNER JANA JAY MUSIC BY ALBERTO IGLESIAS EDITOR DINO JONASER EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JESSIE JACQUELINE DURRAN PRODUCED BY ALEXANDRA FERGUSON DIRECTED BY JOHN L. CARRÉ PRODUCED BY BRIDGET O'CONNOR & PETER STRAUGHAN PRODUCED BY TIM BEVAN ERIC FELLNER ROBYN SLOVO WRITTEN BY JOHN L. CARRÉ BASED ON THE JOHN L. CARRÉ CLASSIC THAT REDEFINED THE SPY THRILLER A FILM BY TOMAS ALFREDSON

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Calendar

MOVIES

felt cornered by Huston's scorn for Clift's "weakness" (homosexuality). Though Freud is out of fashion now, he shouldn't be boring.

★★

Reviewed in the capsules: *Alvin & the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked*, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, and *Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol*.
— David Elliott

MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by David Elliott, Matthew Lickona, John Rubio, 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 sorted alphabetically, by year of release, and by rating are available online at SanDiegoReader.com.



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

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; FROM 12/23)

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked — It's possible that the eight-to-ten-year-old set has not been suf-

ficiently 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. Bérénice Bejo (the director's partner) as Peppy, an emerging star of talkies, is iffier (female stars of the era had more flesh), but she sure 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.
(KEN; FROM 12/23)

A Dangerous Method — Reviewed this issue.

★★ (HILLCREST; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; FROM 12/23)

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; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; LA JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE 16; OCEANSIDE MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PARKWAY PLAZA 18; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; RANCHO DEL REY 16; RANCHO SAN DIEGO 15; SAN MARCOS 18; TEMECULA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 12/25)

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


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for a huge patch of Kauai that excites his greedy relatives and his wife’s lover. His trip with his daughters has some wry humor, leading to live-and-learn pathos. It’s like *The Little Foxes* adrift in a Hawaiian travelogue. Clooney tries hard, but his hair does best. Acting laurels go to subtle Shailene Woodley as the older daughter and Robert Forster as her grumpy gramps. With Judy Greer, Nick Krause, Matthew Lillard, Beau Bridges, Laird Hamilton. 2011. — D.E.

★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; HILLCREST)

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo — Not bad, for an unnecessary remake. I’ll gladly make do with a shortening of the misogynistic revenge-rape in exchange for a more cuddly relationship between the cop (Daniel Craig) and the girl who fell face first into a tackle box (Rooney Mara). The smooth lateral pans and flat, shiny surfaces brand it 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 subtitles. 2011. — S.M.

★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; ESCONDIDO 16; 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; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE; FROM 12/23)

Hugo — Martin Scorsese goes to town (Paris) with CGI effects and 3-D and the fantasy story from Brian Selznick’s book about Parisian orphan Hugo Cabret. Asa Butterfield is Hugo, maintaining the clocks in a train depot in 1930. Lonely, brilliant, and cute, he wins the friendship of a girl

(delightful Clôe Grace Moretz) and the enmity of a scowling station cop (Sacha Baron Cohen, who lumbers). The story is rather skimpy for the machine of magical memory that Scorsese piles onto it, and the 3-D is a mixed blessing. But the story launches into cine-retro heaven when he salutes George Méliès (Ben Kingsley), the silent-movie pioneer of kitschy fantasy. The effusion of clips, studio sets, and vintage tunes is a hymn to movie bliss, although Scorsese’s core sensibility as an artist is not really in the Méliès line. This is a personal work but also commercially driven (even bloated), and the tension of that is fascinat-

ing. 2011. — D.E.
★★★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY HAZARD CENTER 7)

The Ides of March — Facile but enjoyable. George Clooney directed and stars as a presidential candidate, a glib liberal dream — apart from his Clintonian attraction to a naïve intern (Evan Rachel Wood), who seems to be running on the Live Bait ticket. As a silky machine of ambition, he excites other tough guys: Paul Giamatti, Ryan Gosling, Jeffrey Wright, and, making a big speech about loyalty, Philip Seymour Hoffman (also a tough gal, Marisa Tomei

continued on page 92

MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Bargain showtimes are in parentheses.

CENTRAL

San Diego Natural History Museum Kaplan Theater
1788 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-232-0248)
Dinosaurs 3D: Giants of Patagonia (Not Rated) Fri-Sat 1:00, 2:30, 4:00 Sun 1:00, 2:30; **Inner Earth 3D** (Not Rated) Fri-Sun 11:00, 1:45, 3:15; **Ocean Oasis** (Not Rated) Fri-Sun 12:00p.m.

CARMEL MOUNTAIN

Reading Carmel Mountain
11620 Carmel Mountain Road (800-326-3264 #2704)
The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Fri,-Sun. (11:55, 2:20) 4:45, 7:15, 9:35; **Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked** (G) Fri. (11:15, 1:30, 3:40) 5:45, 7:50, 10:00 Sat,-Sun. (11:15, 1:30, 3:40) 5:45, 7:50, 10:00; **Arthur Christmas** (PG) Fri,-Sat. (10:35, 1:00, 3:20) 5:30, 7:45, 10:05 Sun. (10:35a.m.); **The Darkest Hour** (PG-13) Sun. (10:15, 12:25, 2:35) 5:00, 7:20, 9:40; **The Descendants** (R) Fri,-Sat. (11:40, 2:15) 4:50, 7:25, 10:05; **Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (10:45, 1:35) 4:30, 7:30, 10:15; **My Week with Marilyn** (R) Fri,-Sun. (10:30, 12:45, 3:00) 5:15, 7:40, 9:55; **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (11:05, 1:50) 4:20, 7:20, 9:45 Sun. (12:45, 3:05) 5:35; **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (10:40, 11:45, 1:25, 2:30) 4:15, 5:15, 7:05, 7:55, 9:50, 10:35 Sun. (10:40, 1:25) 4:15, 7:05, 8:00, 9:45, 10:30; **Special Event** (Not Rated) Sun. (3:00p.m.); **The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo** (R) Fri,-Sun. (12:30, 3:45) 7:00, 10:10; **War Horse** (PG-13) Sun. (10:00, 1:00) 4:00, 7:00, 10:00; **We Bought a Zoo** (PG) Fri,-Sun. (11:00, 1:50) 4:40, 7:25, 10:15; **Young Adult** (R) Fri,-Sat. (11:25, 1:40, 3:50) 5:55, 8:05, 10:25

CLAIREMONT

Reading Town Square
4665 Clairemont Drive (800-326-3264 #2722)
The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Fri,-Sun. (1:45p.m.); **Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked** (G) Fri,-Sun. (10:30, 11:30, 12:45, 1:45, 3:00) 4:00, 5:15, 6:15, 8:20, 10:25; **Arthur Christmas** (PG) Fri,-Sun. (10:15, 12:30); **The Darkest Hour** (PG-13) Sun. (1:00) 5:15, 9:35; **The Descendants** (R) Fri,-Sat. (10:35, 1:20) 4:15, 7:25, 10:20; **Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (10:30, 11:30, 1:20, 2:30) 4:25, 5:25, 7:20, 8:20, 10:15, 11:15; **My Week with Marilyn** (R) Fri,-Sat. (11:05, 1:20, 3:35) 5:50, 8:05, 10:20 Sun. (11:05, 1:20, 3:35) 5:50, 8:05, 10:35; **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. 7:40, 10:15 Sun. 10:20; **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (10:45, 1:35) 4:25, 7:15, 10:05 Fri,-Sat. (11:30, 12:15, 2:20, 3:05) 5:10, 5:55, 8:00, 8:45, 10:50, 11:25 Sun. (10:45, 11:45, 1:35, 2:35) 4:20, 5:20, 7:15, 8:15, 10:05, 11:05; **Special Event** (Not Rated) Fri,-Sun.; **The Adventures of Tintin 3D** (PG) Fri,-Sun. (11:00) 4:15, 7:05, 9:40; **The Darkest Hour 3D** (PG-13) Sun. (10:50, 3:05) 7:25; **The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo** (R) Fri,-Sun. (12:25, 2:45, 3:45) 6:00, 7:00, 9:15, 10:15; **War Horse** (PG-13) Sun. (10:25, 1:35) 4:40, 7:50, 10:55; **We Bought a Zoo** (PG) Fri,-Sun. (10:55, 1:55) 4:45, 7:45, 10:30; **Young**

Adult (R) Fri,-Sun. (10:40, 12:55, 3:10) 5:30, 7:40, 9:55

CORONADO

Vintage La Costa
820 Orange Avenue (619-437-6161)
It's a Wonderful Life (1946) (G) Sat. (11:00a.m.); **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) Fri. (3:15) 5:15, 8:30 Sat. (3:15) 5:15; **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** (PG-13) Fri. (10:30, 12:30, 3:15) 5:50, 8:30 Sat. (12:30, 3:15) 5:50 Sun. (12:30, 3:15) 5:50, 8:30; **The Adventures of Tintin 3D** (PG) Fri. (10:30, 12:30, 3:30) 5:50, 8:30 Sat,-Sun. (12:30, 3:30) 5:50; **War Horse** (PG-13) Sun. (1:30) 5:00, 8:30

DOWNTOWN

Reading Gaslamp
701 Fifth Avenue (800-326-3264 #2709)
The Darkest Hour (PG-13) Sun. (10:00, 12:05, 2:15) 4:25, 6:35, 8:45, 10:55; **Hugo** (PG) Fri,-Sun. (10:50, 1:50) 4:35, 7:20, 10:15; **Hugo 3D** (PG) Fri,-Sat. (12:50, 3:50) 6:45, 9:30; **The Ides of March** (R) Fri,-Sun. (11:00) 10:20; **J. Edgar** (R) Fri,-Sat. (12:55) 4:05, 7:05, 9:50 Sun. (1:10) 9:35; **Machine Gun Preacher** (R) Fri,-Sat. (10:45, 1:30) 4:15, 7:00, 10:00; **Midnight in Paris** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (1:20, 3:30) 5:45, 8:00; **Moneyball** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (11:15, 2:00) 4:55, 7:40, 10:25 Sun. (11:15) 7:40, 10:25; **My Week with Marilyn** (R) Fri,-Sun. (10:00, 12:15, 2:30) 4:50, 7:10, 9:40; **National Theatre Live: The Collaborators EN-CORE** (Not Rated) Sat. 2:00p.m.; **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) Fri. (10:00, 10:35, 11:25, 12:35, 1:10, 2:05, 3:10, 3:45) 4:45, 5:45, 6:25, 7:25, 8:25, 9:05, 10:05, 11:05 Sat. (10:00, 10:35, 11:25, 12:35, 1:10, 2:05, 3:10, 3:45) 4:45, 5:45, 6:25, 7:25, 8:25, 9:05, 10:05 Sun. (11:25, 2:05) 4:45, 7:25, 10:05; **The Sitter** (R) Fri. (10:10, 12:10, 2:10) 4:10, 6:10, 8:10, 10:10 Sat. (10:10, 12:10) 8:10, 10:10 Sun. (10:10, 12:10, 2:10) 4:10, 6:10, 8:10, 10:10; **The Darkest Hour 3D** (PG-13) Sun. (11:00, 1:15, 3:25) 5:35, 7:45, 9:50; **War Horse** (PG-13) Sun. (10:05, 12:00, 1:05, 3:05) 4:05, 6:05, 7:00, 9:05, 10:00; **The Way** (PG-13) Sun. 4:20, 7:05; **We Bought a Zoo** (PG) Fri. (12:00, 1:00, 2:45) 4:30, 5:30, 7:15, 8:15, 9:55, 11:00 Sat. (10:55, 12:00, 1:40, 2:45) 4:30, 5:30, 7:15, 8:15, 9:55 Sun. (10:55, 12:00, 1:40, 2:45) 4:30, 5:30, 7:15, 8:15, 9:55, 11:00; **Young Adult** (R) Fri. (10:30, 11:30, 12:45, 1:45, 3:00, 3:55) 5:15, 6:15, 7:30, 8:30, 9:45 Sun. (10:30, 11:30, 12:45, 1:45, 3:00, 3:55) 5:15, 6:15, 7:30, 8:30, 9:45 Sun.

Regal Horton Plaza
Horton Plaza (619-444-FILM)
The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Fri. (10:55, 11:35, 1:25, 2:10, 3:55) 6:25, 8:55 Sat. (10:55, 11:35, 1:25, 2:10, 3:55) 6:25 Sun. (1:25, 2:10, 3:55) 6:25, 8:55; **Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked** (G) Fri. (10:25, 11:15, 12:40, 2:55, 5:10) 7:25, 9:40 Sat. (10:25, 11:15, 12:40, 2:55) 5:10, 7:25 Sun. (12:40, 1:20, 2:55) 5:10, 7:25, 9:40; **Don 2** (Not Rated) Fri. (12:35, 3:40) 6:45, 9:50 Sat. (12:35, 3:40) 6:45 Sun. (12:35, 3:40) 6:45, 9:50; **Immortals** (R) Fri. (2:50, 5:10) 7:30, 9:55 Sat. (2:50) 5:10, 7:30 Sun. 5:10, 7:30, 9:55; **Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol** (PG-13) Fri. (10:15, 11:05, 1:15, 2:00, 4:15) 5:00, 6:40, 7:15, 8:00, 9:35, 10:15 Sat. (10:15, 11:05, 1:15, 2:00) 4:15, 5:00, 6:40, 7:15, 8:00, 9:35, 10:15; **The Muppets** (PG) Fri,-Sat. (10:15, 12:50) Sun. (12:50p.m.); **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** (PG-13) Fri. (10:45, 11:25, 12:00, 1:45, 2:20, 4:45, 5:20) 7:45, 9:15 Sat. (10:45, 11:25, 12:00, 1:45, 2:20)

4:45, 5:20, 7:45 Sun. (1:00, 1:45, 2:20) 4:45, 5:20, 7:45, 9:15; **The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo** (R) Fri. (11:40, 12:30, 3:10, 3:40, 4:35) 6:55, 7:35, 8:10, 10:15 Sat. (11:40, 12:30, 3:10, 3:40) 4:35, 6:55, 7:35 Sun. (12:30, 3:10, 3:40) 4:35, 6:55, 7:35, 8:10, 10:15; **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1** (PG-13) Fri. (1:50, 4:25) 7:05, 9:45 Sat. (1:50) 4:25, 7:05 Sun. 4:25, 7:05, 9:45; **Won't Last A Day Without You** (Not Rated) Fri. (10:35, 1:35, 4:25) 7:05, 9:50 Sat. (10:35, 1:35) 4:25, 7:05 Sun. (1:35) 4:25, 7:05, 9:50

KENSINGTON

Landmark Ken
4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236)
Being Elmo: A Puppeteer's Journey (PG) Sat - Mon: (1:00), 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00*, * No 9:00 PM Show Saturday, 12/24/11. Fri, Tue - Thu: (1:00), (3:00), (5:00), 7:00, 9:00; **Outrage** (R) Opens Friday, December 30

LA JOLLA

AMC La Jolla
8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (888-262-4386)
The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Fri,-Sun. 4:00p.m.; **The Adventures of Tintin 3D** (PG) Fri,-Sun. (10:30) 1:15, 6:45, 9:30; **Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked; Arthur Christmas; The Darkest Hour; The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo** (R) Fri,-Sat. (11:00) 2:40, 6:20, 10:00 Sun. (11:55) 3:40, 7:20, 10:45; **Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (9:45) 1:05, 4:25, 7:45, 11:00; **New Year's Eve; Shame; Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows; War Horse** (PG-13) Sun. (11:05) 2:35, 6:05, 9:35; **We Bought a Zoo** (PG) Fri,-Sat. (10:15) 1:20, 4:25, 7:30, 10:35 Sun. (10:15) 1:20, 4:25, 7:30, 10:35

Landmark La Jolla Village
8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-819-0236)
Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy (R) Sat - Mon: (10:00), 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00*, * No 10:00 PM Show Saturday, 12/24/11. Fri, Tue - Thu: (10:00), (1:00), (4:00), 7:00, 10:00; **A Dangerous Method** (R) Sat - Mon: (10:20), 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 9:55*, * No 9:55 PM Show Saturday, 12/24/11. Fri, Tue - Thu: (10:20), (1:20), (4:20), 7:20, 9:55; **Young Adult** (R) Sat - Mon: (10:30), 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:50*, * No 9:50 PM Show Saturday, 12/24/11. Fri, Tue - Thu: (10:30), (1:30), (4:30), 7:30, 9:50; **My Week With Marilyn** (R) Sat - Mon: (10:10), 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:45*, * No 9:45 PM Show Saturday, 12/24/11. Fri, Tue - Thu: (10:10), (1:10), (4:10), 7:10, 9:45

MIRA MESA

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AMC Fashion Valley
7037 Friars Road (888-262-4386)
The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Fri. (10:05) 12:50, 3:35, 6:20, 9:00, 11:40 Sat. (10:05) 12:50, 3:35, 6:20, 9:00 Sun. (10:05) 12:50, 3:35, 6:20, 9:00, 11:40; **Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked** (G) Fri. (9:30, 10:20) 12:00, 12:55, 2:25, 3:20, 4:50, 5:45, 7:15, 9:40, 10:45 Sat. (10:20) 12:00, 12:55, 2:25, 3:20, 4:50, 5:45, 7:15, 8:15, 9:40 Sun. (9:30) 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40; **Arthur Christmas** (PG) Fri,-Sun. (9:55a.m.); **The Darkest Hour** (PG-13) Sun. (9:35) 3:30, 8:30; **Hugo** (PG) Fri,-Sat. 1:00, 7:05 Sun. (10:10) 4:10, 7:20; **Hugo 3D** (PG) Fri,-Sat. (9:55) 4:00, 10:10; **J. Edgar** (R) Fri,-Sun.

(10:00a.m.); **Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol** (PG-13) Fri. (9:30, 10:15) 12:45, 1:30, 4:00, 4:45, 7:15, 8:00, 10:35, 11:10, 12:00 Sat. (10:15) 12:45, 1:30, 4:00, 4:45, 7:15, 8:00, 10:25 Sun. (9:30, 10:15) 12:45, 1:30, 4:00, 4:45, 7:15, 8:00, 10:35, 11:10, 12:00; **The Muppets** (PG) Fri,-Sat. (10:30) 1:25, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55 Sun. (9:50a.m.); **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) Fri,-Sun. (10:45) 1:10, 2:00, 4:20, 5:05, 7:25, 8:10, 10:30 Sun. (10:45) 1:10, 2:00, 4:20, 5:05, 7:25, 8:10, 10:30, 11:15; **The Sitter** (R) Fri,-Sun. (9:35) 12:05, 2:25, 4:45, 7:00, 9:20; **The Adventures of Tintin 3D** (PG) Fri,-Sun. (11:05) 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 10:00; **The Darkest Hour 3D** (PG-13) Sun. 1:05, 5:55, 10:55; **The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo** (R) Fri. (9:45, 11:15) 12:40, 2:45, 4:15, 6:15, 9:45, 11:20, 12:00 Sat. (9:45, 11:15) 12:40, 2:45, 4:10, 6:15, 7:45, 9:45 Sun. (9:45, 11:15) 12:40, 2:45, 4:10, 6:15, 7:45, 9:45, 11:20, 12:00; **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1** (PG-13) Fri,-Sat. (10:10) 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05 Sun. 1:15, 10:15; **War Horse** (PG-13) Sun. (9:45) 12:00, 12:40, 3:20, 4:05, 6:45, 7:30, 10:10, 10:50; **We Bought a Zoo** (PG) Fri. (10:00, 11:20) 1:00, 2:20, 4:00, 5:20, 7:05, 8:25, 10:05, 11:25 Sat. (10:00, 11:20) 1:00, 2:20, 4:00, 5:20, 7:05, 8:25, 10:05 Sun. (10:00, 11:20) 1:00, 2:20, 4:00, 5:20, 7:05, 8:25, 10:05 Sun. (10:00, 11:20) 1:00, 2:20, 4:00, 5:20, 7:05, 8:25, 10:05, 11:25; **Young Adult** (R) Fri. (9:40) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:20 Sat. (9:50) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:20 Sun. (9:40) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:20

AMC Mission Valley
1640 Camino Del Rio North (888-262-4386)
The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Fri. (10:30) 1:15, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40 Sat. (10:30) 1:15, 4:00, 6:50 Sun. (10:30) 1:15, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40; **Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked; Arthur Christmas; The Darkest Hour; The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo** (R) Fri. 12:00, 3:40, 7:20, 10:55 Sat. 12:00, 3:40, 7:20 Sun. 12:00, 3:40, 7:20, 10:55; **Happy Feet Two; The Immortals; Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol** (PG-13) Fri. (9:45) 1:05, 4:25, 7:45, 11:15 Sat. (9:45) 1:05, 4:25, 7:45 Sun. (9:45) 1:05, 4:25, 7:45, 11:15; **The Muppets; New Year's Eve; Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows; The Sitter; Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy; Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn -- Part 1; War Horse** (PG-13) Sun. 12:05, 3:35, 7:05, 10:35; **We Bought a Zoo** (PG) Fri. (10:15) 1:20, 4:25, 7:30, 10:35 Sat. (10:15) 1:20, 4:25, 7:30 Sun. (10:15) 1:20, 4:25, 7:30, 10:35; **Young Adult**

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



War Horse (PG-13) Sun - Thu: 12:15, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15; **We Bought a Zoo** (PG) Discounted UNTIL 4PM Tue & Thu, Fri: 11:00 AM, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:30, Sat: 11:00 AM, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, Sun - Thu: 11:00 AM, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:30; **The Adventures of Tintin 3D** (PG) 3D Upcharge Applies, Fri: 10:00 AM, 12:30, 3:00, 8:00, 10:30, Sat: 10:00 AM, 12:30, 3:00, 8:00, Sun - Thu: 10:00 AM, 12:30, 3:00,

8:00, 10:30; **The Adventures of Tintin** (PG) Fri - Thu: 5:30 PM; **The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo** (R) Special Engagement; No Passes Allowed, Fri: 11:30 AM, 3:30, 7:15, 10:45, Sat: 11:30 AM, 3:30, 7:15, Sun - Wed: 11:30 AM, 3:30, 7:15, 10:45, Thu: 10:00 AM, 11:30 AM, 3:30, 7:15, 10:45; **Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol** (PG-13) Special Engagement; No Passes Allowed, Fri: 10:00 AM, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:15, Sat: 10:00 AM, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, Sun - Thu: 10:00 AM, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00; **Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked** (G) Discounted UNTIL 4PM Tue & Thu, Fri: 10:30 AM, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45, Sat: 10:30 AM, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, Sun - Thu: 10:30 AM, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45; **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** (PG-13) Special Engagement; D-BOX Seats Available; D-Box Upcharge Applies; No Passes Allowed, Fri: 10:15 AM, 1:15, 4:30, 7:30, 10:15, Sat: 10:15 AM, 1:15, 4:30, 7:30, Sun - Wed: 10:15 AM, 1:15, 4:30, 7:30, 10:15, Thu: 1:15, 4:30, 7:30, 10:15; **Hugo** (PG) Fri & Sat: 4:15 PM; **Hugo 3D** (PG) 3D Upcharge Applies, Fri: 10:45 AM, 1:30, 7:15, 10:00, Sat: 1:30, 7:15, PARENT MOVIE MORNING: **"THE GIRL WITH A GOLDEN TATTOO"** THURSDAY, 12/29 @ 10AM. BRING THE BABY!

UPTOWN

Landmark Hillcrest
3965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236)
The Artist (PG-13) Sat - Mon: (12:00), 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55*, * No 9:55 PM Show Saturday, 12/24/11. Fri, Tue - Thu: (12:00), (2:30), (5:00), 7:30, 9:55; **A Dangerous Method** (R) Sat - Mon: (11:20), 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:35*, * No 9:35 PM Show Saturday, 12/24/11. Fri, Tue - Thu: (11:20), (1:50), (4:30), 7:10, 9:35; **The Artist** (PG-13) Sat - Mon: (11:00), 1:30, 3:55, 6:20, 8:45*, * No 8:45 PM Show Saturday, 12/24/11. Fri, Tue - Thu: (11:00), (1:30,) (3:55), 6:20, 8:45; **The Descendants** (R) Sat - Mon: (11:05), 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40*, * No 9:40 PM Show Saturday, 12/24/11. Fri, Tue - Thu: (11:05), (1:40), (4:20), 7:00, 9:40; **Shame** (NC-17) Sat - Mon: (11:30), 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 9:45*, * No 9:45 PM Show Saturday, 12/24/11. Fri, Tue - Thu: (11:30), (2:00), (4:40), 7:20**, 9:45, ** No 7:20 PM Show Wednesday, 12/2

MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Sun. (11:25, 2:20, 3:25) 5:15, 8:10, 9:40, 11:00; **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (11:20, 2:00) 4:35, 7:10, 9:45 Sun. (10:30) 4:15, 10:00; **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** (PG-13) Fri.-Sat. (10:30, 11:35, 1:25, 2:25) 4:10, 5:10, 7:00, 8:00, 9:50, 10:50 Sun. (11:20, 1:15, 2:10) 5:05, 7:05, 8:00, 10:50; **Special Event** (Not Rated) Fri.-Sun.; **The Adventures of Tintin 3D** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:00, 12:25) 5:20, 7:50, 10:20 Sun. (10:05, 12:30) 5:20, 7:50, 10:20; **The Darkest Hour 3D** (PG-13) Sun. (2:40) 7:00, 11:20; **The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo** (R) Fri.-Sat. (11:30, 12:30, 3:55) 6:20, 7:20, 10:40 Sun. (11:30, 12:20, 3:50) 6:20, 7:15, 10:40; **War Horse** (PG-13) Sun. (10:00, 1:05) 4:10, 7:25, 10:35; **We Bought a Zoo** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:15, 2:05) 4:55, 7:40, 10:25

RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Regal Rancho San Diego
2951 Jamacha Road (800-326-3264)
Call theater for program information.

SANTEE

Santee Drive In
10990 Woodside Avenue (619-448-7447)
Call theater for program information.

SOUTH BAY

CHULA VISTA

AMC Palm Promenade
770 Dennery Road (888-262-4386)
The Adventures of Tintin (PG); **Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked** (G); **Arthur Christmas** (PG); **The Darkest Hour** (PG-13); **The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo** (R); **Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol** (PG-13); **New Year's Eve** (PG-13); **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** (PG-13); **The Sitter** (R); **War Horse** (PG-13); **We Bought a Zoo** (PG)

Regal Rancho Del Rey
1025 Tierra del Rey (off East H Street)
(619-216-4707)
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Immortals (R) Fri: 11:30 AM, 2:00, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00, Sat: 11:30 AM, 2:00, 4:30, 7:30, Sun - Thu: 11:30 AM, 2:00, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00; **Tower Heist** (PG-13) Fri: 12:15, 3:00, 5:30, 8:30, 11:00, Sat: 12:15, 3:00, 5:30, 8:30, Sun - Thu: 12:15, 3:00, 5:30, 8:30, 11:00; **A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas** (R) Fri: 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:15, 9:45, Sat: 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:15, Sun - Thu: 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:15, 9:45; **In Time** (PG-13) Fri: 11:45 AM, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45, Sat: 11:45 AM, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45; **Puss in Boots** (PG) Fri: 11:00 AM, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:30, Sat: 11:00 AM, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, Sun - Thu: 11:00 AM, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:30; **Paranormal Activity 3** (R) Fri: 12:00, 4:45, 9:30, Sat: 12:00, 4:45, Sun - Thu: 12:00, 4:45, 9:30; **The Three Musketeers** (PG-13) Fri: 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15, Sat: 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, Sun - Thu: 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15; **The Ides of March** (R) Fri: 2:45, 8:15, 10:45, Sat: 2:45, 8:15, Sun - Thu: 2:45, 8:15, 10:45; **Real Steel** (PG-13) Fri: 11:00 AM, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15, Sat: 11:00 AM, 4:15, 7:15, Sun - Thu: 11:00 AM, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15; **Courageous** (PG-13) Fri - Thu: 11:45 AM, 5:15; **Dolphin Tale** (PG) Fri - Thu: 11:15 AM; **Moneyball** (PG-13) Fri - Thu: 11:15 AM, 2:15, 5:30, 8:30; **Rise of the Planet of the Apes** (PG-13) Fri - Thu: 2:15, 7:00; **Kung Fu Panda 2** (PG) Fri - Thu: 2:00 PM

EASTLAKE

AMC Otay Ranch
Eastlake Parkway (at Olympic) (888-262-4386)
The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Fri.-Sun. 4:40p.m.; **Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked** (G) Fri. (10:10, 11:00) 12:25, 1:40, 2:50, 4:05, 5:10, 6:25, 7:30, 8:40, 9:50 Sat. (11:00) 12:25, 1:40, 2:50, 4:05, 5:10, 6:25, 7:30, 8:40, 9:50 Sun. (10:10) 12:25, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50; **Arthur Christmas 3D** (PG) Fri.-Sun. 12:20, 2:55; **The Darkest Hour** (PG-13) Sun. (10:30) 1:00, 3:15; **Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. (11:30) 12:30, 2:45, 3:45, 6:00, 7:00, 9:15, 10:15; **The Muppets** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (10:55) 1:35, 4:20, 7:05, 9:55; **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 12:10, 3:10, 6:10, 9:00; **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** (PG-13) Fri. (10:00, 10:45) 1:45, 3:45, 4:45, 6:40, 7:45, 9:45, 10:40 Sat. (10:45) 1:45, 3:45, 4:45, 6:40, 7:45, 9:45 Sun. (10:00, 10:45) 1:45, 3:45, 4:45, 6:40, 7:45, 9:45, 10:40; **The Sitter** (R) Fri. (10:15) 5:35, 7:50, 10:05 Sat. 5:35, 7:50, 10:05 Sun. (10:15) 5:35, 7:50, 10:05; **The Adventures of Tintin 3D** (PG) Fri.-Sun. (11:20) 2:00, 7:20, 9:55; **The Darkest Hour 3D** (PG-13) Sun. 5:45, 8:15, 10:35; **The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo** (R) Fri.-Sun. (11:45) 3:00, 6:20, 9:40; **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1** (PG-13) Fri.-Sun. 12:55p.m.; **War Horse** (PG-13) Sun. 12:10, 3:30, 6:50, 10:10; **We Bought a Zoo** (PG) Fri. (10:20) 1:20, 4:25, 7:40, 10:40 Sat. (10:35) 1:30, 4:25, 7:10, 10:00 Sun. (10:20) 1:20, 4:25, 7:40, 10:40

IMPERIAL BEACH

South Bay Drive In
2170 Coronado Avenue (619-423-2727)
Call theater for program information.

NATIONAL CITY

AMC Plaza Bonita
3030 Plaza Bonita Road (888-262-4386)
The Adventures of Tintin; Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked; Arthur

Christmas; The Darkest Hour; The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo; Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol; New Year's Eve; Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows; The Sitter; Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1; War Horse (PG-13) Sun. 12:05p.m.

NORTH INLAND

ESCONDIDO

Regal Escondido
350 West Valley Parkway (760-291-0119)
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Chipwrecked (G) Discounted UNTIL 4PM Tue & Thu, Fri: 10:15 AM, 12:45, 3:15, 5:30, 8:15, 10:30, Sat: 10:15 AM, 12:45, 3:15, 5:30, 8:15, Sun - Thu: 10:15 AM, 12:45, 3:15, 5:30, 8:15, 10:30; **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** (PG-13) Special Engagement; No Passes Allowed, Fri: 11:00 AM, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30, Sat: 11:00 AM, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, Sun - Thu: 11:00 AM, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30; **Olivia's Wintertime Cheer** (G) Sat & Sun: 10:30 AM

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The Darkest Hour 3D (PG-13) 3D Upcharge Applies, Sun - Thu: 11:00 AM, 3:45, 8:15; **The Darkest Hour** (PG-13) Sun - Thu: 1:30, 6:00, 10:45; **War Horse** (PG-13) Sun - Thu: 10:00 AM, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:15; **We Bought a Zoo** (PG) Discounted UNTIL 4PM Tue & Thu, Fri: 10:30 AM, 1:15, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45, Sat: 10:30 AM, 1:15, 4:15, 7:00, Sun - Thu: 10:30 AM, 1:15, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45; **The Adventures of Tintin 3D** (PG) 3D Upcharge Applies, Fri: 11:15 AM, 1:45, 7:05, 9:30, Sat: 11:15 AM, 1:45, 7:05, Sun - Thu: 11:15 AM, 1:45, 7:05, 9:30; **The Adventures of Tintin** (PG) Fri - Thu: 4:30 PM; **The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo** (R) Special Engagement; No Passes Allowed, Fri: 11:30 AM, 3:30, 7:15, 10:15, Sat: 11:30 AM, 3:30, 7:15, 10:15, Wed: 10:00 AM, 11:30 AM, 3:30, 7:15, 10:15, Thu: 11:30 AM, 3:30, 7:15, 10:15; **Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol** (PG-13) Special Engagement; No Passes Allowed, Fri: 10:00 AM, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:15, Sat: 10:00 AM,

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1:00, 4:00, 7:00, Sun - Thu: 10:20 AM, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20; **Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked** (G) Discounted UNTIL 4PM Tue & Thu, Fri: 10:40 AM, 12:45, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45, Sat: 10:40 AM, 12:45, 5:15, 7:30, Sun - Thu: 10:40 AM, 12:45, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45; **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** (PG-13) Special Engagement; No Passes Allowed, Fri: 10:10 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:10, 2:00, 4:10, 5:00, 7:10, 8:00, 10:00, 10:45, Sat: 10:10 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:10, 2:00, 4:10, 5:00, 7:10, 8:00, Sun - Thu: 10:10 AM, 1:10, 3:30, 4:10, 6:15, 7:10, 9:00, 10:00; **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** (PG-13) Special Engagement; D-BOX Seats For These Showtimes Only; D-Box Upcharge Applies; No Passes Allowed, Fri: 10:10 AM, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00, Sat: 10:10 AM, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, Sun - Thu: 10:10 AM, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00; **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) Special Engagement; No Passes Allowed, Fri: 10:35 AM, 1:25, 4:25, 7:40, 10:25, Sat: 10:35 AM, 1:25, 4:25, 7:40, Sun: 3:00, 5:35, 8:10, 10:45, Mon & Tue: 12:25 PM, Wed: 3:20, 5:55, 8:20, 10:55, Thu: 12:25 PM; **Olivia's Wintertime Cheer** (G) Sat & Sun: 10:30 AM; **Hugo** (PG) Fri & Sat: 1:30, 4:20, Sun - Thu: 12:45 PM; **Hugo 3D** (PG) 3D Upcharge Applies, Fri: 10:45 AM, 7:20, 10:10, Sat: 10:45 AM, 7:20, Sun - Thu: 10:05 AM; **The Muppets** (PG) Fri: 10:15 AM, 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:35, Sat: 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, Sun: 12:25 PM, Mon & Tue: 10:00 AM, Wed: 12:55 PM, Thu: 10:00 AM, PARENT MOVIE MORNING: **"THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO"** WEDNESDAY, 12/28 @ 10AM. BRING THE BABY!

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The Darkest Hour 3D (PG-13) 3D Upcharge Applies, Sun - Thu: 10:30 AM, 3:00, 7:45; **The Darkest Hour** (PG-13) Sun - Thu: 12:30, 5:15, 10:00; **War Horse** (PG-13) Sun - Thu: 10:20 AM, 1:20, 4:20, 7:30, 10:30; **My Week with Marilyn** (R) Fri: 11:00 AM, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30, Sat: 11:00 AM, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, Sun - Thu: 11:00 AM, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30; **We Bought a Zoo** (PG) Discounted UNTIL 4PM Tue & Thu, Fri: 10:15 AM, 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15, Sat: 10:15 AM, 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, Sun - Thu: 10:15 AM, 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15; **The Adventures of Tintin 3D** (PG) 3D Upcharge Applies, Fri: 12:30, 5:30, 10:30, Sat: 12:30, 5:30, Sun - Thu: 12:30, 5:30, 10:30; **The Adventures of Tintin** (PG) Fri - Thu: 10:00 AM, 3:00, 8:00; **The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo** (R) Special Engagement; No Passes Allowed, Fri: 11:30 AM, 3:30, 7:15, 10:45, Sat: 11:30 AM, 3:30, 7:15, Sun - Thu: 11:30 AM, 3:30, 7:15, 10:45; **Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol** (PG-13) Special Engagement; No Passes Allowed, Fri: 10:00 AM, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:15, Sat: 10:00 AM, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, Sun - Thu: 10:00 AM, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:15; **Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked** (G) Discounted UNTIL 4PM Tue & Thu, Fri: 10:00 AM, 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:15, 9:45, Sat: 10:00 AM, 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:15, Sun - Thu: 10:00 AM, 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:15, 9:45; **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** (PG-13) Special Engagement; No Passes Allowed, Fri: 10:15 AM, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, Sun - Thu: 10:15 AM, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15; **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) Special Engagement; No Passes Allowed, Fri: 10:30 AM, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:15, Sat: 10:30 AM, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, Sun - Thu: 4:30, 7:30, 10:15; **The Sitter** (R) Discounted UNTIL 4PM Tue & Thu, Fri: 10:30 AM, 12:45, 3:00, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00, Sat: 12:45, 3:00, 5:30, 7:45; **Olivia's Wintertime Cheer** (G) Sat & Sun: 10:30 AM; **Arthur Christmas** (PG) Fri: 10:25 AM, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30, 10:45, Sat: 10:25 AM, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30, Sun: 1:30 PM, Mon - Thu: 10:30 AM, 1:30

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The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Fri. (10:40, 1:20, 4:00) 6:40, 9:20 Sat. (10:40, 1:20, 4:00) 6:40; **Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked** (G) Fri. (10:15, 10:55, 11:45, 1:05, 2:10, 3:15, 4:35, 5:25) 7:00, 9:25 Sat. (10:15, 10:55, 11:45, 1:05, 2:10, 3:15, 4:35, 5:25) 7:00; **The Descendants** (R) Fri. (11:10, 1:50, 4:30) 7:25, 10:00 Sat. (11:10, 1:50, 4:30) 7:25; **Hugo 3D** (PG) Fri.-Sat. (11:00, 1:50, 4:50); **Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol** (PG-13) Fri. (10:00, 10:40, 1:00, 1:40, 4:00, 4:40) 7:05, 7:45, 10:10, 10:45 Sat. (10:00, 10:40, 1:00, 1:40, 4:00, 4:40) 7:05, 7:45; **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) Fri. (11:15, 2:00, 4:45) 7:35, 10:15 Sat. (11:15, 2:00,

4:45) 7:35; **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** (PG-13) Fri. (10:10, 12:30, 1:10, 3:30, 4:10) 6:30, 7:10, 7:50, 9:30, 10:05, 10:40 Sat. (10:10, 12:30, 1:10, 3:30, 4:10) 6:30, 7:10, 7:50; **The Sitter** (R) Fri. 7:40, 9:50 Sat. 7:40p.m.; **The Adventures of Tintin 3D** (PG) Fri. (11:20, 2:00, 4:35) 7:20, 10:00 Sat. (11:20, 2:00, 4:35) 7:20; **The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo** (R) Fri. (10:35, 12:20, 3:05, 3:50) 6:35, 7:15, 10:05, 10:40 Sat. (10:35, 12:20, 3:05, 3:50) 6:35, 7:15; **We Bought a Zoo** (PG) Fri. (11:00, 1:50, 4:40) 7:30, 10:20 Sat. (11:00, 1:50, 4:40) 7:30; **Young Adult** (R) Fri. (11:50, 2:25, 4:50) 7:30, 9:55 Sat. (11:50, 2:25, 4:50) 7:30

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#DRAGONTATTOO

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Calendar

MOVIES

continued from page 89

as a barracuda reporter). Nothing new here or as entertaining as 1964's *The Best Man*, and the wink at abortion is iffy, yet this ensemble effort maintains a curiously chill heat of interest. 2011. — D.E.

★★ (GASLAMP 15)

J. Edgar — Under the stone-slab “classical” direction of Clint Eastwood, Leonardo DiCaprio dutifully plays J. Edgar Hoover as an anal-retentive power freak and mama's boy (Judi Dench is mom). Building the FBI, he strikes fierce poses but remains a weak, petty neurotic. Writer Dustin Lance Black (*Milk*) never digs very far, and Edgar's dithering, germ-phobic crush on wry, slightly swish agent Tolson (Armie Hammer) is stuck in an empty closet where they fuss and feud, becoming old maids bound by sexless devotion. This blend of history and gossip is well photographed, seems official in a vaguely insolent way, and lingers over the Lindbergh kidnapping case. The small gasps of life are from old Cagney clips. Eastwood has added this new wing to his sprawling movie museum, and Hoover might as well be a statue. 2011. — D.E.

★ (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15)

Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol — Tom Cruise returns, and reliably so, to his role as gadget-happy superspy 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 cartoony 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.

★★ (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; TOWN SQUARE 14; VISTA VILLAGE)

The Muppets — Any similarities between Jim Henson's antron-fleece assemblage and hack-screenwriter Jason Segel's fleece job are coincidental. Bright lights, brittle colors, forced cheer, and production numbers lifted from a Dr. Pepper commercial (and backed by a knitting-needles-through-your-ears score) combine for a fatal dose of nostalgia. In the past, at least we had high-powered celebrity cameos to bank on. This time, the best they can muster is James Carville, Judd Hirsch, and Jack Black. 2011. — S.M.

● (FASHION VALLEY 18; HORTON PLAZA 14; 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 1957's *The Prince and the Showgirl*. He has a crush on Marilyn Monroe, who reciprocates voluptuously (this may be mostly imagined), while costar and director Laurence Olivier fumes. Eddie Redmayne is appealing as coltish Colin, and Kenneth Branagh impersonates Olivier rather well. But Simon Curtis's slight, engaging movie belongs to Michelle Williams. As Marilyn Monroe, she mixes the famous sizzle with catty, canny vulnerability as a natural star who doesn't believe in her talent but can manipulate males. She rescues Marilyn from her image as a controlled dummy. With Zoë Wanamaker as Paula Strasberg, as cuddly as a blowtorch. 2011. — D.E.

★★★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; OCEANSIDE MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; TEMECULA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14)

New Year's Eve — Another holiday slaughtered, processed, shrink wrapped, and shipped to market by director Garry Marshall (*Valentine's Day*). Another massive cast (Ashton Kutcher as the world's prettiest grubby hipster, Katherine Heigl as a jilted caterer, etc.), another whirlwind of plotlines and significances: birth, death, first kisses, dreams come true, marriage, romance. Was anything left out? If so, it wasn't for lack of trying. Why, there's even a horny grandpa! Michelle Pfeiffer provides

perhaps the film's only honest moments as a disappointed doormat with a list of resolutions. 2011. — M.L.

● (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; GROSSMONT CENTER 10; LA JOLLA 12; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; POWAY 10; TEMECULA TOWER 10; TOWN SQUARE 14)

Shame — Less a film than an attractively illustrated chronicle of sexual pathology. 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 written right into her wrists), 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 whiz-by editing. The clues come so fast we'd need a computer to grasp them, as Guy Ritchie puts Sherlock (“Sherley” to his brother) through hectic paces including mad chases, 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 a lot of rather bitchy dialogue and seem fully committed to the dynamic nonsense. 2011. — D.E.

★★ (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)

The Sitter — Jonah Hill plays a slob assigned the task of overseeing a trio of ill-behaved neighborhood kids. When pseudo-girlfriend Ari Graynor calls, offering intercourse in exchange for 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 harlot David Gordon Green directs. 2011. — S.M.

● (FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; MISSION VALLEY 20; OCEANSIDE MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12; PALM PROMENADE 24; PLAZA BONITA 14; TEMECULA TOWER 10)

Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy — Reviewed this issue.

★★★ (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 resulting vampire-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. 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, in 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; TEMECULA 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 defunct journalist (Matt Damon) who buys a small rural zoo. Scarlett Johansson is the main animal keeper. 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; RIVER VILLAGE 6; SAN MARCOS 18; TEMECULA 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-adult author (well, a ghostwriter named Mavis, gamely played by Charlize Theron) who tries to go home again. You'd think — cynical, savvy X-er that Mavis is — she would know better. But maybe her cynicism is only a mask? Maybe, inside, she's just a lost little girl in need of love? Maybe she's just damaged goods, finally seeing herself in the twisted mirror that is maimed geek Patton Oswalt? Maybe, maybe not. Ivan Reitman directed. 2011. — M.L.

★ (CARMEL MOUNTAIN 14; FASHION VALLEY 18; GASLAMP 15; LA JOLLA VILLAGE; MISSION VALLEY 20; TOWN SQUARE 14)



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Angel Face 1952. Otto Preminger's black-and-white film noir stars Robert Mitchum and Jean Simmons. **Wednesday, December 28, 6:30 p.m.**

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Three Amigos 1986. Chevy Chase, Steve Martin, and Martin Short are “silent film stars who are mistaken for real heroes by a small Mexican village and must find a way to live up to that reputation.” Program includes **The Princess Bride** (1987). **Wednesday, December 28, 6 p.m.**

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Hardflip 2012. A young skateboarder “struggles through a number of difficult life situations to find faith and re-unite with his father.” Festival promises nearly 100 films, including music videos, shorts, full-length dramas, comedies, and documentaries. **December 27-30.**

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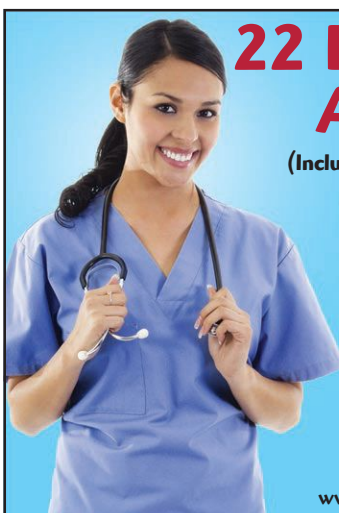
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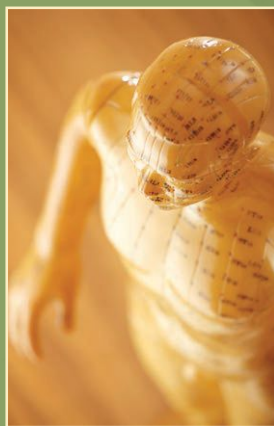
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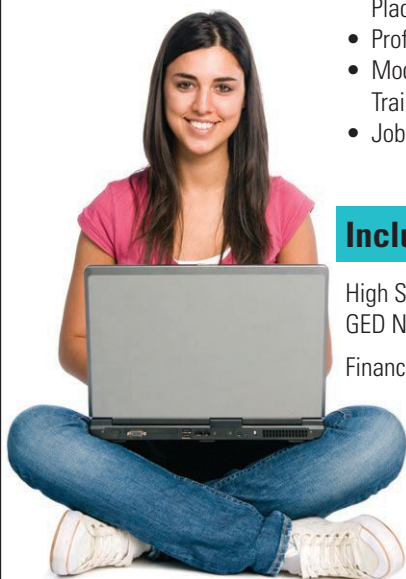
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RULES OF THE GAME

1) Submit your completed puzzle to the *Reader* each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results are posted online each week to sandiegoreader.com. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.
2) Submit the correct answers to one of the puzzles along with your name and a brief message (20 words or less, no URLs or phone numbers). Entries must include a message. This is a great way to express yourself. You may submit a new message weekly. We reserve the right to edit or reject inappropriate text.
3) The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year!
4) Entries must be faxed to **619-231-0489** or **619-233-7907** or mailed to *Reader* Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803, or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy, or scanned and e-mailed to: puzzles@sdreader.com. Submissions by e-mail must be attached in JPG format, 800 by 800 pixels, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed.

And now for the really small print:
1) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
2) Late entries will not be considered.
3) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
4) Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.

NEW RULES

Starting with the issue of May 12, we will award writers of the best messages, among those who correctly solve the puzzle, one of the famous *Reader* baseball caps or T-shirts. And we will print the winning messages in the paper. Puzzle winners with rankings will still be posted online at SDReader.com.

Across

- 1. ____ muffin
- 5. "Poppycock!"
- 8. Key of Mozart's "Requiem"
- 14. Answering machine insert
- 15. Prefix with sex

- 16. When many shops open
- 17. Philosophical concept that is the subject of a 1781 work by Immanuel Kant
- 19. Bugged
- 20. Verdi aria
- 21. "What ____ care?"
- 23. Many moons
- 24. " ____ the season ..."
- 25. Protected land
- 30. Opposite of WSW
- 31. Couple
- 32. Mournful poems
- 33. Surrealist Magritte
- 35. Conclude
- 37. Some ski lifts
- 38. Romantic verse starter
- 42. Baseball's Jorge and Sammy
- 45. Baton Rouge sch.
- 46. Phobia
- 50. Went against
- 53. Ranch handle
- 55. Pie ____ mode
- 56. Political issue championed by Bill Clinton
- 58. "And we'll ____ a cup o' kindness yet": Burns
- 59. Singer DiFranco
- 60. He's next to Teddy on Mount Rushmore
- 61. Something to stop on or turn on
- 63. Francis and Kevin
- 66. Together again ... or a clue to solving 17-, 25-, 38- and 56-Across
- 69. One with a mortgage, e.g.
- 70. Gore and Franken
- 71. Car brand whose name comes from the Latin word for "listen"
- 72. Gofer's job
- 73. Perjure oneself
- 74. Go across

Down

- 1. Subject of many a joke
- 2. Bullish
- 3. Revolted
- 4. Insect repellent
- 5. Subway alternative
- 6. "I'll take that as ____"
- 7. Like Gandhi
- 8. A Baldwin
- 9. Big Apple mass transit syst.
- 10. Dutch banking giant
- 11. Where "Nollywood" is a big film industry
- 12. Bogey
- 13. Rash feature
- 18. Polly, to Tom Sawyer
- 22. Mineral deposit
- 26. Blows away
- 27. Ring ____
- 28. French resort town
- 29. Lines of a musical staff
- 34. ____ Good Feelings
- 36. Broadband letters
- 39. Mount south of Olympus
- 40. Regarding
- 41. One with regrets
- 42. Like land every farmer wants
- 43. Alfresco
- 44. Film editor, at times
- 47. Fall for something completely
- 48. Oakland's county
- 49. Made hand over fist
- 51. Rubbed out or off
- 52. Society newcomer
- 54. Marvel Comics hero
- 57. Undomesticated
- 62. "Buenos ____"
- 64. ____ tight schedule
- 65. Former Giants All Star pitcher Robb
- 67. Film director Roth
- 68. Don't waste

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A	M	Y		R	I	G		E	A	T	S	O	U	T
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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:

(All winning entries will be screened for plagiarism.)

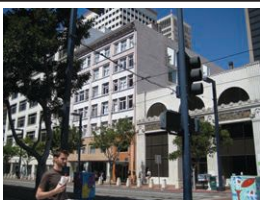
🐭 **Leslie Chase, Campo, 2.** Denied the opportunity for 52 out of 52 puzzles. *Darn!*

🐭 **Harry Engel, La Jolla, 2.** The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

🐭 **Ben Espe, Mission Valley, 2.** A vacuum is only good if it sucks.

🐭 **W. Hodgson, Escondido, 2.** Barney Frank retires! His seat is wide open and up for grabs.

🐭 **Neil Livengood, Spring Valley, 2.** The way taxes are, you might as well marry for love.



DOWNTOWN, \$250-495.
Artist work spaces. Office or work spaces and retail available. 636 C Street, 92101. Inquire inside (C Street Inn front desk) or call 619-234-4165 or 619-269-9076. www.jspropertymanagement.com.

NORTH PARK, \$90.
Large storage garage located at 4145 Texas St. Spacious and clean garage with alley access. \$90 per month. innoreventerprises.com. 858-568-5081.
OTAY MESA, \$800.
Industrial/ Office, \$800 per month. 1300 sqft. Warehouse/ office, large open space available. Private office upstairs. Great location. 10055 Marconi #2442. Call Jeff at 619-713-1044.

Beaches

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LA JOLLA, \$1095.
1BD+1BA upstairs front apartment in quiet Bird Rock area. Stove, refrigerator, microwave, coin laundry, shared courtyard. Near many quaint shops, restaurants and public transportation. Cat OK with extra deposit. Available

1/1/12. 415 Colima. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. 858-270-2071. www.delsolpm.com.

LA JOLLA, \$1195.
1BD+1BA apartment. Near Windansea! Very clean. Fresh paint and new carpet. Laundry. 434 Rosemont St. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

LA JOLLA, \$1395.
2BD+1BA small downstairs apartment in the Bird Rock area. Private patio, 2nd bedroom is small but perfect for an office. Stove, refrigerator, microwave, shared courtyard, parking. Near many quaint shops, restaurants and public transportation. Cat OK with extra deposit. Available now. 415 Colima. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. 858-270-2071. www.delsolpm.com.

LA JOLLA, \$2595.
2BD+1BA plus den, wood floors, breakfast nook, fireplace, A/C, washer/dryer hookups, parking, courtyard. Pets OK. 1121 Torrey Pines Road. 619-384-9219.

MISSION BEACH, \$1295.
1BD+1BA. Parking, appliances, laundry on site. Fenced front and back patio, steps to beach. Across from Catamaran Hotel. 744 Santa Rita Place. 858-272-9547.

MISSION BEACH, \$1750.
2BD+2BA apartment. Steps to beach. 1- year lease. New carpet. New paint. Includes gas, water, trash, parking. No dogs. 858-488-1759.

MISSION BEACH, \$795.
Studio, large. Mission Bay. No pets. Paid SDG&E. Parking. Appliances. Large closet/ cabinet. Clean. Nice. Laundry facilities. 3431 Del Rey Street. 619-275-3455.

MISSION BEACH, \$995.
1BD+1BA, upstairs end apartment in south Mission Beach. Stove, refrigerator. Shared courtyard perfect for sunning. Coin laundry. Cat OK with extra deposit. Seconds to beach and bay! Available 1/1/12. 729 Ensenada Court. Del Sol Property Management, broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

MISSION BEACH.
\$249 & up motel weekly rates. Full kitchens, cable TV, furnished. Santa Clara Motel, 839 Santa Clara Place, San Diego, 92109. 858-488-1193.

OCEAN BEACH, \$1000.
1BD+1BA, cottage with one garage. No pets. 4910 Cable Street. www.bkbinc.com. 619-200-1657.

OCEAN BEACH, \$1250.
Studio+1BA, large studio, partially furnished. At the Ocean Beach Pier. Ocean views, completely renovated. No pets. 5067 Niagara. 619-224-4215.

OCEAN BEACH, \$1350.
2BD+1BA downstairs apartment. 2 blocks to beach! All garage available. 4826 Santa Cruz. Call 619-224-4215; Manager: 619-962-9549.

OCEAN BEACH, \$1400.
2BD+2BA, large apartment. \$300 Off first month's rent. Laundry, parking. No pets. Tenant pays all utilities. 4714 Point Loma Ave. www.bkbinc.com. 619-200-1657.

OCEAN BEACH, \$1525.
2BD+2BA, apartment. One block to beach. All amenities. Pool, laundry, fireplace, parking. 4825 Del Mar Street. 619-298-0859 or 619-224-0306.

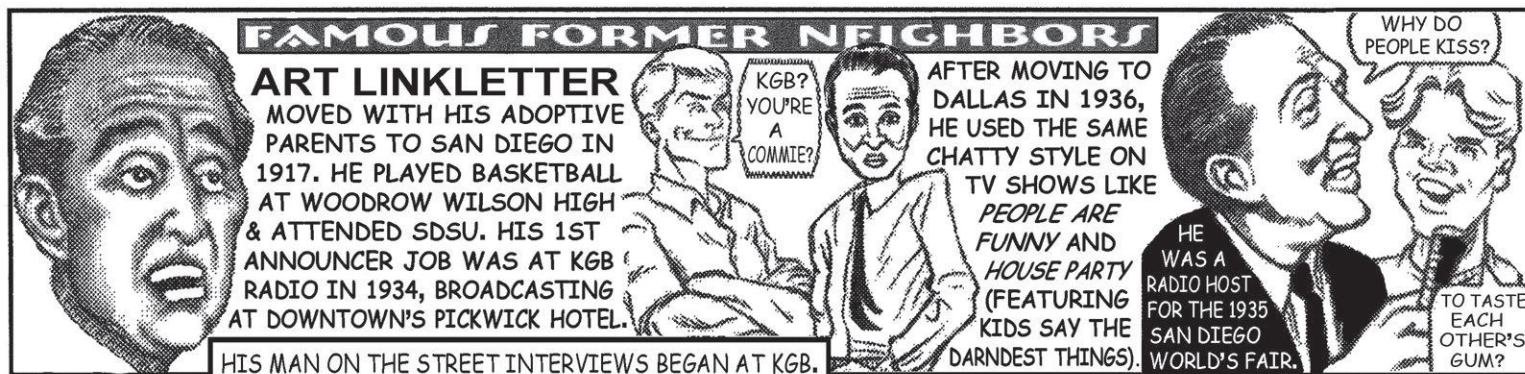
OCEAN BEACH, \$1795.
3BD apartment. Across street from beach. Parking. Large private patio area. Laundry facilities. 5183 West Point Loma Blvd. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

OCEAN BEACH, \$2495.
3BD+3.5BA condominium. Canyon view! 2-car garage. Upgraded flooring, cabinets, appliances. Fireplace. Washer/dryer. Pets considered. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

OCEAN BEACH, \$895.
1BD+1BA apartment. One block to beach! No pets. 5104 Muir Ave. www.bkbinc.com. 619-200-1657.

OCEAN BEACH, \$950 & UP.
1BD+1BA apartments from \$950 and 2BDs from \$1325 per month. Close to beach/ shopping and freeway access. Ask about our move in special! Call today to view your new home! Jami at 858-268-5004.

OCEAN BEACH, \$960.
1BD+1BA apartment. \$200 off 1st month! \$500 deposit OAC. No application fee. Blocks to the beach! Clean. Parking. Laundry. No pets. Includes water and trash. Seacoast Apartments, 5030 Lotus. Call Doris, 619-204-1651, 619-224-0759.



PACIFIC BEACH, \$1095.

1BD+1BA, large downstairs apartment in North Pacific Beach. Stove, refrigerator. Garage space, coin laundry. Cat OK with extra deposit. 2.5 blocks to ocean. Available 1/15/12. 959 Chalcedony. Del Sol Property Management, broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1095.

1BD+1BA apartment. **Open house Saturday, 12/24, 11:30-12:30.** Half block to Sail Bay. Great location! Close to restaurants and shopping. 3825 Riviera Drive #12. TPPM, 858-699-3851. www.torreyepinespm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1100.

1BD+1BA. Large apartment. New carpeting and new bath floor. Parking, laundry. Near bay. Near beach. No pets. Call Von, 619-846-2117.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1100.

1BD+1BA apartment. Off-street parking. Laundry on site. No pets. Available now! 4451 Haines Street. Chris, 858-270-4492 x203 or CDunphyPacwest@san.rr.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1125.

1BD+1BA, The Plaza. Private patio, garage, tennis, controlled access 24-hour security, gym. No pets. 4600 Lamont. 619-279-0031, akarnazes@yahoo.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1145.

1BD+1BA apartment in pristine, perfectly located property. Two blocks to bay, the bay-front boardwalk, Rocky's and Crest Deli. On-site laundry, parking. Rent today! 3803 Jewell Street. TPPM, 619-933-7400, www.villalaplaza.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1150.

1BD+1BA downstairs front unit. Recently renovated. New paint. Quiet, gated complex. Close to public transportation. Small pets OK. \$1150 deposit. Available now. 619-339-9951.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1165.

1BD+1BA, downstairs remodeled apartment in North Pacific Beach. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave. Coin laundry, pool. Cat OK with extra deposit. Two blocks to ocean. Available 12/27/11. 812 Tourmaline. Del Sol Property Management, broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1175.

1BD downstairs front unit. Remodeled with stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, coin laundry, pool, parking, no pets. Available 1/19/12. 1433 Oliver Avenue. Del Sol Property Management, broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1195.

1BD+1BA, 700 sqft apartment. Heated pool, 2 Jacuzzis, 2 basketball courts, 5 lighted tennis courts, clubhouse, barbecue area, business center, on-site laundry facilities, heat, A/C. Cats/dogs welcome. Close to freeways and more! Bay Pointe Apartments, 3866 Ingraham. 888-451-8713. baypointe@progressmanagement.net; www.baypointeapartmenthomes.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1195.

2BD+1BA apartment. Laundry. Near bay/ocean. Available 1/1. 1258 Pacific Beach Drive. No dogs. 858-699-8022.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1195.

1BD+BA apartment. Near Ocean and Bay. One parking space. Available mid-December approximately. No pets. Call Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1200.

1BD+1BA upper-level apartment. 3 blocks to beach. Assigned off-street parking. On-site laundry. No pets. 1050 Hornblend. Available now. 858-270-4492 x203.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1225.

1BD+1BA. Beautiful, newly remodeled apartment. Dishwasher, laundry, parking. Gated. Lovely courtyard, heated pool. Quiet. Cat friendly. One-year lease. 858-272-4398.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1325.

2BD+1BA apartment. Custom interior colors, pool, barbecue, great value. One block to Vons Shopping Center. 1930 Emerald Street. TPPM, 858-273-9370, www.torreyepinespm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1325.

2BD+1BA. **Move-in Special!** Freshly updated apartment! New carpet, tile flooring, paint, and more. Convenient central location. **Open house Saturday, 12/24, 10:00-11:00.** 2065-C Diamond Street. TPPM, 858-699-3851, www.torreyepinespm.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1395.

2BD+1.5BA townhome. 4 blocks to ocean. Excellent condition. Dishwasher, stove, refrigerator. Security gates. 2 parking spaces. Laundry. 1150 Grand Ave. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1400.

2BD+2BA second-floor apartment, 1040 sqft. 1 off-street parking, laundry room. \$200 credit on first month's rent with accepted application. No pets. Deposit \$1000. Manager—Todd, 858-272-2825; lefrontenac@inbox.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1400.

2BD+1BA downstairs apartment. Laundry, parking. Available December 22. 1536 Moorland Drive #1. www.AMGSD.com. 619-295-1165.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1495 & UP.

2BD+2BA, 1000 sqft apartment. Heated pool, 2 Jacuzzis, 2 basketball courts, 5 lighted tennis courts, clubhouse, barbecue area, business center, on-site laundry facilities, heat, A/C. Cats/dogs welcome. Close to freeways and more! Bay Pointe Apartments, 3866 Ingraham. 888-451-8713. baypointe@progressmanagement.net; www.baypointeapartmenthomes.com.

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***Certifications/licenses may require additional study and cost.



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A puzzler and a writer?

THE READER SUDOKU PUZZLES:

RULES OF THE GAME

- 1) Submit one completed puzzle of any difficulty level (Easy, Medium, Hard or Evil) to the *Reader* each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results are posted online at sandiegoreader.com. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.
- 2) Submit the correct answers to one of the puzzles along with your name and a brief message (**20** words or less, no URLs or phone numbers). Clearly mark the puzzle that you want to enter this week by crossing off the other completed puzzles. All puzzles that are

cut into pieces will be disqualified. Entries must include a message. This is a great way to express yourself. You may submit a new message weekly. We reserve the right to edit or reject inappropriate text.

- 3) The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year!
- 4) Entries must be faxed to **619-233-7907** or mailed to *Reader* Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803, or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy, or scanned and e-mailed to: Sudoku@sreader.com. Submissions by e-mail must be attached in JPG format, 800 by 800 pixels, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed.

- 5) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
- 6) Late entries will not be considered.
- 7) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
- 8) Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.

NEW RULES

Starting with the issue of May 12, we will award writers of the best messages, among those who correctly solve the puzzle, one of the famous *Reader* baseball caps or T-shirts. And we will print the winning messages in the paper. Puzzle winners with rankings will still be posted online at SDReader.com.

EASY:

5	2		1	8				6
	9		3		4		7	
7						5		3
4							2	
6	3		9		1		5	7
	7							8
3		2						5
	8		5		6		1	
1				4	8		3	9

MEDIUM:

	4	2	1	6				
				2				
	7	1			3	5		
		5	7		2	4	6	
1				4				2
	2	7	6		5	9		
		3	2			6	4	
				5				
				9	1	2	3	

HARD:

6		7	5					
				2		5		
	3		6		8		1	2
	1		7	9	4			
			1	3	5		2	
5	4		8		3		7	
	8		4					
					7	4		8

EVIL:

9		3		6				
	4					5		
	2				9		1	
3					5			2
6			9		1			8
4			7					6
	9		2				6	
		4					8	
				3		9		5

We cannot accept your entry without the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Personal Message: _____

Please check one:

Hat: _____

T-shirt: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

EASY:

9	2	7	8	1	4	3	6	5
3	5	8	6	7	9	1	2	4
1	4	6	5	2	3	7	8	9
7	1	9	3	4	2	6	5	8
6	8	4	7	5	1	2	9	3
5	3	2	9	8	6	4	7	1
4	9	1	2	6	5	8	3	7
2	7	3	1	9	8	5	4	6
8	6	5	4	3	7	9	1	2

MEDIUM:

2	4	1	3	5	7	6	8	9
8	5	9	2	6	4	1	3	7
7	6	3	1	9	8	5	4	2
1	9	6	7	8	5	3	2	4
4	3	2	6	1	9	8	7	5
5	7	8	4	3	2	9	1	6
3	2	5	8	7	6	4	9	1
6	1	7	9	4	3	2	5	8
9	8	4	5	2	1	7	6	3

HARD:

6	4	9	2	8	1	5	7	3
1	7	8	5	3	9	4	6	2
3	2	5	7	4	6	1	9	8
9	1	6	3	2	4	8	5	7
4	8	7	1	9	5	3	2	6
5	3	2	8	6	7	9	4	1
7	6	4	9	1	3	2	8	5
2	5	3	4	7	8	6	1	9
8	9	1	6	5	2	7	3	4

EVIL:

2	9	8	1	5	7	6	4	3
3	1	7	8	4	6	5	9	2
6	4	5	9	3	2	1	8	7
4	8	2	6	7	1	3	5	9
9	7	6	3	8	5	2	1	4
5	3	1	2	9	4	8	7	6
1	5	4	7	6	3	9	2	8
8	2	3	4	1	9	7	6	5
7	6	9	5	2	8	4	3	1

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS:

(All winning entries will be screened for plagiarism.)

☛ **Kit Flom, Ventura, 1.** *The trouble with the younger generation is that I'm not in it.*

☛ **Joseph Ciprian, Little Italy, 2.** *How much "sham" and how much "pain" is there in champagne?*

☛ **Larry Redner, UTC, 2.** *Don't be afraid to submit your messages! My messages really suck, and I've already won 10 hats this year!*

☛ **Michael Humphries, Escondido, 1.** *Good friends are like Angels. You don't have to see them to know they are there for you.*

☛ **Momma Oakley, Oceanside, 1.** *Selfishly my husband says, "Beans are good for the heart." How about a little concern for my nose!*

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1495.
2BD+1BA. Large apartment. Garage, laundry. Water/ gardener paid. No dogs. 4992 Cape May Avenue. 619-224-7583.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1525.
2BD+2BA, extra large upstairs apartment. In Crown Point area. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave. Coin laundry, garage space, private balcony. No pets. Available 2/1/12. 3711 Ingraham. Del Sol Property Management, broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1600.
2BD+2BA walk to Pacific Plaza! Spacious, upgraded, private patio, storage, parking. No pets. 4640 Jewell at Emerald. 619-286-3400.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1600.
2BD+2BA apartment. Off-street parking. Laundry on site. No pets. Available January! 4451 Haines Street. Chris, 858-270-4492 x203 or CDunphyPacwest@san.rr.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1650.
2BD+2BA upper level apartment. Hardwood floors and carpet. Shared roof deck/ patio. Off-street parking. On-site laundry. No pets. 1455 Garnet St. 858-270-4492.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1650.
2BD+1BA upper-level apartment. 3 blocks to beach. Assigned off-street parking. On-site laundry. No pets. 1050 Hornblend. Available now! 858-270-4492 x203.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1775.
2BD+2BA large condo. 2 garage. No pets. Fireplace. Laundry hookup. Balcony. Skylight. Nice. Clean. 1552 Chalcedony St. 619-275-3455.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1875.
2BD+2.5BA townhome in North Pacific Beach. All appliances plus laundry hookups, large private patio, attached garage plus parking space, fireplace, one block to ocean, no pets. Available 1/19/12. 831 Chalcedony. Del Sol Property Management, broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1895.
2BD+2BA apartment with one parking space. Shared laundry. Central Pacific Beach. No pets. Available mid-December approximately. Call Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$2475.
3BD+2BA house in Crown Point area. Stove, refrigerator, laundry hookups, 2- car garage, no pets. Water, trash, gardener paid. Available 12/15/11. 3970 Honeycutt. Del Sol Property Management, broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

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

PACIFIC BEACH, \$2700.
3BD+3BA townhouse. Clean, airy. 2- car garage. Fireplace. Washer/dryer, patio, deck. No pets. 1523 Hornblend. Available January. 858-270-4492x203 or CDunphyPacwest@san.rr.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$3350.
2BD+2BA. Bright, spacious house. Centrally located close to bay and beach. www.cal-prop.com. 858-768-4355.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$3600.
4BD+3.5BA townhome in North Pacific Beach. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, washer/dryer in unit. Garage with opener, fireplace, patio, private balconies. Cat OK with extra deposit. One block to ocean. Available 1/4/12. 856 Felspar. Del Sol Property Management, broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$3995.
6BD+4BA house. 3 blocks to ocean. Fits 7. Complete kitchen. Washer/ dryer. Garage and street parking. Call Dan, 310-930-1739, or email staff@ewhizinc.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$775 & UP.
1BD+1BA apartment. Great values. Nice, convenient, multiple Pacific Beach locations. Studios from \$775. 1 bedrooms from \$1025. 2 bedrooms from \$1395. Some buildings with gated entry, pool and/ or deck, parking, laundry. No pets. 858-483-3796.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$900.
Studio+1BA, downstairs studio. 3 blocks to beach. Assigned off-street parking. On-site laundry. No pets. 1050 Hornblend. Available February! 858-270-4492 x203.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$925.
1BD+1BA apartment. *Ask about move-in special!* Garden setting, easy access location. Pool, recreation room, no pets. 2710 Grand Avenue. TPPM, 858-273-8657. www.bayinnapts.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$950 & UP.
Studio+1BA, 700 sqft apartment. Heated pool, 2 Jacuzzis, 2 basketball courts, 5 lighted tennis courts, clubhouse, barbecue area, business center, on-site laundry facilities, heat, A/C. Cats/

dogs welcome. Close to freeways and more! Bay Pointe Apartments, 3866 Ingraham. 888-451-8713. baypointe@progressmanagement.net; www.baypointeapartmenthomes.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$950.
Large studio. 4 blocks to ocean. Full kitchen, gas appliances, laundry facilities, garage, no pets. 1122 Felspar St. Shore Management, 858-274-3500.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$975.
1BD+1BA, upstairs west-facing apartment in Crown Point. Stove, refrigerator. Coin laundry, garage space. No pets. Available 1/1/12. 1768 Thomas. Del Sol Property Management, broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

POINT LOMA, \$1049 & UP.
1BD+1BA apartment for \$1049. 2BD+2BA apartment for \$1299. 3BD+2BA for \$1649. Move-in specials from up to \$400 off 1st month's rent! Centrally located in sunny Point Loma! Pet friendly. Clubhouse. Fitness room. Jacuzzi. Business center. Tennis courts. Heated pool. Convenient parking. Close to beach and shopping. Stonewood Gardens, 3889 Midway. 866-791-9948.

POINT LOMA, \$1150.
2BD+1BA downstairs apartment. Cozy, stove, refrigerator, new paint. On-site laundry. Small pet welcome with additional deposit. Great location! 3751-1/2 Udall St. 619-298-7724.

POINT LOMA, \$1200.
Beautiful apartment homes starting at \$1290! *\$0 deposit, OAC.* City/ bay views, stainless steel gourmet appliances, custom cabinetry, bamboo laminate floors. Barbecue, fire pit/ lounge, resort-style pool, oversized hot tub, brand-new fitness center. Pet friendly. Gables Point Loma, 3811 Marquette Place #2N. 619-223-6577. Gables.com.

POINT LOMA, \$1250.
2BD+2BA condo. New carpet/ refrigerator. Luxury appliances/ cabinets/ countertops. Washer/ dryer in unit. Balcony. Pool/ spa. Near all. 3140 Midway. 858-200-7511.

POINT LOMA, \$1495.
2BD+1BA apartment. Brand- new building. Washer/ dryer in unit, tiled and carpeted floors. New stainless steel appliances. All new amenities. 2727 Camulos. 858-270-4674; 619-224-0306.

POINT LOMA, \$1550.
2BD+1BA at Sunset Cliffs. Steps to the ocean. Ocean view. New paint. Hardwood floors. Utilities included. Pets OK. 4833 Orchard Avenue. 619-222-6020.

POINT LOMA, \$950.
1BD+1BA apartment, garage and parking space, laundry, near sub base, no pets, at 317 Rosecrans Street. Agent, 619-299-8515.

Downtown

BANKERS HILL, \$1175.
1BD+1BA, 750 sqft apartment. Air conditioning/ central heat. Secure parking. On-site laundry. Pet OK! Call Greg, 619-239-7313.

BANKERS HILL, \$1450.
2BD+2BA, 900 sqft apartment, newer flooring. Air conditioning/ central heat. Secure parking. On-site laundry. Pet OK! Call Greg, 619-239-7313.

DOWNTOWN, \$1595.
777 LOFTS. Incredible 1BD loft. *Open house Saturday, 12/24, 1:00-2:00. \$500 off 1st month's rent!* Gaslamp's

best rental loft/ condominiums one block to Downtown's popular 5th Avenue. Washer/ dryer, dishwasher, granite countertops, air conditioning, polished concrete floors. Parking. Small pet considered with additional deposit. A must see! 777 Sixth Avenue #211. TPPM, 619-296-8802 or 858-699-3851, www.torreypinespm.com.

DOWNTOWN, \$399.
Studio+1BA, clean, furnished apartments. *Pay by the week or month!* First month= \$399*. Free utilities! Local phone, Microwave/ refrigerator, television/ HBO, housekeeping, on-site parking, laundry, patio, Wi-Fi lobby, gated entry. 940 Park, call: 619-239-0101. 901 F Street, call: 619-233-1100.



DOWNTOWN, \$406.
Best deal in town, period. 55+ quality senior living. Beautiful furnished rooms with private bathrooms. Includes utilities, cable TV, maid service. On-site laundry and storage. Edge of Bankers Hill at 1814 Fifth Avenue, New Palace Hotel. 619-235-2323. www.HughesManagement.net.



DOWNTOWN, \$450-595.
Attractive rooms in Victorian- style building. Utilities included. Some parking available. Common kitchen, bathrooms, laundry. Near City College grocery stores and more. Villa Victoria, 719 14th Street. 619-239-1639 x2. www.HughesManagement.net.



DOWNTOWN, \$475-550.
Affordable rooms near Petco Park. Utilities included. Common kitchen, bathrooms, laundry, vending machines. Star Hotel, 522 7th Avenue & Island. 619-235-6068. www.HughesManagement.net.



DOWNTOWN, \$486-625.
Cozy rooms, very comfortable, convenient location. Historic building near C Street Trolley. Choice of common or private bathrooms. Utilities included. Free cable TV, on-site laundry, vending machines, modern elevator. Southern Hotel, 1159 6th Avenue at B. 619-239-3808. www.HughesManagement.net.



DOWNTOWN, \$500 & UP.
Studio+1BA. Rooms \$500/ up. Studios \$650/ up. Clean and quiet. Includes utilities and free cable, on-site laundry, elevator. Excellent location, convenient to all. No pets. Arlington Apartments, 701 7th Ave. and G St. 619-231-2385. www.HughesManagement.net.



DOWNTOWN, \$500-600.
Large, furnished rooms with high ceilings, tall windows. Includes utilities and cable. On-site laundry and kitchen. No pets. Excellent location across from Horton Plaza. Windsor Hotel, 843 4th Avenue. 619-231-2385. www.HughesMangement.net.



DOWNTOWN, \$550-800.
Price meets function. Spacious studios and rooms with private bathroom. Utilities included, on-site laundry. Some parking available. Near City College and trolley. Mitchell Apts., 901 10th Avenue at E Street. 619-235-6068. www.HughesManagement.net.



DOWNTOWN, \$650 & UP.
Best deal in East Village! Spacious units in small complex with gated courtyard. Utilities included. No lease. No pets. Tenth Avenue Apts. 743 10th Avenue. 619-239-1639 x2. www.HughesManagement.net.

DOWNTOWN, \$650 & UP.
Studios/ rooms, furnished. Free utilities, new paint, hardwood floors, on-site laundry, newly renovated. 646 A Street. Call Bill, 619-239-3950.



DOWNTOWN, \$700-900.
The best of Downtown at your doorstep! Updated studios and one bedrooms by Petco Park, Gaslamp and Horton Plaza. Air conditioned units include utilities and free cable. On-site laundry. Arthur Hotel at 728 Market Street. 619-239-1639 x2. www.HughesManagement.net.

DOWNTOWN, \$795.
Studio+1BA. Cortez Hill. Charming, quiet residential neighborhood. Keyed access. Utilities paid, on-site laundry. No pets. 619-299-8746.

DOWNTOWN, \$800 & UP.
Little Italy efficiency apartments with laundry. Private bath, cable TV, microwave, refrigerator. Utilities included. Secure, quiet, charming. Near trolley/ bus lines, blocks from harbor. On-site manager. Villa Caterina, 1654 Columbia Street. 619-232-3400.

DOWNTOWN, \$825.
Studio+1BA. 1/2 off 1st! Upper. New carpet, powder room, wood blinds, built-ins, on-site laundry. All utilities paid! 1747 5th Avenue #31. 619-804-3325.

DOWNTOWN, \$850.
Studio+1BA, large. Move-in special! All utilities included! Laundry, street parking. No pets. Near Balboa Park. 1758 6th Avenue. 619-298-7724.

DOWNTOWN, \$965.
1BD+1BA, large apartment, second floor. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, parking, coin laundry, private balcony, elevator. Cat OK with extra deposit. 2 blocks to Little Italy, with quaint shops and restaurants. Easy freeway access. Available now. 215 West Grape. Del Sol Property Management, broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

DOWNTOWN.
From \$125 weekly. Las Flores Hotel. Small, quiet. Four- week minimum. Color TV with basic cable. Refrigerator in most rooms. Secure. 619-235-6820.

DOWNTOWN.
From \$140/ week. Brand- new rooms near City College. Singles with kitchenettes. Deposit (long-term). Includes utilities/ cable. Quiet, secure. Shared bath/ laundry. Hotel Mediterranean. 619-231-8656. www.hotelmed-sd.com.

DOWNTOWN.
From \$199 weekly. Studio. Premier location. Furnished, full baths. Award-winning buildings. 24- hour staff, gyms, laundry rooms, sun decks. Free wireless Internet. Island Inn: 202 Island Avenue (Second/ Island), 619-232-4138. J Street Inn: 222 J Street, 619-696-6922. www.affordablehousingsd.com.

DOWNTOWN.
Studio. Fully furnished studios with utilities included. Rates start at \$165/week. Free wireless Internet and exercise room. Baltic Inn: 521 6th Avenue. 619-237-0687. www.affordablehousingsd.com.

DOWNTOWN.
Starting at \$175 weekly. Furnished rooms. Beautiful building, new. Refrigerator, microwave, TV, cable. 920 Beech Street. Call 619-234-1952.

GOLDEN HILL, \$675.
Great studio apartments in a great neighborhood. Upstairs unit has a private balcony. Laundry and parking located on site. Hardwood flooring, tile and carpet. 2627 C St. innoreventerprises.com. 858-568-5081

GOLDEN HILL, \$775.
1BD+1BA, charming apartment. Hardwood floors. Great neighborhood, on-site laundry. No dogs. Available now! 2427 E Street. 619-857-3706.

GOLDEN HILL, \$795 & UP.
Studio and 1BD+1BA. \$795-\$950. Laundry! Parking. Available in December. 2470 B Street. www.AMGSD.com. 619-295-1165.

GOLDEN HILL, \$825.
1BD+1BA. On-site laundry, assigned parking, close to hospital, park, restaurants and freeway exits. 2580 C Street. Contact Iram at 619-255-8172.

GOLDEN HILL, \$825.
1BD+1BA apartment. Quiet, picturesque building. Assigned parking, laundry, patio. Beautiful street. No pets. 2449 A Street. 619-549-9542 or 858-278-6135.

GOLDEN HILL, \$875.
1BD+1BA. Renovated with patio, gated community, on-site laundry, assigned parking, close to parks, hospitals, restaurants and freeway exits. 2720 Broadway. Contact Elizabeth at 619-677-0026.

LITTLE ITALY, \$745.
Studio with small kitchen. Balcony. Cute. Laundry on site. No pets. 2311 Union #J. 619-501-2311, 619-228-4184.

SHERMAN HEIGHTS, \$620.
Studio+1BA. Deposit \$434. Street parking. Upgraded. Available to move in 12/25. 322 sqft. 532 21st Street, #6. 619-663-5369; sr@sdcpm.net.

East County

EL CAJON, \$895 & UP.
2BD+1BA spacious apartments from \$895. **\$899 Moves You In!** Private patios. Great cul-de-sac location with controlled access, on-site parking and laundry. Easy freeway access. 441 Dominguez Way. TPPM, 619-405-4500. www.dominguezwayapts.com.

EL CAJON, \$480-850.
Trailers. Gated community park. Each unit has a little yard. Conveniently located, close to trolley, bus, shopping. No pets. 619-933-5189.

EL CAJON, \$765.
1BD+1BA apartment. **\$799 Moves You In!** Attractive, well-maintained property with beautiful courtyard. Gated access and quiet location. 340 Orlando Street. TPPM, 619-818-9939, www.northwindsapts.com.

EL CAJON, \$765.
1BD+1BA apartment. El Cajon's best maintained property with beautiful courtyard and sparkling pool. You will be proud to call Four Winds your home. Great manager, great service, great value. Rent today! No pets. 1072 E. Madison Avenue. TPPM, 619-985-3900. www.fourwindsapts.info.

EL CAJON, \$795.
1BD+1BA. Beautifully maintained apartments with sparkling pool. No pets. 234 West Park Avenue. TPPM, 619-850-9722. www.palmtowers.com.

EL CAJON, \$800-900 & UP.
1BD+1BA and 2BD+1BA apartments. 1/2 off 2nd month OAC! Appliances, A/C, on-site laundry, off- street parking, pool, lush landscaping. No pets. 294 Ballantyne. On- site manager: 619-715-8243 or 619-334-7934. If no answer, try 619-994-7392.

EL CAJON, \$850 & UP.
1BD+1BA and 2BD. Luxury garden apartments. Central heat, A/C, patios/ balconies with storage. Pool and spa. Sorry, no pets. 619-593-1070.

EL CAJON, \$925-1175.
2BD+1BA, 3BD+1BA. 1 month free! A/C, shared BBQ/ picnic area, on-site laundry, parking. Section 8 OK. 798 McClure Street. 619-804-3325.

EL CAJON, \$950 & UP.
2BD+1BA spacious apartments with backyard, \$1000. Available now! Pool, on-site laundry, tile, assigned parking, freeway close. Small pets welcome. Anabel Court Apartments, 303 East Madison Avenue. 619-579-5640.

EL CAJON, \$950.
2BD+1BA, large 900 sqft apartment with new carpet. Swimming pool, assigned parking, on-site laundry. Close to shopping and freeway. 619-444-1876.

LA MESA, \$1199.
3BD+1BA apartment. Also available 3BD+2BA apartment, \$1299. Welcome to Mt. Helix! Spacious. Air conditioning. Laundry. Garages. Balconies. Pool. Hablo Espanol. 619-646-8670.

RENTALS REGION MAP

BEACHES

La Jolla • Mission Beach • Ocean Beach
Pacific Beach • Point Loma

DOWNTOWN

Balboa Park • Banker's Hill • Downtown
East Village • Golden Hill • Little Italy
Logan Heights • Sherman Heights
South Park • Stockton

EAST COUNTY

Alpine • Borrego Springs • Boulevard
Campo • El Cajon • Imperial Valley • Jamul
Julian • La Mesa • Lakeside • Lemon Grove
Mount Laguna • Potrero • Ramona
Rancho San Diego • Santee
Spring Valley • Warner Springs

CENTRAL SAN DIEGO

Allied Gardens • Bay Park • Clairemont
College Area • Del Cerro • Grantville
Kearny Mesa • Linda Vista • Mira Mesa
Miramar • Mission Valley • San Carlos
Serra Mesa • Sorrento Valley • Tierrasanta • UTC

NC COASTAL

Cardiff • Carlsbad • Carmel Valley • Del Mar
Encinitas • Leucadia • Oceanside • Solana Beach

OLD TOWN & UPTOWN

City Heights • Hillcrest • Kensington-Talmadge
Mission Hills • Normal Heights • North Park
Old Town • University Heights

NC INLAND

Bonsall • Carmel Mountain • Escondido
Fallbrook • Poway • Rancho Bernardo
Rancho Peñasquitos • Rancho Santa Fe
San Marcos • Scripps Ranch • Temecula
Valley Center • Vista



SOUTH BAY

Bonita • Chula Vista • Coronado
Imperial Beach • National City • Otay Mesa
Paradise Hills • San Ysidro

SOUTHEAST SD

Alta Vista • Bay Terraces • Chollas View • Encanto
Emerald Hills • Jamacha-Lomita • Lincoln Park • Mount Hope
Mountain View • Shelltown • Southcrest • Valencia Park



Pacific Beach Luxury from \$975

Heated pool, 2 Jacuzzis, 2 basketball courts, 5 lighted tennis courts, clubhouse and BBQ area, Business Center, on-site laundry facilities, heat & A/C, cats and dogs welcome, close to freeways and much, much more!!!

Low Deposit (OAC)

Studios \$975
1 bedrooms \$1150
2 bedrooms/2 baths \$1595
Select units, OAC.

Bay Pointe Apartments

3866 Ingraham Street in Pacific Beach • 888-451-8713
baypointe@progressmanagement.net • baypointeapartmenthomes.com

RENTALS

Affordable Central Location!



2 Bedrooms from \$1,000

Bright, airy units with ceiling fans, carports with storage and remodeled laundry room on-site. Minutes from everything!

Patio Village Apartments

Call Penny for availability:

888-424-4741

8501 Glenhaven St. • San Diego



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: _____

Personal Message: _____

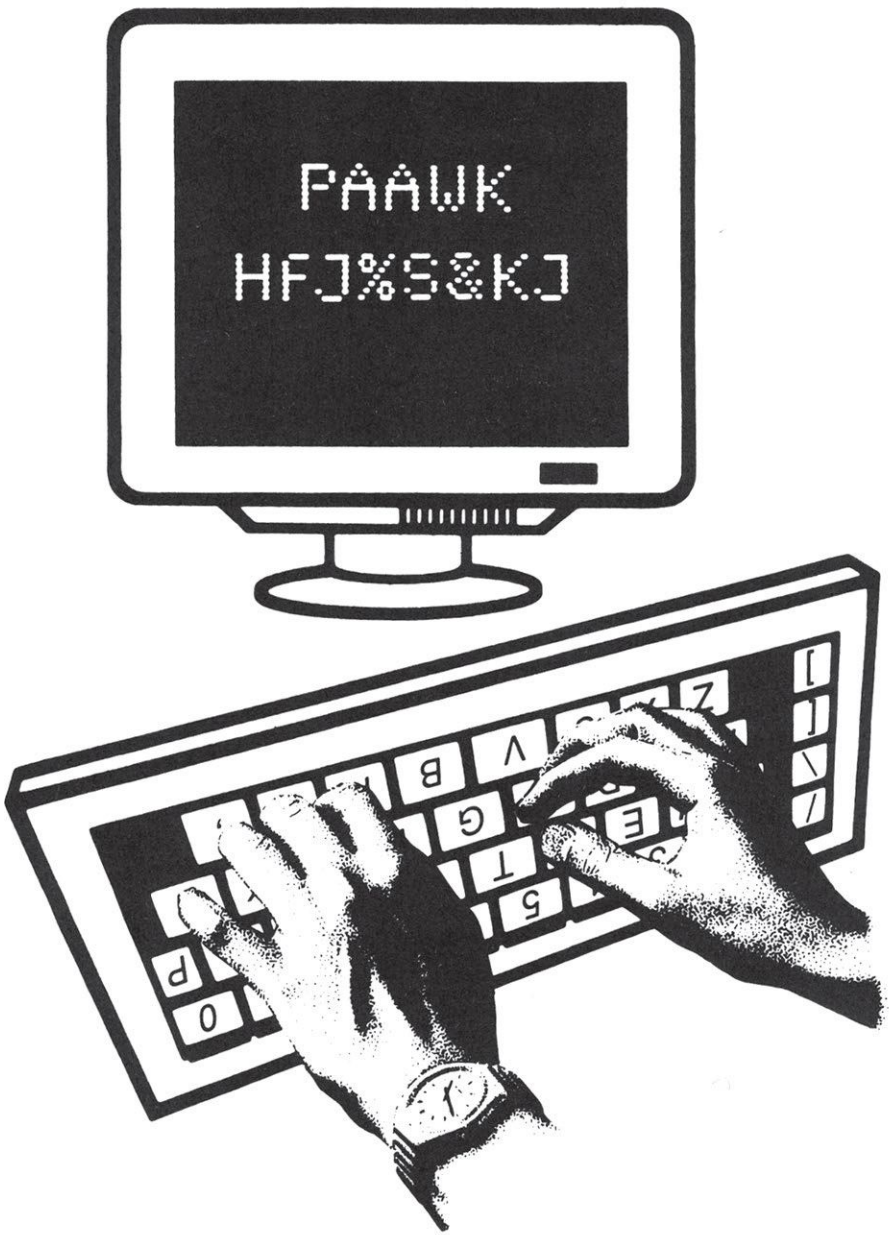
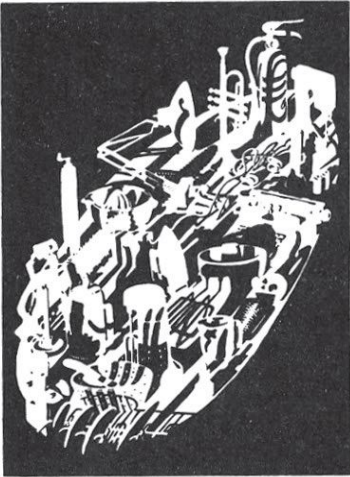
Please check one:

Hat: _____ T-shirt: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

Watch it!

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| ___ pliers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> two batteries | ___ accordion |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> India ink | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sewing machine | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> desk lamp |
| ___ dustpan | ___ pencil sharpener | ___ clarinet |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> trumpet | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> camera (and flash) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> flashlight |
| ___ hatchet | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fire extinguisher | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> candlestick |
| ___ plunger | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> dish drainer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> typewriter |
| ___ stapler | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> four dishes | ___ golf club |
| ___ toaster | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> tape dispenser | |
| ___ wok | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> measuring cup | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cake pan | ___ rolling pin | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walkman and headphones | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pepper mill | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> juicer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> steam iron | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> colander and spoon | ___ turntable | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> electric mixer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> chainsaw | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> percolator | |



BRAINSTORM PUZZLES:

RULES OF THE GAME

- 1) Submit one completed puzzle to the *Reader* each week for entry into another contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results are posted online at sandiegoreader.com. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.
- 2) Submit the correct answers to one of the puzzles along with your name and a brief message (**20** words or less, no URLs or phone numbers). Entries must

include a message. This is a great way to express yourself. You may submit a new message weekly. We reserve the right to edit or reject inappropriate text.

3) The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year!

4) Entries must be faxed to **619-233-7907** or mailed to *Reader* Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803, or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy or scanned and e-mailed to: Puzzles@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.*

\$35/60 min. Body Massage

With coupon. Reg. \$40

Cajon Spa

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Between College Ave. &
70th Street, San Diego
(Behind Crown Buffet) sign

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San Diego
Behind CHOL'S Shopping
(At Balboa Ave)

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Oriental Chi Spa

\$20 off
1-hr. massage

\$10 off
1/2-hr. massage

- Therapeutic Jacuzzi
- Body Shampoo
- Stress Reduction & Relaxation

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1-hour Oriental Massage
Includes your choice of hot tub, Jacuzzi or table shower. Featuring Deep Tissue, Swedish and Thai massage.

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At College Ave. Plenty of parking in back.
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&
Massage**
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ESCONDIDO**
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LA MESA, \$1199.
3BD+1BA apartment. Also available 3BD+2BA apartment, \$1299. Welcome to Mt. Helix! Spacious. Air conditioning. Laundry. Garages. Balconies. Pool. Hablo Espanol. 619-646-8670.

LA MESA, \$1250.
2BD+2BA apartment. Parking, pool, laundry on site. Cat OK. 990 sqft. 4905 73rd Street. Call Myra, 619-697-8458.

LA MESA, \$1275.
3BD+2BA. Downstairs spacious unit. Centrally located. Short walk to Mt. Helix School, University Avenue and trolley. www.cal-prop.com. 858-768-4355.

LA MESA, \$895.
1BD+1BA apartment. Lake Murray area. Balcony, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, A/C, laundry room, parking. No pets. 7490 Collins Avenue #3. Agent, 619-232-6811.

LA MESA, \$945 & UP.
1BD+1BA apartments, from \$945; 2BD+2BA from \$1245; 3BD+2BA from \$1495. Near Mount Helix area. Furnished apartments also available. Elegant, sculptured courtyards, flower gardens, fountains, park benches. Charming New Orleans ambiance. Huge patios/ balconies. Hardwood/ ceramic tile flooring. Gated access, parking. Small pets OK. 3903 Conrad Drive. 866-894-6343.

LA MESA, \$975 & UP.
1BD+1BA, \$975; 2BD+2BA, \$1275. Penthouse, \$1795. Award- winning community for beautiful landscaping. Pool and spa. Great location! No pets. 5500 Morro Way. TPPM, 619-466-8444, www.villageaptslamesa.com.

LA MESA, \$995 & UP.
1BD+1BA, \$995; 2BD+2BA, \$1250 & up. Apartments/ townhouses. Remodels available. Yards/ decks. Deposit \$500, OAC. Move- In Specials. No pets. Gym. Quiet garden community. 5810 Amaya Drive, vistaamaya@gmail.com. 619-697-3285.

LA MESA.
2BD+2BA. Very spacious 1 and 2 bedroom apartments. Central heating/ air, park- like setting, pool, views. Near 94, 125, 8 Freeways. Pets welcome. 619-204-0610. palmspringapartments.com.

LAKESIDE, \$715.
1BD+1BA apartment. *Move- in special: 1/2 off 1st month!* Near shopping. Easy freeway access. Off- street parking. On-site laundry. 12369 Lakeshore Drive. Northcuttproperties.com. Agent, 858-505-1300.

LEMON GROVE, \$1695.
3BD+1BA private house. Huge fenced yard. Quiet alley. 2- car garage, private driveway. Large, enclosed patio. Pets OK. Available 1/15. 7105 Central Ave. 619-825-5504.

LEMON GROVE, \$740
Unfurnished studio. Deposit required. 2- person occupancy. Pool/ laundry. Rent includes free dish TV, Wi-Fi. Close to Highway 94, buses/ trolley. Furnished unit: \$790. 619-461-0909 or 760-522-5312.

LEMON GROVE, \$995.
1BD+1BA charming cottage. Utilities included! Huge fenced yard. Quiet alley. Private driveway. Pets OK. Available 1/15. 7105 Central Ave. 619-825-5504.

SPRING VALLEY, \$1325.
2BD+1BA house. Fenced yard. Recently remodeled. Hardwood floors, new kitchen cabinets/ countertops. Panoramic view. Large storage shed. Private drive. Washer/ dryer. 619-916-6028.

SPRING VALLEY, \$675 & UP.
1BD+1BAs. Senior Citizens. Available now! Quiet and friendly community for independent, active, nonsmoking seniors. Call today! Linda, 619-697-8435.

Central San Diego

ALLIED GARDENS, \$1095.
2BD+2BA, apartment. Spacious bedrooms! Updated paint and carpet throughout! Huge Move- in Special! Pool, laundry, parking on site! Great central location! Walk to park, restaurants! No pets. 4550 Vandever. Manager, 619-282-8000.

BAY PARK, \$1100.
2BD+1.5BA, upstairs and downstairs, refurbished apartments. View! 2 blocks to USD. Laundry, cats OK. 5946 Lauretta Street. 619-296-6699, www.centrecity.net.

BAY PARK, \$1150.
2BD+1BA, downstairs apartment. Washer/ dryer, microwave, gated, parking, view, 2 blocks to USD. 5919 Mildred Street. 619-296-6699. www.centrecity.net.

BAY PARK, \$925 & UP.
1BD+1BA and 2BD+1BA, \$1150. Pristine apartments in Bay Park's best maintained property with beautiful courtyard and sparkling pool. Perfect Mission Bay location with easy freeway access. No pets. 2520 Chicago Street. TPPM, 619-405-7200, www.debonairapts.com.

CLAIREMONT, \$1190 AND UP.
2BD+2BA, \$1295. 2BD+1BA, \$1190. Move-in Special! Pets welcome. Water/ trash included, pool, barbecue, on-site laundry. Garages for \$75. Bay Ridge Apartments, 3010 Cowley Way, 619-276-3222.

CLAIREMONT, \$1800.
3BD+2BA plus family room. Remodeled house, all appliances, A/C, garage plus driveway parking, gardener paid, must see master bath. Small pet OK with extra deposit. 6- month lease or month to month. Available 1/15/12. 4910 Almayo Court. Del Sol Property Management, broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

CLAIREMONT, \$950.
Studio+1BA. 1 year/ 6 month lease. Basic rates: \$950/ month for queen bed, \$1050* for 2 double beds. Expanded rates: \$1195* month for queen bed or \$1295* for 2 double beds that also includes: weekly cleaning service, daily continental breakfast, all utilities, cable (HBO), heated pool/ spa, on-site laundry. High-speed Internet available for additional charge. (*Rates subject to change/tax.) California Suites Hotel, 5415 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. 1-888-264-4729. www.californiasuiteshotel.com.

COLLEGE AREA, \$1125.
2BD+2BA. On-site parking. New carpet and paint. Close to all. Clean, quiet, secure. If you can find one better... rent it! 5450 University Avenue. Call Rachael, 619-804-1044, or Jeff, 619-713-1044.

COLLEGE AREA, \$1150 & UP.
2BD+1BA large apartments. Water/ sewer/ trash paid. Small complex. Off-street parking. Laundry facilities. Close to all. County and City Section 8 OK. Pets? 858-455-5956.

COLLEGE AREA, \$1175.
2BD+2BA apartment. Move-in special! Fireplace. Central heat/ air. Microwave, dishwasher. Balcony. Gated. 4828 Art Street. 619-298-7724.

COLLEGE AREA, \$1395.
2BD+2BA condo with parking. Laundry in unit. Near SDSU. Open floor plan. Balcony. No pets. Call Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-2228.

COLLEGE AREA, \$750.
1BD+1BA apartment. Newly decorated. Small, quiet complex. Assigned parking, laundry, beautiful patio. No pets. 4444 49th Street. 619-549-9542. 619-501-0585. 619-761-1972. 858-278-6135.

COLLEGE AREA, \$850.
1BD+1BA. Huge apartment! End unit with new paint. Great location, close to all. On-site parking and laundry. Clean, quiet, secure. If you can find one better... rent it! 4756 Seminole Drive, Call Rachael at 619-804-1044 or Jeff at 619-713-1044.

COLLEGE AREA, \$850.
1BD large apartment. Move- in special on approved credit. Dishwasher, disposal, wall A/C. Permit parking, laundry on site, no pets. Water/ trash included. 858-483-5111.

COLLEGE AREA, \$950.
2BD+1BA. New paint and carpet. On-site laundry. Close to all. Clean, quiet, secure. If you can find one better... rent it! 7240 El Cajon Boulevard. Call Lynette at 619-602-0959, or Rachael, 619-804-1044.

LINDA VISTA, \$1095 & UP.
2BD+1BA townhomes, \$1095 and \$1195; bungalows, \$1120 and \$1245. Ask about the deposit special. 619-249-9585.

LINDA VISTA, \$1096.
3BD+1BA, 918 sqft townhouse. Deposit \$767. Upgraded. Street parking only. Available 12/31. 6540 Kelly Street. 619-663-5369. sr@sdcpm.net.

Typo Patrol Results

Issue of December 15, 2011

Sheep and Goats

p.61 given *should be* given the

Marvin Wager (Clairemont) \$10

Thanks, Marvin Wager, you've reached the \$300 annual maximum.

The Unkindest Cut

p.35 I *should be* “I

Restaurant blogs

p.79 coctels *should be* cocteles

Frances Puente (Normal Heights) \$20

You must send in a copy of the printed error — either the actual page or a copy (including page number).

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BREAD & FOOD DISTRIBUTION. Thursdays 30th/Howard, order Thursday 9-12am to reserve food, 619-283-3066. Friday, 12:30-2pm & Sundays 10-2:00pm, 33rd / Meade, Christ Church. Bread and food varies.

CANNABIS PATIENT ACT. (Association Cannabis Therapeutics). Nonprofit. Seeks caregiver/ patient interns with questions about cooperatives, clones, medicine, growing limits, permits. Proposition 215. Meth kills. 619-528-0907.

CO-DEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS of San Diego County. 12-step groups learning to love the self and desiring loving and healthy relationships. Info/meetings, 619-222-1244. www.sdccoda.org.

DEBTORS ANONYMOUS is a 12-Step Program for people with problems with money and debt. Contact us at www.socalda.org or www.debtorsanonymous.org. or www.debtorsanonymous.org.

DIVORCE ANONYMOUS. Get guidance/ support. 12-step group meets Fridays, 7:00-8:30pm, Seventh Day Adventist Church, 1630 E Madison, El Cajon. Lynda D., 619-200-0598; Jane B., 619-422-7373. www.divorceanonymoussandiego.org.

DIVORCECARE. “Now I know I am not alone,” our motto for the heart broken, suffering from divorce or separation. 9am every Sunday. DVD seminar, refreshments, fellowship. 10615 Terrasanta Blvd. #D 92124. 619-461-4480. info@divorcecaresandiego.com.

ENERGETIC HEALING/ REIKI/ Matrix Energetics! Simple, natural, and safe method of healing/ self improvement. Has been effective in treating virtually every known illness/ ailment and always creates a beneficial effect. On Morena Boulevard. By appointment only! Carina, 858-382-5332 leave message. Email, CarinaQuintanar@sbcglobal.net.

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FREE PSYCHIC HEALING lecture clinic. Free readings for new visitors. Mondays, 7:30pm, 1/9/12, 2/6/11, 3/5 by Vessa’s Clairvoyant Program students. 4455 Morena Boulevard, #108, 858-509-7582.

HERPES/HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS support group. Accurate medical information and support. 619-491-1194. www.sandiegocityhelp.org.

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San Diego Reader December 22, 2011 109

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 nurtured in the same uterus in which Melinda, herself, was nurtured. (Womb transplants have been performed in rats and, with limited success, from a deceased human donor.)

Government in Action

— A British manufacturer, BCB International, is flourishing, buoyed by sales of its Kevlar underwear, at \$65 a pair, to U.S. military personnel in Afghanistan and Iraq. However, soldiers and Marines must buy them directly; the “Bomb Boxers” are not supplied by the Pentagon even though nearly 10 percent of battlefield explosive-device injuries result in sometimes-catastrophic 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 Boxers for the price of a single Tomahawk missile.)

Police Report

— Officials in Prince George’s County, Md., reported that crime had fallen by 23 percent during the first nine months of 2011 — the result, they said, of holding meetings with 67 of the most likely recidivist offenders in five neighborhoods and sweet-talking them. The 67 were offered 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., in October and charged with shoplifting from a Beall’s department 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 October to find the man who, according to surveillance video of a city agency building, stole three surveillance cameras (not

the recording units, just the cameras) by lassoing 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 attempt, traversing the entire length of the building before officers knew where she was. (However, 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. According to the Destin, Fla., police report, the man explained, “I can’t put my hands behind my back because I’m making a bowel movement [in my pants].” (According to the report, that was true.)

Least Competent Criminals

— Brent Morgan, 20, was arrested in Prince George, British Columbia, in October on three

counts related to the attempted theft of a Corvette. 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 for the car to start and for the door locks to continue working. Feeling trapped and sensing that the owner had called the police, Morgan panicked and began using any available tool inside the car to smash the window. According to the police report, officers 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 Alarming Headlines

— “Maine Woman Loses Lawsuit Over Removal of Husband’s Brain” “Condoms Rushed to Thai Flood Victims.” “Killer Sharks Invade Golf Course in Australia.” “Lingerie Football League Wants to Start a Youth League.” “Man Uncooperative After Being Stabbed in Scrotum with Hypodermic Needle.”

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNewsTips@yahoo.com

HOME 4 THE HOLIDAYS. *Annual Pet Adoption Drive to help 1.5 million orphaned pets find homes. Also Bags to Bowls Program to provide animal shelters/rescue centers with food donations.* Helen Woodward Animal Center and more than 20 San Diego organizations partnering. To help and to see adoptable animals, go to www.facebook.com/iams.

HONOR LOVED ONES. *Help animals in need with engraved tribute or memorial tile for the Wall of Honor at Rancho Coastal Humane Society (RCHS). Engrave name of person, pet, or business. Or make tax-deductible donation on behalf of loved one. Volunteer, donate food, adopt a dog or cat!* RCHS, 389 Requeza St., Encinitas. www.sdpets.org. 760-753-6413.

LOST BORDER COLLIE. *Puck, Search and Rescue dog. Male, 8 years old. White right front paw, chest. Mohawk. For photo, go to link, type in "Puck": <http://sandiego.sandiegoreader.com/Lost714111atDelMarBeach>. Will run if chased. Try to play fetch with him. Please call if seen, try to take photo. Paul, 970-445-0033.*

MOVIE BUFFS. Interested in watching movies and then discussing them afterwards (like book clubs)? Ages 25 to mature welcome. Please call 619-850-6075 or 858-231-0647.

NEED RECIPES. Free money- saving newsletter needs recipes on ways to shop and prepare tasty, healthful meals costing \$2. Also uTube video cooking demos. 4more@dinneronadollar.org. 858-693-3939.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Is food a problem? Binge or purge? No dues or fees. Contact Overeaters Anonymous: 619-521-2538. www.OAsandiego.org.

PREGNANT? CONSIDERING ADOPTION? Talk with caring agency specializing in matching birthmothers with families nationwide. Living expenses paid. Call 24/7 Abby’s One True Gift Adoptions. 866-413-6293. (Void in Illinois) (AAN CAN)

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Dinner On A Dollar free 501(c)3 eNewsletter needs volunteers— write, get mail list out, renovate popular website. www.dinneronadollar.org. Publisher, Claudia Strassbaugh, 858-693-3939, hungry@dinneronadollar.org.

WRITERS looking for short, uplifting stories of homeless “Rescued Pets” by people who did, to be published with photos, if possible, please. 858-693-3939, pet7@writersetc.com.

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FISHING BOAT, 13’ fiberglass boat, heavy fiberglass built by Spencer Yachts. Like a Mexican panga on a good trailer, \$795/ best. 858-568-2769.

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ALL OTHER ADS: Call 619-235-8200.

DEADLINE: Monday 3pm.

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SNOWSHOE SIAMESE MIX. *Lady Godiva. Female, 11 months old. Blue eyes! Beautiful, sweet, spunky, playful. Spayed, vaccinated, tested, wormed. Val: 858-566-6153; email: vamiraul@san.rr.com.*

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TUXEDO CAT. *Hawkeye. ID#A1442671. Male, long haired. 1 year old. Friendly, loves attention, playful. \$25 fee for cats/dogs with black in their coats, through 2011! County Animal Services, San Diego Shelter, 5480 Gaines St., San Diego 92110. 619-767-2675. www.sddac.com.*

MASTIFF MIX. *Bob. ID#59313. Male, neutered. Extremely intelligent! Will do well with doggy sports, agility training. \$25 fee in December. Escondido Humane Society, 3450 East Valley Parkway, Escondido 92027. 760-888-2247. www.escondidohumanesociety.org.*

CHIHUAHUA/TERRIER MIX. *Tiara. ID#A1444784. Female, 2 years old. Adorable! Sweet, quiet, friendly, very portable. County Animal Services, Southern Shelter, 5821 Sweetwater Rd., Bonita 91902. 619-498-2300. See her: www.sddac.com.*

BLUE TICKED TABBY. *Heart. ID#84365. Female, 1 year old, spayed. Domestic short hair. Friendly, easygoing, affectionate. San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, Airport Rd. location for Cats & Small Animals, 572 Airport Rd., Oceanside 92058. 760-757-4357. www.sdhumane.org.*



CATAHOULA LEOPARD DOG MIX. *Zack. ID#84801. Male, neutered, 3 years old. Fun, active, charismatic. San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, Gaines Campus, 5500 Gaines St. 92110. 619-299-7012. www.sdhumane.org.*



TERRIER MIX. *Beth. ID#78812. Female, spayed, 2 years old. San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, North Campus, 2905 San Luis Rey Road, Oceanside 92058. 760-757-4357. www.sdhumane.org.*

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