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Woo-hoo! Chula Vista U!

By Susan Luzzaro

Will Harvard or Notre Dame come to a South Bay university site as Sweetwater school district boardmember John McCann suggested in November? Will taxpayers vote for another bond to build a university? Will the City of Chula Vista build a bigger and better university before the school district’s university gets off the ground? These are the juicy prospects that dangle before South Bay residents.

At the Sweetwater Union High School District’s November 14 board meeting, trustees voted to go forward with a concept that interim superintendent Edward Brand said he affects two construction bonds in the past. South Bay residents approved Proposition BB, a $187 million measure, in 2000 and Proposition O, a $644 million bond, in 2006. Regarding Sweetwater U, Brand told the Union-Tribune in November that “he didn’t have an estimate as to how much the facility would cost or how large the bond measure would need to be.”

The next steps toward the university will be determined by the consultant’s results, which Brand said should be available when the district returns from winter break.

The City of Chula Vista has long sought a university of its own. In a December interview, Brand said the district is currently conducting a survey to determine public support for the university and “the threshold of the tax burden” the public is willing to bear. According to Brand, the district has retained a consultant named John Fairbank to conduct the poll.

Fairbank has helped the Sweetwater district secure a South Bay university site as Sweetwater district school board and superintendent Ed Brand (top left) and Otay Land Company for 345 acres on Hunt Parkway, close to the Arco Training Center. The developers will exchange the land and money for increased density in future developments. Preliminary environmental studies are already under way on the 345 acres.

The City of Chula Vista has been working on the university deal for a long time. As far back as 2005, the Union-Tribune wrote that the city council had “approved a 10-member citizen advisory panel and allocated $707,000 for two consulting firms to guide the effort.”

In 2010, the City paid $78,202.61 for an options and feasibility study. The study established the need for a university in the South Bay.

By 2019, according to the study, there will be a 16.4 percent increase statewide in the number of students seeking an undergraduate education. At the same time, “physical capacity pressures are being experienced by 79% of the community college districts, 78% of the California State University campuses, and all of the University of California campuses except the recently-opened UC Merced.”

However, the study contains some discouraging analysis. For example, “Of the 5,900 students graduating from the [Sweetwater] district in 2008, about one-third was eligible to attend a CSU or UC institution.”

Another dismal statistic concerns the finances of potential university students. The study found that in South Bay schools, 51.6 percent of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunches.

The study points out that a private university would be dependent on “significant private capital contributions for start-up and operational costs.” However, corporate philanthropy is unlikely because “another regional reality is that very few large corporations are headquartered in the county.”

The school district had hoped to build Sweetwater U in collaboration with the City of Chula Vista and to build it on Chula Vista’s property.

Brand’s calendar, obtained through a public records request, shows that he met with City of Chula Vista officials several times to discuss a university. On November 28, Brand and trustee John McCann met with city manager Jim San doval and Mayor Cheryl Cox. The next day, a Union-Tribune headline read “United Push on University Eludes South Bay.”

Assistant city manager Halbert said in an interview that the City of Chula Vista is not wedded to any university concept and that “all options are on the table.” He discussed the possibility of having multiple colleges on one site. Halbert did not rule out resuming discussions with Sweetwater, particularly if a bond were passed.

Sweetwater High School District school board and superintendent Ed Brand (top left)
Ironically, the site is adjacent to a 50-acre piece of land that it needs. According to Brand, the district itself, have passed at the November meeting, and midday, investigators had gone to the homes of boardmembers Pearl Quiñones, Arlie Ricasa, Bertha Lopez, and Amigable’s. It is suspected that the investigation will include other boardmembers.

In June of this year, community activists Fran Brinkman, Stewart Payne, John Brickley, Kathleen Cheers, and Maty Adato set today’s actions in motion when they took their complaints about former Sweetwater superintendent Jesus Gandara to the district attorney’s office. Brinkman said they had initially gone to the FBI with stacks of documents but decided to pursue their complaints through the D.A.’s office. Brinkman said that their group became a funnel for information from teachers and administrators within the district.

When the Union-Tribune broke the story about the investigation last June, Brinkman told the reporter, “If we can get a leader that is honest — I think we can get back to a good district and not a district that relies on cheating, forgery, and lies.”

By Susan Lazzaro December 20, 2011

It’s a Bust!
Sweetwater Union HS District Trustees’ Homes Raided
Chula Vista — On December 20, 2011, district attorney investigators raided the homes of several Sweetwater Union High School District boardmembers and Henry Amigable, who served as a bond construction program manager for both the district and Southwestern College.

By midday, investigators had gone to the homes of boardmembers Pearl Quiñones, Arlie Ricasa, Bertha Lopez, and Amigable’s. It is suspected that the investigation will include other boardmembers.

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By Susan Lazzaro December 20, 2011

NEWS TICKER

Slow at the Spa?
Estancia Hotel Warns It Could Lay Off 295
La Jolla — The Estancia La Jolla Hotel & Spa, recently purchased at what was considered a low price, has told the California Employment Development Department that it could lay off as many as 295 employees. The highly rated facility is at 9700 N. Torrey Pines Road. The WARN notice was filed Dec. 21. On Dec. 1, Irvine’s Pacific Hospitality Group announced that it acquired the 210-room upscale facility from Los Angeles–based Lowe Enterprises. The

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continued on page 39

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San Diego Reader

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San Diego Reader

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Save A Seat At The Table

Adios, Naomi. I was saddened to read of the death of Naomi Wise in Ed Bed ford’s blog tribute. I began reading Naomi’s restaurant reviews from the very beginning. After she wrote her first review of a Tijuana restaurant, Cien Años, a friend and I went to her correcting a few mistakes and offered to guide her around Tijuana. I ended up driving her and T.J. Beyers to Tijuana and showing her around.

We first ate at a modest restaurant that I had discovered called Aquí es Oaxaca. She loved the food but thought it was more appropriate for Ed to review. We then went to the more upscale La Diferencia, and she gave it the first review in San Diego.

She later invited me to go with them to Ensenada for a review trip there. We ate at the 21st Century. It was always a pleasure to visit the owner was arrested by Interpol as a Basque terrorist, and his place was closed. I was her “botanist friend” in her Tijuana and Ensenada reviews.

It was always a pleasure to dine with Naomi. She was discriminating and knowledgeable. When I told her that I had eaten locos in a small fishing village in southern Chile, she knew all about it, as well as the wild game I had in Bariloche, Argentina, in the foothills of the Andes.

When 9/11 hit and then drug violence, tourism plummeted in Baja California. Many restaurants closed, and the Reader ended her review trips there. We ate together in coastal North County. I taught her some things about Mexican food that I had learned traveling all over Mexico, but I learned much more from her. I echo everything Ed Bedford said. She and I didn’t always have the same taste, but I always knew from her reviews what I was going to get.

Gerald Sodomka
Cardiff-by-the-Sea

Words Without Meaning

This year’s article on Christmas and Hanukkah holidays on page 22 was very poor (“Joy to the Screen,” Cover Story, December 22). In fact, it sounded like a bunch of gobbledygook, and I couldn’t even finish reading it. I prefer the one you had last year or so. You had an English professor and one of the writers of your staff talking about the holiday. In the future, that would be more appropriate so that we people — either laymen or those who’ve forgotten all of these things — can get a better understanding of what these holidays mean as well as the history of these holidays, which is much more important to the average person nowadays in the 21st Century.

Paul Lang
San Carlos

The Fight Was Fixed

It would be that paragon of virtuosity the San Diego Reader that would stage a modern version of the classic Christian vs. Jew dispute, in which the Christian not only triumphs but...
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During my childhood, Christmas was, without question, my favorite holiday. The myth, the magic, the mirth: everything about it was wonderful. I was raised Catholic, but by the time my sisters and I entered adolescence, my family’s church attendance had waned. My father was the only one of us who kept going. And though we were taught in church that Christmas was the celebration of a magical birth — that of Jesus to a miraculously chaste Mary — when it came down to it, we didn’t care about all that. To us, Christmas was about presents.

Despite our parents’ and priest’s best efforts to drill into us about all that. To us, Christmas was about presents. To us, Christmas was about presents. To us, Christmas was about presents. Chaste Mary — when it came down to it, we didn’t care if my father was the only one of us who kept going. And though I got older, meet up with my friends. I would rather be off exploring the world and making sure I didn’t miss out on anything that promised to be fun.

After I left the house and got my first real job, Christmas morphed from magical moment into fretful fiasco. Rather than making a list of things I wanted from Santa, I made a list of what to get for whom and how much to spend on each. My growing list grew longer and longer as the oppressive sense of obligation forced my hand to add the names of people I didn’t really like or hardly even knew. For years I heard news stories of the rise in depression and suicide around the holidays. Now I understood — Christmas had come to mean stress.

When my sisters started having kids, those small, impressionable, and easily awed minds rejuvenated my mother’s insistence that everyone be together to lavish gifts upon the children. Her fairy tales returned from their sabbatical and were now back in heavy rotation, to the delight of the little ones.

As the babies grew into toddlers, my sisters wanted to become Santa and have him deliver at each of their homes, not just at Nana’s house. And there were my sisters’ husbands’ families — in-laws who also wanted to lavish gifts upon their grandchildren. Christmas celebrations were suddenly nomadic — Christmas Eve at Heather’s, Christmas morning portioned among the families, and then Christmas day and night shared among all with guest appearances at Mom’s house and wherever else my sisters felt obligated to be.

I began to feel like I was watching the chaos from afar, even though I was often sitting right there, in the center of the room. The gatherings were bigger, the people were louder, the lights were glaringly bright. It was a carousel of anxiety, and Santa flashed a bone-white smile that appeared more and more menacing with every turn.

Distracted for a day.

A surprising thing happened this year, when the last grain of guilt I felt about dodging Christmas had dissolved: the magic of the season was returned to me. Fully liberated from all of the aspects that stressed me out, I was able to appreciate all of the wonder the season still contained for me. I drive up and down suburban streets to gaze upon beautiful, sparkly light displays; I sing along to the holiday playlist David made; and, while most people I know are busy shopping or traveling, I take time to appreciate all throughout the rest of the year: relax.

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Fortunately, my family lives locally, so it’s not like Christmas is that rare, once-a-year opportunity to see them. It took me three years to convince my family to accept my decision to forego all Christmas-related festivities. Instead, on the 25th, I spend a quiet day with David. A bottle of champagne (or two!), cooking together, movies, maybe some Scrabble — a wonderful gift that I, and my understanding family, gives to me: some blissful downtime with my man while the rest of the world is distracted for a day.

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Dear Matthew:
I'm at work and I'm very fidgety. I always get fidgety at work. I tap my toes and fingernails and mess with my stapler and stuff. I don't notice doing this much at home. What's my body trying to tell me? Am I bored?
— Fidgety Fillis, San Diego

Bored and, uh, afraid. Calm down. Fidget, and we'll poke around to find a full explanation. Consider research done in England, at the University of Hertfordshire. They probed the brains of English fidgeters and discovered some interesting tidbits. People in the clutches of high anxiety are the toe-tap, leg-jiggle, arm-stretch fidgeters. Physical movements like those are your attempt to work off the stress-inducing cortisol that's building up in your system, the result of fight-or-flight feelings. Got a mean boss? Fidgeting is your way of dealing with him/her instead of making a screaming dash out the door. Cortisol also interferes with learning, so fidgeting before test time might actually be helpful to calm you down.

Fidgeters who did things like spinning pens and twisting paper clips into weird shapes were the boredom fidgeters. It's still a stress reaction, but not as intense or as directed. You're just bored and your brain needs something to do, anything to take your mind off it and handle the creeping cortisol.

Heymatt:
It's December time again or as I call it Chia season. I finally need to know, what the heck is chia? What would happen if I dumped all my chia seeds in my garden and just let them grow? Who dreamed up a Chia Pet and thought the rest of us would want one?
— Chia Wonderer, via email

First of all, an excited “thank you” from Grandma Alice. She’s been contemplating what to plant on the south 40 this spring, and your question solved the problem. She’s stoked. The Alices will have the raddest backyard in the nabe. Acres of chia, without the benefit of little clay homunculi that look like Homer Simpson or Scooby-Doo.

The chia family tree goes back to that fun clay homunculi that look like Homer Simpson or Scooby-Doo. It’s Christmas time again or as I call it Chia season. These days, of course, Ch-ch-ch-chias are here to stay. They’re leeeetle gray, black, white, or mottled seeds that sprout three-foot stalks with fuzzy leaves, ending in a spike of blue-purple or white flowers, like so many of the other salvias. The seeds have been used as food or drink in the southern Americas for thousands of years. Along with corn, it was a staple of the Aztec diet. Perhaps the Aztecs invented the toothpick at the same time.

Just now they’re making a big comeback on our health-nut diets. Drs. Weil and Oz go crazy for chias. Loaded with protein, calories, antioxidants, good fats, fiber, calcium, and a bunch of other vitamins and minerals. Chia sellers make great claims for the seeds as a weight-loss miracle. But weight-loss claims are a sure-fire marketing tool these days, and some are pretty iffy. Put chias in that group.

Chias can be ground or whole in baked goods and cereals, offered as a (probably messy) toasted snack, sprouted for salads, and used as a base for smoothies. Yes, chia smoothies. Here’s a recipe, with a very telling note at the end. Throw a few tablespoons of seeds in a blender with water or juice and blend away. Let the mess sit for five minutes or so until it begins to gel. That’s the protein combining with the liquid. It turns goopy. “Enjoy it chilled,” the chef advises. We all know what that means. It means this stuff is pretty disgusting, but if it’s really cold you’ll be able to slug it down without tasting it too much. You’ve been warned.

So how did chias go from the Aztec dinner table to the American window sill? About 50 years ago, an American wandering through Mexico saw Chia Pet precursors for sale as curios. He knew it was a ridiculous something that would appeal to Americans’ love of ridiculous somethings, and he brought the idea back to the U.S. No marketing whiz, he let the Chia Pet mostly sit around in his warehouse. But in the 1970s, an even more savvy seller of ridiculous somethings spotted them at a Chicago trade fair, knew he’d struck idiotic gold, and bought the rights. He marketed the heck out of them, the Chia Pet mostly sit around in his warehouse. But in the 1970s, an even more savvy seller of ridiculous somethings spotted them at a Chicago trade fair, knew he’d struck idiotic gold, and bought the rights. He marketed the heck out of them, got permission to make the containers in the likeness of popular characters, and bombarded the Christmas airwaves with ads. He also wrote the jaunty jingle we have stuck in our heads through November and December. He sells half a million every Christmas. And I’d guess we throw out half a million every Groundhog Day. These days, of course, Ch-ch-ch-chias are made in — where else? — Ch-ch-ch-China.
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Camp Pendleton Commander: Stop the Madness

Marine Expeditionary Force Leader Begs Obama to Stop Troop Pullout from Iraq, Citing “Grave Economic Risk” to America

“Those boys have a job to do over there, a paying job. Here? Not so much.”

“Look, wars are expensive,” says Major General General Majors. “Everybody knows that. But how did the United States find its way out of the Great Depression? That’s right — World War II. Military manufacturing made it happen for us, and set us on the path to becoming the economic engine of the world.”

Today is no different, says Majors. “Everybody likes to talk about how the war in Iraq cost over a trillion dollars. But where did those trillion dollars go? I’ll tell you where a lot of it went: into the pockets of hard-working soldiers, defense contractors, civilian consulting firms, military PR agents, drone manufacturers, weapons researchers, military medical personnel, rehabilitation and physical therapy experts, psychological counselors, and on and on. That wasn’t just money invested in the military or in Iraq; that was money invested in America, money that has helped to keep the American economy from sliding into the worst depression in a hundred years. Let’s be honest: the war was a stimulus package like no other. And frankly, I think it’s a terrible mistake to quit now, just when things are starting to pick up.”

Majors shook his head and thoughtfully stroked his sidearm. “It just doesn’t make sense. Unless maybe the president is getting ready to go into Pakistan. That could be good for everybody.”

“Groceries for Guns” Yields Bumper Crop for Local Gang

East Side National City Ojos Hosts Successful Gun Exchange, Distributes More Than 1000 Firearms in Exchange for Food and Supermarket Gift Cards

A PARKING LOT SOMEWHERE IN NATIONAL CITY THAT YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN’T KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT — Kathy Livings-ton received a gift certificate for a free Honeybaked Ham from her employers at East County Asphalt & Sealing this Christmas. But, she says, she had already purchased a Christmas turkey during the Albertsons Two-Turkey Blowout on Black Friday. “So when I heard about the Ojos’ Groceries for Guns program, I was delighted. Mary Beth Johannson’s house got broken into last October, and she lives just four blocks away. I gave the Locos my Honeybaked certificate and got this sweet little Sig Sauer P238 pistol. I love the rainbow barrel, and I feel so much safer!”

Livingston was just one of the over 1000 happy citizens who obtained either a handgun, a sawed-off shotgun, or a modified assault rifle without the bother of registration or waiting period last Sunday at the guns-for-groceries exchange. The event was hosted by the East Side National City Ojos, a gang long believed to have connections with the Mexican drug cartels. (That belief was strengthened Sunday, when it was discovered by this reporter that most of the weapons being distributed were among those released into Mexican hands by the federal government during Operation Fast and Furious.)

A spokesman for the Ojos explained that the idea for the operation was born of “simple economics, man. We had a surplus of supply, and at the same time, we had some serious gustatory demand going on. So we thought we’d do some bartering. Thug life ain’t cheap, yo. There are always expenses, and income can be frustratingly variable, depending on the volatility of the market. And come time for Christmas, you might want to put out something a little finer than Ramen ’n crank dust [a popular Ojos staple] for your crew. At the same time, all these IB’s [innocent bystanders] are feeling the rising heat in the economic pressure cooker, and they’re thinking about protecting what they’ve still got. I was just glad we could make this happen before Christmas. This Sunday, there are going to be a lot of heavy stockings in Eastlake and a lot of full bellies in our neck of the woods.”

Arizona’s “Sheriff Joe” Announces Retirement, Decision to Move to Escondido

Embattled Sheriff Looking Forward to “Peace and Quiet and the Company of Fellow American Citizens”

“Finally, a place where justice is not subject to lawyerly meddling.”

Just one day after the United States Justice Department issued a scathing 22-page critique of “Sheriff Joe” Arpaio’s allegedly draconian practices with regard to the pursuit and handling of illegal immigrants (and other Latinos) in Maricopa County, Arizona, the 79-year-old icon announced his intention to retire from law enforcement and take up residence in the city of Escondido. “At least there,” he said at a news conference this morning, “they have some interest in enforcing the law.”

Arpaio’s comment was taken as referring to the placement of driver’s license checkpoints on Escondido thoroughfares, a practice that has been in place since 2004. Critics have long argued that the checkpoints are merely “goatcha” stations for the undocumented, a criticism that has led Escondido mayor Sid Amen to reply, “Yes. And!”

However, recent events — most notably, a lawsuit designed to increase the Latino presence on the Escondido City Council by breaking the city into various electoral districts — have placed the future of those checkpoints in doubt. That may explain a recent tweet emanating from Mayor Amen’s Twitter feed. It read simply “@SheriffJoe: call me.”

Local Reds Employ Hammer and Sickle in Violent Effort to Redistribute Wealth by Robbing Sprint Store in Kearny Mesa

Wealth by Robbing the Company of Fellow American Citizens

Well, okay, it was a machete, but close enough.

Is Occupy movement to blame? Do you even have to ask? Damn Bolsheviks.

Almost factual news
Year End Inventory Sale

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<th>TENDER REST</th>
<th>CLOUD 9 PLUSH PILLOWTOP</th>
<th>SLEEP THERAPY SERENITY</th>
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Did you know that Cataracts are the primary reason for age related vision impairment? Over time, your eyes lose the ability to see the sharp details and complete array of colors around you. This impacts your ability to enjoy some of the best moments in life like reading, driving, enjoying family time, and much more. West Coast Eye Care is pleased to offer one of the first blade-free cataract lasers in California. Early data shows this laser is up to 10x more accurate than manual blade cataract surgery, giving the most accurate and safest results for patients who are seeking the highest level of vision quality.

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

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 age 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 (multi-focal 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.

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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Barry Katzman M.D.
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#### Laser Vision Correction?

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<th>Question</th>
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<tr>
<td>Is your doctor “iLASIK” certified?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Will your exam, surgery and follow-up care be provided by the same doctor?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Do they use the new “Iris Registration Tracking Device” for a safer, more effective procedure?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Do they offer 4th generation FS Intralase to create a safer, faster, more controlled, bladeless all-laser procedure?</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Will they diagnose your vision needs and recommend the most appropriate refractive surgery (LASIK, CK, PRK, Multifocal Implants/ReSTOR, etc.)?</td>
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BLOG DIEGO

POST TITLE: An Angel on Her Shoulder
POST DATE: December 8, 2011
I first spotted Amanda at a busy intersection not long ago. “Sober, homeless, hungry,” read her sign. Nothing new there — destitute folks populate most well-trafficked street corners in San Diego, looking for handouts. What stood out about Amanda was the air of decency about her — and the flame-point Siamese cat perched on her shoulder. I rolled down the window and handed her $5. Her eyes lit up. “Can I pet your cat?” I asked. And so our connection began.

Amanda and her husband, John, have been homeless since they lost their jobs ten months ago. Both have college degrees. Neither does drugs or alcohol. At first, they camped out by a river near other homeless folks. But their tent was stolen while they were staying in a hotel room for a couple of nights, so now they’re sleeping under a bridge. Finding work is not easy once you’re homeless. “The position has been filled” is a constant refrain. Amanda, who studied business in college, even thought about becoming a stripper. “But they wouldn’t take me because of my tattoos and stretch marks,” she says.

On an average day, Amanda makes $30 or $35 pan-handling while John looks for work. This buys food for the couple and their cat. Amanda has seen a lot in her 33 years. Kicked out of the house at 15 and pregnant by 16, she got into trouble and lost her child. Repeated attempts to gain custody failed, and uterine cancer left her unable to bear more children.

At the intersection, Amanda often gets acosted or propositioned. “It’s like being an animal in a zoo, standing out here with people pointing and staring,” she says. “It’s the most humbling thing a person can experience.” When she’s feeling down, she reads the Bible verses scrawled on the back of her sign.

Words like, “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds,” remind her to keep her spirits up.

Nine-month-old Angel rests patiently on Amanda’s shoulder for hours at a stretch, nuzzling her neck. Amanda takes impeccable care of her beloved kitty, and was recently overjoyed to be able to get him his shots.

Abused as a puppy and beset with ailments, two-year-old Baxter was about to be euthanized when dog-lover Melissa Joseph got wind of his predicament and rescued him. At first, the dog was terrified of loud noises and cowered whenever he saw a broom. But after years of tender care, Baxter became patient, reliable, courageous — and exquisitely sensitive to others’ suffering.

Nicknamed “Dr. Love” by the hospice staff, Baxter made an impact on people of all backgrounds and ages — even those whom no one else could reach. Soon after cuddling with Baxter and receiving his ministrations, many patients would cross over peacefully. Those who knew Baxter believe it was his own ailments that made him such a powerful companion to others in pain. In the shamanic tradition, his wounds had turned him into a healer.

The psychopomp is a Scorpionic figure. Scorpio rules the Underworld — the realm of death as well as the subconscious mind. Wherever Scorpio falls in your chart shows where you have suffered deeply.

POST TITLE: The Shadow and the Psychopomp
POST DATE: October 23, 2011
Baxter the therapy dog was a bridge to the next world — a psychopomp who lovingly eased others across the veil. (Meaning “guide of souls” in Greek, a psychopomp is a being, whether shaman, angel or animal, that provides safe passage to deceased souls.)

Looking more like a teddy bear than a dog, the scruffy chow mix made his rounds at San Diego Hospice until his death in 2009 at 19.

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**Top Sports Stories of 2011**

Depends where you live. If you live in Huntsville, Texas, the big story of 2011 is Sam Houston State University winning a championship at the College Finals Rodeo for the first time in 43 years. The rodeo was held in Casper, Wyoming, last June. The Bearkats’ men’s team finished first, women’s team second.

Over in Hanceville, Alabama, joy is found on the campus of Wallace State Community College. The Lady Lions secured their sixth state basketball title. Dynasty.

And in Dickinson, North Dakota, the Dickinson High School Midgets girls’ gymnastics sensation, Acacia Fossum, a seventh grader, won three individuals titles, including the all-around championship at a state meet. Her coach told the Jamestown Sun, “She only fell off beam once all season.”

As to the adult, money-grubbing version, the Box nominates...

1. St. Louis winning the World Series. Facing Texas, behind 3 games to 2 going into Game 6, St. Louis was trailing 7 to 5 in the bottom of the 9th. There are 2 outs, Cardinals third baseman David Freese is at bat and has 2 strikes against him. He’s 1 strike away from losing the Series. Freese hits a triple to tie the game. Texas scores 2 runs in top of the 10th. Now St. Louis is at bat. Lance Berkman, with 2 outs, 2 men on base, and 2 strikes against him, hits a single to tie the game once more. St. Louis wins with a walk-off home run in the 11th inning. Game 7 was an afterthought, St. Louis wins with a walk-off home run in the 11th inning.

2. Dallas wins the NBA Finals. Entirely satisfactory in every way. Miami shined as an arrogant, talent-bloated team. You can’t beat LeBron James, Dwyane Wade, and Chris Bosh for arrogance. Not only was it a pleasure watching the big trees fall, but the Big Three stayed in character throughout. In fact, the Box must commend LeBron for playing his part to the end, saying, at a post Finals interview, “All the people that were rooting me on to fail, at the end of the day they have to wake up tomorrow and have the same life they had before.”

Miami lost the deciding game on their home court after leading the series 2-0. Dallas took the series in 6 games. LeBron played his typical Big Game game, folding in the 4th quarter.

3. Rory McIlroy. He’s 22, a Northern Ireland lad, pleasant demeanor, easy-going style. Turned pro in 2007, collected his first win on the European Tour two years later and first win on PGA tour in 2010. He’s earned $8 million-plus from golf, and $10 million from sponsors before he teed off at the 2011 Masters. Not bad for three European Tour wins and one PGA Tour victory.

But, basically, he just got here, and then — boom — he’s playing in the 2011 Masters. McIlroy shot 67 on the first round at Augusta and became the youngest player to lead after one round. Shot 69 the next day and led the field by 2 strokes. On the third day, he shot 70 and led the field by 4 strokes. On the final round — let’s stop here for a moment. Imagine the pressure, every personhood in Golf World is watching you, a 21-year-old kid with one lousy PGA Tour win. All the ghosts from past Masters — Sam Snead, Ben Hogan, Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods — are looking over your shoulder. Money, hundreds of millions, maybe a billion, waits for you in the clubhouse. McIlroy shoots one over par for the first nine holes of the final round. Not great, but good enough to retain the lead.

On the 10th hole he hooked a drive off the fairway. Then chipped the ball across the fairway, then hooked the ball into trees, then hit a tree, then got onto the green, and then two-putted. Finished the hole with triple bogey. He bogeyed the 11th, double bogeyed the 12th, shot 80 for the round, finished tied for 15th place.

An epic collapse, a historic collapse in front of a worldwide audience. In front of Mom, Dad, and every friend he ever had.

You don’t come back from that kind of humiliation in a month. A lot of people never come back. Think Mike Tyson after Buster Douglas knocked him out or Greg Norman after his collapse at the 1996 Masters.

No, you don’t come back from a gut shot in one month. Took McIlroy two months. Two months later he won the 2011 U.S. Open. Actually, he conquered it. Finished 16-under par, an Open record, 8 shots ahead of his nearest competitor, which is 4 shots better than Jack Nicklaus or Tiger Woods ever managed.
Eve since Aunt Azelda’s dog died, the dear old bird has been thinking of her own demise. “I don’t want to be in the way, Evie,” she told me. “Just burn me up and put me in the rose bed.” Aunt Azelda: Green without even trying. I wasn’t sure how the rest of the family would feel about attending burial services in my front yard, so I started looking for options.

Rob Sarine at My Living Reef (800-569-7333; mylivingreef.com) told me that his nonprofit company offers an “ecologically beneficial and everlasting alternative to traditional memorials for those who choose cremation. Our goal is to reduce the species extinction rate, to enhance marine biodiversity, and to restore overfished waters.”

My Living Reef designs artificial reefs to mimic the habitats of specific forms of marine life and incorporates the cremains into the compound used to make the reef. Other ingredients include sand, crushed seashells, and low-alkaline concrete. The cost for a burial site ($875 for a four-person community reef, $3500 for an individual reef, $4000 for a reef containing the remains of two specific people) goes toward saving something such as Baja’s famous spiny lobsters. “The reefs grow brown kelp, sea urchins eat the kelp, and spiny lobsters eat the sea urchins.”

At San Diego Burial at Sea (619-987-0063; sandiegoburialatsea.com), one captain suggested another reason people use their service. “Burial at sea is a less expensive alternative,” he said. “I think that accounts for its popularity more than it being ‘green.’”

There is a debate in the Kelly family as to whether burials are for the deceased or those left behind. I don’t know which side will win out after Azelda goes, so I checked out the green-burial option at San Diego Funeral Services (619-280-0101; sandiegofuneralservice.com). Toni Valenzuela said her business offers mortuary services and that she prefers to use the term “natural” instead of “green.” “There are a lot of technical things involved with the term ‘green,’ and the fact is that there is no place in San Diego where you can have a truly green burial. Some places, such as the El Cajon cemetery, don’t require a lead-lined casket. But you’re still putting the body into a cement-lined underground vault.”

“What we do,” she continued, “is help to do the mortuary services in a more natural way. We start by assisting the family with the after-death care of the body — how to wash and preserve it.” The cost for their services is $1495 to $2800.

Next I spoke with Valenzuela’s assistant, Bobby. “There are several things you can do to make things more natural,” he explained. “You can use a natural solution to embalm the body, or you can do no embalming and opt for a direct burial. The Muslins, for instance, must be buried within 24 hours of death, so they might choose direct burial. Or you can use dry ice to keep things preserved and have a home funeral — the old-school tradition. Those are coming back.”

The natural options extend to caskets. “Some people want a plain pine box. Others choose a wicker casket or a cloth-covered cardboard box.” Valenzuela sensed my incredulity. “It’s made from paper in its most natural state,” she assured me, “and the sides and bottom can hold up to 495 pounds.”

1. Living Reef
2. Wicker casket
a few weeks ago, Hank, a businessman in his 50s, invited about 30 people out to his rural estate in Valley Center to take part in the slaughtering of two large pigs.

“My conclusion from [watching the film Food Inc.] was that I needed to either experience and acknowledge the entire food production process, including raising, slaughtering, and butchering meat animals, or become a vegetarian,” Hank wrote in the emailed invitation. “I want to eat meat but I also want to have an authentic relationship with it.... This conversation seems long overdue in our culture.”

We sipped beer and scotch by the pig pen, passing a tray of Su’s English sausage rolls and sharing stories about our relationship to meat while the two hogs rooted around their enclosure, gnawing occasionally on the two-by-four-foot frame.

“For me, it’s more of a health issue,” said one man. “It’s more about me than the animals. In the long term, eating meat that’s injected with 400 chemicals and hormones didn’t sound healthy. I just don’t trust the way things are regulated.”

“I’ve been a hunter for a long time,” said another. “It’s important to kill with one shot, or else you’ll stress out the animal and the meat won’t be as good.”

“I think anyone who is not bothered by killing an animal has been trained not to be bothered,” said a contemplative Hank. “I think God gives us a conscience that makes us feel bad about killing.”

“Who here has killed an animal themselves?” a woman asked.

“Who here has killed an animal themselves?” a woman asked. Three raised their hands. Shortly thereafter, Paul, a butcher with 25 years’ experience, shot the first pig in the head with a .22 magnum rifle.

“They’ll kick for a while,” said Paul. “They’re just brain dead.”

“Does the shot stress out the other pig?” someone asked as Paul cut the animal’s throat.

“No. They’ll usually get in there and drink the blood from their neck.”

The maybe 250-pound hogs kicked violently for several minutes, their blood running down a hillside as Paul and his 13-year-old son (who began butchering with his father when he was 4) removed the hooves with swift, deft slices.

The skin soon off, the hogs became familiar forms from the meat market. In about 20 minutes, the animal had gone from a pig to pork to an anatomy lesson as Paul raised the first on a hook to drain and pointed out the major organs. “Here are the intestines, here’s the pancreas, the liver.”

He blew up lungs and his son held the small brain in cupped hands.

The pigs were then bisected and loaded onto a truck.

“It’s been a rough couple of weeks,” said Hank. “I was really dreading it. I was prepared to be a vegetarian. But I found it pretty normal. Not a big deal. And I’m feeling guilty that I didn’t feel worse about it. I’m the kind of Christian I call radically compassionate. I think God calls us all to love everything. So part of my faith is to be disruptively compassionate, and I’m feeling guilty that I didn’t feel more deeply about the deed. Some people are so capable of turning off the connection between killing an animal and eating meat. When you try to connect it, there’s a visceral response that can really be maddening. Some people can be so protective of that disconnect, it’s amazing.

I don’t understand how people wouldn’t want to make that connection. I’m going to continue to eat meat, but I’m going to eat less of it and I’m going to really consider where it’s coming from.”

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| **Validation Year round, rain or shine.**
| **San Diego Reader December 29, 2011 21** |
Most of us onlookers conquered the mountain the easy way — by car — and had gathered for the big moment, trying at the same time to exploit the 10,857-foot elevation for an alpine vista. It was early afternoon on June 20, 2011, and there at the summit of Wolf Creek Pass, in southern Colorado’s San Juan Mountains, the air was cool but not cold and snowy, as morning weather reports out of Denver had suggested it might be. “There he comes,” someone shouted, “that speck bobbing up and down on the side of the road.” We squinted, looking hard down the grade and into the mountain shadows. Before long, we verified that the speck was Wei Sun pumping the pedals that were bringing him toward us. Loud cheers and encouragement went up when he passed by on his bike and headed downhill. He had crossed the Continental Divide, on the way from Oceanside to a finish line in Annapolis, Maryland. It was Team ViaSat’s third day of competition in the 30th annual Race Across America. For each of the past six years, the ViaSat Corporation, a Carlsbad company that produces satellite equipment, has fielded an eight-man team to compete in the race’s corporate division.

This year, from among eight team members, five from San Diego County, the ride to the top of the pass fell randomly on Sun, who is...
42 and lives in Carmel Mountain Ranch. It was both an honor and a daunting task, especially given his background. In 2005, after being diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, he changed his diet, quit smoking, and began riding a bike. He has been training to race for the past two years.

"It was the first time in my life that I rode a bike at 10,000 feet," he later told me. "Next time, I will be more respectful of what that can do to the body."

Race Across America is best known for its solo competition. In 1986, Fallbrook’s Pete Penseyres set a world solo record in the race that has yet to be broken. Penseyres rode 3107 miles, coast to coast, in eight days, nine hours, and 47 minutes, averaging 15.4 miles per hour. The solo performers flabbergast sedentary folk, but the race’s eight-man teams also boast mind-boggling achievements. Because they take turns riding, each of the eight must sprint almost every time they take the road. This can raise a team’s average speed to over 20 miles per hour. But to reach these averages, teams must be organized into well-oiled machines.

Team ViaSat had divided itself into four subteams of two cyclists who alternated riding short sprints over five-hour shifts. After one pair finished, they were off-bike until the three other pairs finished their shifts, 15 hours later. Each pair of riders took one shift every 20 hours, guaranteeing that every ViaSat rider would get some nighttime duty. Once the eight-man race started on June 18, there was a ViaSat cyclist riding at all hours of the day, until the team crossed the finish line.

The physical demands of the race were hardly Wei Sun’s only challenge. Since last December, when he started lining up uniforms and additional sponsors for his team, he’d acted as the team’s informal organizer. Besides cyclists, Sun recruited nine other persons to serve as the team’s crew; their various roles would include protecting riders on the road and facilitating numerous transfers of the ViaSat flag from one to another. Sun’s job in supply management for ViaSat helped him to work through the company’s budgeting process to procure entrance fees to compete. All the while, he joined other prospective racers on training outings, often cycling up to 250 miles a week on Carlsbad’s hilly roads and the slopes of Soledad and Palomar mountains.

On April 2, each rider participated in time trials established by team members from previous years. Time trials are an event in which cyclists race against the clock. In this case, the intent was to make sure the 2011 team could maintain adequate speeds over a 3000-mile ordeal. All the riders passed the time trials, which were held on the east grade of Palomar Mountain. Sun was now comfortable that the team had eight strong riders. But a month later, the only rider who had previous experience competing in the race left the company.

“That was a helluva curve ball,” I said to Sun. “If that weren’t enough,” he says, “a second rider left us a week later. Suddenly, Sun was looking for two new riders, and each of them had to work for ViaSat, a requirement the team had set for itself in 2011. He found them quickly, recruiting two strong riders who were willing to begin training for the race immediately. One of them was Andrew Cawood, from ViaSat’s office in Duluth, Georgia.

The headaches weren’t over. When the team’s uniforms arrived, “the shorts ended up being far more trans-
parent at that part of the body where perhaps you want to be more discreet,” said Sun, laughing. “The kit supplier could have decided not to cooperate, but they stood by their service.”

The team received replacement shorts the week before the race.

As the race approached, Sun confessed, “I would sometimes wake up in the middle of the night wondering, What in the hell am I doing? This is crazy. I remember one race veteran saying that, though our training would prepare us physically, most of the battle would be a mind game.”

Then came the big day — and a final pre-race emergency. On Andrew Cawood’s bike, “the bracket that held the rear derailleur had broken off,” said Sun. “It was a custom bike that he’d brought from Georgia. It had such a unique design that no local bike shops had any spares available. The problem would not have ended our race, because by about 10:00 a.m., we were ready to buy a new mechanic who fixed the broken bracket. And it lasted all the way to Annapolis.”

By now, Sun is already helping to plan ViaSat’s entrance into the 2012 Race Across America, although he and five of his 2011 teammates have decided not to ride. Several weeks ago, ViaSat held new time trials. The goal for next year is to recruit the fastest riders.

* * *

Two nights before this year’s race, at their home in Bonsall, cyclist Rich Walsh, 47, and his wife Vicki hosted a party for all of ViaSat’s riders and crew members. Team-
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food into iced containers and sent them along with the pair in their rider, or “leapfrog,” vehicle. ViaSat had rented five four-wheel-drive Suburbs and a similar Ford Expedition, which trailed riders as a “follow vehicle.” Riding shotgun, a navigator kept an eye on the route map and made sure the rider stayed on course. For protection from traffic, the follow vehicle tried to stay as close to the rider as possible, which race rules limited to 50 feet. A second vehicle brought along Jaspreet Dosanjh, a videographer whose camera was ubiquitous throughout the race, blogger Whitney Goodman, now working for San Diego’s Hall of Champions, and myself. We media hangers-on were tasked with chronicling the race for posterity. I accompanied the ViaSat team as far as eastern Colorado.

Additionally, each rider pair was assigned a Suburban and a driver to facilitate a relay race-style of making rider exchanges every 15 minutes, give or take. After an exchange, the cyclist who had finished a turn riding — “pull” in cycling-speak — would jump in the car, and its driver would ferry him past the new cyclist now on the road. The driver would then find a good place on the side of the road for completing the next exchange. Race rules required that support vehicles pull at least five feet off the road when stopping. They also required the partner waiting to take over the riding not to take off until the back wheel of the bike approaching from behind passed the front wheel of the next rider’s bike. (Got that?) Racers failing to observe this and other rules could prompt race officials to impose a penalty that would cause the team to take time off the course later in the race.

ViaSat riders were never penalized, and for that achievement, the team can largely thank crew chief Barrie Adsett, a New Zealander, veteran marathoner, and endurance-competition organizer who lives in Mission Beach. Adsett admits that he came within a hair of getting ViaSat in trouble. As he was driving the follow vehicle behind Walsh and Cross, a race official in Valley Center flagged him over.

“In the first section of the race,” Adsett said, “all the way to Borrego Springs, you were not allowed to ‘close-follow.’” Because of heavy traffic, officials wanted all race vehicles to maintain highway speeds. But by doing so, the cars would soon pass their riders and not be able to protect them. Wanting to keep Walsh and Cross in sight, he started letting them go 100–200 yards ahead before catching up, pulling off to the side of the road, and then repeating. The tactic could have worked, following the rule to the letter, were it always possible to find a place to pull off immediately upon reaching the rider. But some roadside sites made pulling off unsafe. To solve the problem, Adsett said he continued to slowly drive behind the rider, in effect close-following again, until he found a safe place to pull off.

Adsett said, “The race official observed this, and, when he pulled me over and I explained what I was doing, he said with a smile, ‘That’s taking a very liberal approach to the rule.’” But Adsett was given a warning instead of a penalty. The official advised that, to maintain highway speed, Adsett had to stay much farther behind the rider or after passing him, then wait to repeat.

This routine may have caused Adsett to lose his rider, Eric Cross, at Christmas Tree Circle outside of Borrego Springs. With Adsett hanging back, Cross entered the circle, which has five roads leading away from its center lawn. Some observers, as they stood around watching riders passing through, were pointing down the wrong street. Cross, a strong rider, was suddenly off course and riding fast. When Adsett came along the correct route, he drove furiously, trying to catch either before reaching the rider or after passing him, then wait to repeat.

“He said with a smile, ‘That’s taking a very liberal approach to the rule.’”

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up to his rider. It soon became clear that Cross was not ahead.

Eventually, Cross was found and brought back by the leapfrog car. Meanwhile, his partner, Rich Walsh, started riding at the point where the team went off course. Although it wasn’t yet his turn to ride, Walsh said, “I had just finished the ‘Glass Elevator,’ a nice long descent coming down the east side of the mountains, so I was well rested. After I took off, though, I tried to stay at a maintainable pace. I wasn’t pushing hard, because I had no idea how far I would be going. And I didn’t know the route. You always look at the map to know where your turns are for the next five miles, but I didn’t get that chance. The good news was that there were a lot of people on the road.”

The evening of that first race day, and a few miles before Brawley, Wei Sun and his partner Jeff Johnston started their first shift, taking over from Walsh and Cross. By now, the racecourse was on Highway 78, at a point just west of Blythe. The ride to Blythe, which had started at 8:00 p.m. and lasted until 1:00 in the morning, “was the longest five hours I’ve ever experienced,” says Sun. “The shift wasn’t the hardest, but being out on the first night, we gave it all we had. The last hour, I had severe cramps in my legs, because it was dry, it was hot, and even though we had a good tailwind, we pedaled very hard. And at that time, I’d had only half of my liquids in the form of recovery drinks. The other half was water, and it wasn’t enough [to help with the cramps].”

Meanwhile, in the media car, Dosanj, Goodman, and I traversed the same course. We almost ran out of gas on the dark desert highway. Once in Blythe, we met Chuck Pateros, an engineer in ViaSat’s patent office and a veteran of the race. He’d come along to help riders and crew adapt to new rules for 2011, and to herd us media cats. Pateros was the team’s greatest cheerleader, praising and encouraging riders to “crush the hills” whenever his frenetic jaunts back and forth along the racecourse allowed. He explained to me his take on the eight-man-team version of Race Across America. “It’s like a ball of energy, with lots of moving parts, moving steadily across the country.”

At the motel, we met up with riders Cawood and Noda, preparing for their shift, which was scheduled to start at 1:00 Sunday morning.
morning. By then, the media crew was asleep. At dawn we hurried to catch up with the next subteam, which had taken up the baton.

* * *

Doug Poorman has been staging his own triathlon over the past 11 years. “I call it ‘The Poor Man’s,’” says Poorman, who is a project manager at ViaSat. “It’s the fitness event for the physically prepared and the fiscally challenged. On the weekend after September 11, we do 25 miles on road bikes to North Torrey Pines, a five-and-a-half-mile run on the beach, and a two-mile swim. We then come back the same way and have a barbecue at my house [in Rancho Penasquitos], all for no entry fee.”

At the U.S. Air Force Academy in the 1970s, Poorman competed in swimming. And tennis has always been “a wannabe sport for me,” he says. But he’d never participated in Race Across America, even though Team ViaSat wanted him. He and his wife Dede “always decided that going on vacation with a bunch of guys was not as much fun as going with the family. But suddenly there was an opening. They needed someone to fill in [just] weeks before the event. Still, Dede and I were hesitant.”

Then they learned that ViaSat’s 2011 effort would be dedicated to Austin Bice, an SDSU student who’d died accidently earlier in the year in Madrid, Spain. Larry Bice, Aus-
tin’s father, was a part of the team at its inception six years ago and has competed several times since. He also has long been Doug Poorman’s friend and colleague at ViaSat. “When we learned about the dedication,” Poorman tells me, “participating in this year’s race made all the sense in the world.”

From the Oceanside Pier on June 18, Poorman and partner Dave Casterton pulled away from the starting line at a few minutes past 2:00 p.m. The first 16 miles, most on the San Luis Rey Bike Path, which starts about a mile north of the pier, were part of a parade for the local community. The race would be timed from College Boulevard at the San Luis Rey River — that’s where Poorman and Casterton started riding hard. The racecourse, from start to finish, had been designed to avoid freeways and superhighways. Once past College, it wound along rural residential and mountain roads well to the north of a heavily traveled portion of Highway 78, from Oceanside to Escondido. Highway 78 wouldn’t be picked up again until its intersection with Borrego Springs Road, southeast of Borrego Springs. Poorman and Casterton wouldn’t get their first five-hour shift until we were well into Arizona. By that time, I had jumped in the follow vehicle behind the navigator, who, route book in hand, can call out directions through a loudspeaker on top of the car should there be hazards or a coming turn in the course that are difficult to see.

We motored along behind a steadily climbing Poorman. He was riding Highway 89 in southwest Arizona, headed up one of the hills. “You’ve got to love the hills.”

"You've got to love the hills."
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switchbacks of Yarnell Grade on the way to Prescott. The race guide book said that, although not reaching the course’s highest elevations, the grade was the steepest climb of the trip. As we watched, Schaef er and Moore agreed that Poor- man may have been the strongest of ViaSat’s riders. The rhythm of his pedaling looked smooth and forceful.

After the trip, Poor- man told me, “You’ve got to love the hills.”

* * *

Dave Casterton, at 28, is 26 years younger than Poorman, making the span of their ages the greatest among the four ViaSat rider pairs. Casterton, who lives in Encinitas, is an electrical engineer at ViaSat and is simultaneously working toward a master’s degree in neuroscience at UCLA. He is soft-spoken and likes music genres, including heavy metal, that he was sure Poorman would not. “Doug and I never agreed on musical selections for the follow vehicle to blare out of its speakers,” he says. “But I assumed we did have different tastes, so I brought along an iPod with the obnoxious music.”

“How was it team- ing with Poorman in the race?” I ask.

“I can think of only one exchange where something went wrong,” says Casterton. “I was in the car, looking at our times, so I hadn’t even pulled my bike off the back when Doug went flying by. Whoops. We scrambled and ended up driving ahead to try it a second time.

“The race is interesting in that, when off the bike, you’re stuck in a car with two other people. It’s a very intense situation. You’re thrown together with people you may or may not know. When you’re riding, you’re dependent on them for your health. You can get injured out there. If that Suburban behind the rider messes up, they could plow right over you.”

About his time with Casterton, Doug Poorman had this to say: “I think he had fun being with me, because he could see this old guy and how he did things. But he had more race experience than I did.
San Diego Reader December 29, 2011

33

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He was a crew member twice before. I was always listening to David for instructions on how to do things. He was very helpful.”

Casteron tells me that his climb up Yarnell Grade, which I watched from the follow car, was drudgery. “It must be an awful psychological barrier,” I say, “looking uphill and seeing how far it is to the next crest.”

“Yes,” he admits, “but not looking at how far you have to go helps mentally to give as much effort as you can at that instant.” Both partners kept their heads down while chugging up the hills. “Once,” says Casteron, “Doug had his head down and ran into the back of a parked car.”

“It wasn’t too bad,” Poorman says. “I rolled into one of the other team’s support vehicles on the hill. I was probably going 10 or 11 miles per hour. They were parked not exactly as far off the road as they should have been. It was a sideswipe, and my handlebars got caught up in the sliding door of their van. I came to an abrupt stop but then kept going.”

Casteron says, “[I don’t] consider myself much of a climber. Yarnell came in our first full shift. We had already sprinted on flatland for two hours, and your adrenaline’s going. The first day, it’s almost impossible to limit your effort, with all the excitement going on. You go as hard as you can.”

The next day, on their second shift, Sun and Johnstone rode through the Navajo Nation in northeast Arizona. Johnstone, a 44-year-old ViaSat engineer living in Del Mar, took the first turn riding. In a diary he started on the trip, Johnstone recorded the adventure that followed.

He was coming north from Flagstaff toward Tuba City, Arizona, and prospects looked good — “a nice descent of 3000 feet over 40 miles. I started on the time-trial bike and took off. Did notice the wind was blowing, but was too pumped to register the danger. As soon as I cleared the trees, at 40 miles per hour, a vicious crosswind buffeted me. At one point I found myself airborne. I had started just to the right of the rumble strip, got hit by a gust and landed beside the gravel on the pavement, went off the pavement onto the gravel, held on for dear life and sent up a prayer. I was able to gently guide my bike back onto the pavement...I just hung on and fought the wind.”

Johnstone switched to his road bike. He convinced Sun to do the same. Later, I asked him, “What’s the difference?”

A time-trial bike “is a specific design of bike that is very aerodynamic,” he said. “It’s efficient for going straight and fast. It’s like a blade in the wind, but that makes it terrible in a crosswind. The frame is so much wider than a road bike’s, and the wheels and the frame are integrated, so there are no gaps between them. That presents an almost continuous sail into the wind, and a crosswind can grab the bike and push you sideways.”

As soon as Johnstone’s wild ride ended, I joined him and Sun and tagged along in their leepfrog car. As we drove, there were wide mesas in the distance that were surprisingly flat on top, and rocks balanced on each other as if someone had piled them up. Hills across the plateaus looked like rumpled sheets; the blowing dust had turned them white.

Meanwhile, as each pull finished, Johnstone and Sun were getting in and out of the car. Each would give me an account of his latest adventure. Johnstone reported that a metal shard had gone through his front tire and that he lost three minutes replacing it. But for the most part, it was the wind. Neither rider could get the wind and the sand it was kicking up out of their minds. Often, standing outside the car, I felt the brunt of it, too. If I turned thus and so, my face would take a blast of sand.

“The worst part is when cars, and especially trucks, pass me by,” Sun said. “They kick up sand, the wind blows it up, and I ride...
right into it.” According to Johnstone, “We had great tailwinds last night. Now the gods are getting even. I think this wind is an exfoliation technique the Navajos invented.”

Then a lighter moment. A man drove up and parked behind us as we stood waiting for the completion of a rider exchange. He got out of his white pickup and approached Sun, who stood hovering over the bike, preparing for his pull. “May I have your autograph?” the man asked, as he handed Sun a pen and paper. Sun fought the flimsy paper to put his signature on it. A minute later, Johnstone appeared and the famous cyclist Wei Sun took over the reins.

At the end of their shift that evening, our riders motored on to Durango, Colorado, where they stayed the night. The next day was to bring Wolf Creek Pass, the Continental Divide. Two other riders would do much of the heavy lifting, taking ViaSat close to the summit before turning the coup de grâce over to Sun.

* * *

The high points of the trip for David Casterton were his rides through southern Utah and southwestern Colorado. “There was gorgeous scenery,” he says. “Our shift started in early morning, so we were out there at sunrise, going through the hills, and it was beautiful, absolutely a wonderful place to ride. The last two years, I crewed, and it was exhausting. My impression was that riding the course was going to be painful. But, somewhere in Utah and Colorado,

I really started to enjoy the race. It was uphill but more gradual than Yarnell.”

“You’re in the car every 15 minutes,” says Casterton, “and you can look around, take a few pictures, and absorb your surroundings. I don’t think I slept the first few days of the race, although I could rest in between pulls and when we were off. Sleeplessness in general was a challenge for the whole team.”

Casterton says he had better than his usual luck with injuries. “I’ve been riding seriously for about three years, learning all the ways to hurt myself, mostly by not stretching this or that. Once into the race this year, I had no pain. Maybe you just bury it in the mind.”

* * *

Nearly after daybreak the next morning, Monday, I hopped in the car that was leapfrogging...
for Rich Walsh and Eric Cross. Walsh was nervous — “jacked up,” he said, until he knew how he was going to perform. “The legs are feeling a little dodgy,” he said. “It might take a couple of pulls to warm them up.” The pair had high hopes that, that afternoon, they’d be the team to ride over the summit. It had been cold overnight and the terrain had changed to lush grasses sprinkled with yellow wildflowers. Red farmhouses sat in the meadows on either side of the road. Mist hung in ravines. Before long, pines appeared on the sides of the hills and, higher up, snow. The climbing was gradual, though a steep climb sometimes preceded a short downhill run.

Walsh suggested that he and his partner start shortening their pulls on the steeper climbs. For the downhill, the riders put on vests to keep warm. At speeds higher than 35 miles per hour, they could get no more torque by shifting gears.

“I know I’ve hit 50 miles an hour,” said Walsh. “We’ve really had easy pulls so far. Still, this is far different than training. There’s an excitement now that I’m really starting to feel. But we will both do hard pulls later today.”

A sign told us that Durango was 20 miles away. Whenever a plateau came, the riders lengthened the pulls to four and five miles. Cross kept getting text messages from his wife, who from their home in Georgia had been watching data from the time stations. Her latest message said, “I’m so frustrated you aren’t farther ahead.” Using Google Latitude, she also could see her husband’s current position. “Take two Tums now,” she later texted him about his upset stomach, “so you can handle Wolf Creek Pass.”

Follow vehicle stays close to Eric Cross to protect him from traffic...
have been a mile apiece. Instead, Wei Sun started two miles from the summit after taking over from Walsh and Cross. At the top, says Sun, “I was gasping for air.” Nevertheless, Chuck Pateros was there to celebrate his arrival with jubilant shouts.

Johnstone took over a short way down the other side. “I did a long pull then to let Wei recover. But the downhill wasn’t as steep as I’d hoped. I had to pedal hard to break 30 miles an hour. It wasn’t like in training, when we were going down Torrey Pines or Soledad or Palomar. There was a headwind, too, so the wind was standing you up as you were going down.” After two troughs ahead came two more summits; the first 9413 feet, the second 9941.

Before long, TeamViaSat was on a roll. “Coming down the long back side of Colorado was phenomenal,” says Dave Casterton. “We were going largely downhill, of course, and then we had occasional tailwinds. We were flying, and it felt great on the bike. And the terrain was padding our numbers. I think in that area we were averaging 28 miles per hour, with Doug [Poorman] once hitting a little over 52 miles per hour.” (For averages, the riders were able to check online reports from time stations along the course, while Garmins they wore on their arms gave them current speeds.)

Then the land leveled. According to Sun, “The highlight of the race was going through Kansas. We were blessed with a peak of tailwinds, so, very quickly [and] with little effort, we were able to get up to 26 miles per hour and, by pedaling a little harder, we reached upwards of 32 and even as high as 35 miles an hour. Flat land with zephyrs made for the perfect ride.” Messages the team was then receiving from back home, said Casterton, indicated that riders who had completed the race in previous years “were offended at how fast we were going.”

At the Mississippi River, a little north of St. Louis, the team ran into construction projects that made staying on course difficult. Johnstone injured his elbow as his leapfrog car started to leave before he’d settled himself squarely in the back seat. Sleep deprivation was starting to take its toll on some riders. But the picturesque farmlands and rolling hills of southern Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio were soothing. “Seeing fireflies a few times when we were doing shift changes was special,” Poorman says. It was easy to be capti-
vated, too, by the charm of small towns, although the inner street mazes were hazardous to navigators. “Ohio especially was a challenge,” Sun says, “because, up to that point, it had always been ‘Go straight’ for 60 miles before one slight left turn and then straight again for another 50 miles. When our shift took over in Oxford, it was tough to navigate the many turns through town.”

In West Virginia, Sun’s leapfrog car got lost, and he was left on the road for a 20-mile stretch. Other riders were enjoying the Appalachian Mountains. “There were great bird sounds there,” says Rich Walsh, “birds I’d never heard before.” But Casterton thinks these mountains had the most difficult climbs of the trip, as he seemed constantly to ride up, down, and up again. “There was a shift in West Virginia,” says Poorman, who flew Air Force fighter planes between 1979 and 1987, “going up a particularly long climb after some rollers, when I was at the bottom of the hill and the follow vehicle started blaring out the Top Gun theme song. Goosebumps came out on me, and I just started spinning up the hill. It was really fun.” At the end of their final shift in Pennsylvania, Sun said he and Johnstone drove to visit the Gettysburg Memorial 50 miles away, “our only sightseeing excursion throughout the whole adventure.” “At six in the morning,” says Johnstone, “the scene was very eerie.”

It was Poorman who crossed the finish line for ViaSat in Annapolis. He had had several flat tires earlier in the race. “Fortunately,” he says, “every time I had a flat tire, the bike was going back in the rack. The first time I got a flat when it wasn’t like that was two-tenths of a mile from the timed finish. I rode across the finish line on a rear flat.”

On Friday, June 24, TeamViaSat came in first place in Race Across America’s corporate division — and third among all eight-man teams. For the timed portion of the race, the team had ridden 2989 miles in five days, 19 hours, and eight minutes. As soon as possible after the race, all the riders went to an Annapolis restaurant to eat the locally renowned blue crab. And they drank beer.

— Joe Deegan
Chula Vista U!
continued from page 3

Ricasa $10,000.

Sweetwater U is, among other things, a political football, and like a football it needs a lot of spin.

The November 11 Union-Tribune article that announced the district’s endeavor to build a university quoted Scott Himelstein, director of the Center for Education Policy and Law at the University of San Diego. Himelstein called Sweetwater U a “bold and innovative” plan. Himelstein’s statement comes as no surprise as the Center for Education did the 2010 study for the City of Chula Vista and Himelstein is named as one of the study’s authors.

Himelstein and Brand share history as well. The last time their names appeared together was in a 2006 Union-Tribune article detailing Brand’s sudden departure from the San Marcos Unified School District, where he was superintendent. According to the article, titled “Schools Chief’s Style Led to Friction,” Brand had overridden the district’s teacher-selection process in order to get Himelstein’s wife a teaching position.

Before December 31, it is anticipated that Brand will sign a three-year contract with the district.

There may be political play in Sweetwater U for trustee John McCann. He is expected to run for a seat in the state assembly in 2012 and/or for mayor of Chula Vista when Cheryl Cox is terming out in 2014. Earlier this year, the online newspaper San Diego Rostra suggested that McCann was on the “Republican bench” for the District 78 assembly seat.

At the same time that the Sweetwater district is pursuing a university, it is also moving forward with another postsecondary gambit. The board voted 3–2 on December 11 to pursue a K–16 charter school.

According to Brand, K–12 is dead as an educational model; the future student needs a K–16, or cradle-to-college, program. He pointed out that the budget for San Diego State and UCSD are shrinking, but more students will be graduating from high school, and they will be unable to obtain an advanced degree. Approximately 6000 students a year graduate from the Sweetwater district.

“If we create it, our own students will have first priority in getting a higher education,” said Brand. He believes that a K–16 school and Sweetwater U would be compatible, that students would be able to transfer from one institution to another. A building on the south side of Chula Vista High School has been chosen for the preliminary step in this program. Brand says a prekindergarten through third-grade charter school will open in July.

“Some people say it’s about the money,” Brand said, “but it’s really about the education. If we can get them before kindergarten, we can keep them with us all the way.”

The reason some people suggest that the charter school is “about the money” is that it would draw students from the Chula Vista Elementary School District as well as from Southwestern College, a community college. Federal and state monies from those districts would then go to Sweetwater.

Like many educational institutions, Sweetwater faces severe economic hardships in the coming year. Yet, the board hired a $30,000 consultant to advance the K–16 idea. Boardmembers Bertha López and Pearl Quiñones opposed hiring the consultant. López said she opposed it because of the cost and because the district needs to focus on educating high school students.

Alex Anguiano, of the Sweetwater Education Association, called pursuit of the

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K–16 school “a money pit” and said the money voted for the consultant was the first money into the pit.

The consultant hired by the district to promote K–16, Susan Mitchell, said in a recent interview that there was no precedent for this kind of program. She will be presenting a “cradle to college” symposium for parents at Chula Vista High on January 12.

One large problem for the K–16 concept is the California Education Code. The code is comprehensive legislation that directs everything from curriculum and hiring practices to bond elections. When asked whether a K–16 school might encounter education-code problems, Brand speculated, “I think in the future there might be an educational zone, which would function like a re-development zone or a business zone.” Presumably, the code would be subject to change in the new zone.

Jaime Mercado, who served as a Sweetwater boardmember and as a principal in the district for 24 years, has already been surveyed on the bond. He said he was contacted by a firm identifying itself as FM3 Research America, which operates out of Philadelphia. He said the survey was misleading.

Paraphrasing the conversation, Mercado said he was asked if he would vote for a bond if dangerous wiring or dilapidated classrooms or asbestos were jeopardizing students’ health. Mercado said that propositions BB and O had been passed to fix these problems. He said part of the survey implied that teachers were going to lose their jobs if he didn’t support the measure. “It was like, if you don’t support the bond, you don’t support mom and apple pie.”

**NEWS TICKER**

continued from page 3

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ary 12.

lege” symposium for parents presenting a “cradle to college” kind of program. She will be

recent interview that there

Susan Mitchell, said in a

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Brand speculated, “I think

if he didn’t support the mea-

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Malecot admitted in his
guilty plea that at least

91 aliens were unlawfully

employed at his restaurant


By Don Bauder

Equal Opportunist Employer?

French Gourmet Heads Get

Probation, Fines

Pacific Beach — Owner

Michel Malecot and manager

Richard Kauffmann of the

French Gourmet restaurant

were sentenced in federal

court December 22 to proba-

tion and fines for knowingly

employing more than ten

undocumented aliens over

a one-year period.

Malecot got five years of

probation and will have to

Equal Opportunist

Employer?

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Pick a Few Targets
Occupy San Diego Riders Raid Malls, Port
San Diego — “The concept
of the bike raid is simple,”
writes Nexus Watts in an
Occupy San Diego Riders
mall-raid event invite.

“First you pick a few tar-
gets, set a date, and make
related signs, banners, and
flyers. On the day of the
eraid everyone meets up and
rides to the first location.
On arrival we all dismount
and demonstrate for 10 to
15 minutes. When the time
is up, everyone hops back
on their bikes and heads to
the next location. With the
mall we will want to pick
the main entrances of major
stores as well as riding laps
and chanting.”

“It was great,” says
Watts of the Occupy San
Diego Riders’ fourth raid,
which took place this after-
noon. “We rode around the
city a bit, went to Mission
Hills, down Bachman, went
to Fashion Valley mall, hit
the two main entrances
there, rode to the Mission
Valley mall and hit the main
entrance there, then rode
back up Texas.”

Watts says that five
riders participated today,
though the weekly Tuesday
rides starting from the Civic
Center at 8:30 p.m. usually
draw 20 to 30 cyclists.

“Even with five people
you make a huge impact,”
says Watts. “It’s not about
making people feel guilty.
It’s just showing people that
there are others out there
taking hours out of their day
to raise awareness about the
amount of consumerism that
goes on.”

As such, the group
engaged mall-goers with
flyers and signs reading
“buy local” and “people over
profits.”

“We got to show people
that there are people all over
the city doing Occupy,” says
Watts.

By Chad Deal
December 23, 2011

Now That’s a Truck
Cost of Police Mobile
Command Vehicle Grows
San Diego — Bids are in
to build a new high-tech
“Mobile Command Vehicle”
for San Diego police, and
the tab is considerably
more than the $250,000 esti-
mate orginally posted on the city’s
procurement website last month.

As we reported in Novem-
ber, the cops are looking for
a 31-foot vehicle, “built on
a new, current model year
Freightliner MT-55 Chassis,”
and equipped with “landline,
cellular and satellite phone
service, cellular and satellite
internet/intranet systems,
and satellite television.”

The city had originally
advertised an estimated
price of $250,000 for the
vehicle but that number was
later taken down. City pro-
curement specialist Beverly
Asbill-Gumbs subsequently
told us that the estimate
had been posted in error.

As it turned out, accord-
ing to a recent posting by
the city, the lowest esti-
mate from the five firms
that submitted a proposal is
$394,736, made by Nomad
Global Communications
Solutions of Columbia Falls,
Montana.

Second lowest was
Hansel Ford, Inc., with
$504,973. Then came the
Emergency Vehicle Group
of Columbia Falls, $514,474,
and Matthews Specialty
Vehicles, Inc., virtually tied
with $514,344, which, accord-
ing to the document, bid
only 5 of 9 items. The other
vendors bid 8 of 9.

By Matt Potter
December 23, 2011

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San Diego Reader December 29, 2011
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<td>Tummy Tuck</td>
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BOTOX Cosmetic

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**LETTERS**

continued from page 4

also provides much needed moral justification for the subsequent trivializing of the Jews (“Joy to the Screen,” Cover Story, December 22). One does not have to hate a Jew or love a Jew, nor does one have to be a self-hating Jew, in order to appreciate the value of the experience of being a Jew. The characterized “hatred” of Marks seems to ignore most of the obvious statements of Christian credo flashed in his face. Yet at the end he signs on — Christmas movies are his thing, too, with a capital “H” on his referring to Jesus and a capital “C” for child. His religion is film, his escape or his quest, encapsulated. Yet, what’s missing is a response to Matthew. The “good” values of Christianity do not belong exclusively there, nor do they even originate in that camp. Not only Jews, but other creeds of the Earth, too, over the centuries, have taught compassion, kindness, selflessness, a reaching out to the downtrodden. It’s precisely this attitude of exclusive ownership that can be so irritating about some Christians. Matthew, Jews believe it is impossible for God to incarnate and thus impossible to kill God. Each of us is born with a spark of God; we are thus all children of God. Jesus came as a teacher and role model. My hope is for your children to learn respect for others’ truths. That is the challenge for humanity in the coming age.

Matthew Lickona responds: I didn’t find a self-hating Jew; I found a movie-loving Jew. Actually, I didn’t find him at all — he’s my esteemed co-blogger at “The Big Screen.” If you visit, you can find his account of how this story came to be. I hesitate to speak for Mr. Marks, but I suspect that he loves Christmas movies not for the Christ in them but for the humanity in them. As for “the classic Christian vs. Jew disputation,” and respecting others’ truths, please visit the Reader website for my “Christian vs. Jew” cover stories of December 20, 2007, and December 23, 2009. I certainly am sorry if I implied that “the ‘good’ values of Christianity” belonged exclusively there. Thanks for reading!

Mope? Nope

I’m writing in response to the review of the Morrissey show in Escondido by Marcus Perez (“Everyone’s a Critic,” December 22). I was there, too, and at one show in L.A. a couple of days later. Now, I have no problem with the review itself but with the title (and, again, in the review itself): “The Pope of Mope.” I (and many others) who were fans of Morrissey starting in the Smiths to his very early solo career accepted this “tag” (along with many others), but that was the ’80s early ’90s. As was printed, he is 52 now and has grown up physically and in his writing/singing to almost a Rat Packish approach. And like the head of the Rat Pack, he has matured terrifically with age. So, personally, I feel a more appropriate nickname when referring to Mr. Morrissey is “the Frank Sinatra of Modern Pop Music” (and, damn, do we need some more of this “maturity” in the pop music of today!).

Ward Elliott via email

Old Horror Story

I had my first child at Sharp Mary Birch Hospital 24 or 25 years ago (“The Unkindest Cut,” Cover Story, December 15). I was told at that time by my physician there that I could either have an emergency C-section or I could die, and that it really didn’t matter to him, he was getting paid either way. It’s almost 30 years later and I’ve still not forgotten that.

Marilyn Dean Rolando

A Few Room Nights In Prison

“The Convention Center Liars” by Don Bauder (“City Lights,” December 15) is a terrific exposé of the convention center CEO and board of directors’ corrupt practices. Quoting the story, “the center has been systematically over-stating hotel room nights, and therefore over-stating hotel tax receipts, attendee spending, and the center’s impact on the overall San Diego economy.”

The center’s management violates California Penal Code 424: “Knowingly keeps any false account” and “fraudulently alters, falsifies, conceals, destroys, or obliterate any account.” The law mandates prison sentences...
for the violators.

Melvin Shapiro
Hillcrest

We Pay, But We Don’t Play

It is no surprise the convention center statistics are bogus (“The Convention Center Liars,” “City Lights,” December 15). The primary justification for the $750,000,000 expansion is to keep the Comic-Con in San Diego. If Comic-Con leaves San Diego, so what? The reality is that the Comic-Con of today is no longer about comics; it’s the Comic-Con of today is no longer about comics; it’s

Jerry Wadle
via email

Looking For Pearls

I’m calling about a piece you write from time to time regarding old-time San Diego. I have a question. Is there any chance Jeff Smith could look up something that would have to do with the pearling industry? There was a pearling industry done at the bottom of Baja California — La Paz. I’m curious because my great-grandfather had a little business. He had three little ships, and he would sell the pearls up in San Francisco and then sail back down. I wondered if there’s any account of that at all, and if you could look into that and maybe write something about that.

The second thing is, I’m interested to see if you guys could put back the section in the “Outdoor” section (Calendar Events) about the planets and the stars and things like the faces of the moon. You guys used to write about that and you stopped writing about that, and if you could put it back, that would be interesting.

— Editor

Comments from Reader website

Cover

Published December 21

Hey Scott, if you look under your tree on Christmas day...
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LETTERS

Movie Review
Published December 21
Looks like a different version of "The Polar Express," which looked very creepy.

By dwbat 11:26 a.m., Dec 22, 2011
dwbat:
The creepiness comes from a sense of the technology overriding all other values. And what charms in a comic-book frame can seem coldly overblown on the big screen, as in 'Tintin.' I prefer 'motion-capture' and 'blue-screen' tactics when they are allied with clever ideas, like the dream games anchored in familiar actors in 'Waking Life,' by Richard Linklater and Robert Sabiston. Or the glorious excess of nostalgia so beautifully stylized by Kenny Conran in 'Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow,' a retro feast despite its reliance on very generic story elements. Thanks for reading.

By DavidElliott 6:16 p.m., Dec 22, 2011
Well, I was referring to the creepiness of the faces and eyes, which are created by this technology. Regular animation is so much better.

By dwbat 9:04 p.m., Dec 22, 2011
I agree with your thoughts on the "open casket" look of motion capture animation. It makes the characters look like a touring company of "Children of the Damned." But when used well, as in "Rise of the Planet of the Apes," it's barely perceptible. I was shocked to learn that all of the apes were CGI.

By Scott_Marks 8:58 a.m., Dec 23, 2011
Under the Radar
"Navy Loses Shirt on Solar Project at Camp Pendleton"
Published December 21
A 50 million dollar loss is a tiny little drop in the bucket compared to the incredible systemic waste the military engages in.

GE's $3 Billion Pentagon Boondoggle
http://motherjones.com/politics/2011/04/

City Lights, by Don Bauder
Published December 21
Ask three stock brokers who go by the name “financial planner” and they will tell you it’s a good time to buy stocks. I’m sure these guys were pushing tech stocks before the crash (heck, one still is). Would love to know how you picked these three.

My Bond broker says buy bonds now but look what he sells...

By Gomersurf 1:35 p.m., Dec 22, 2011

The four quoted in the article are good sources. Lipper is a long-time investor and Wall Street insider. Stolper, Snigaroff and Hokanson are money managers with lots of expertise. You didn’t ask, but I will tell you how I feel: frenetic money printing of central banks around the world will buoy certain parts of the U.S. stock market this year. In fact, I just bought a bunch of American utilities, pharmaceuticals, and telecoms (the old-style Verizon and AT&T). For many years now, I have concentrated on buying blue chips with yields from about 3.75% to 6% and even more on occasion. I would avoid financial stocks, stocks not paying generous dividends, and overseas stocks (particularly Europe, obviously). For several years now, my stock portfolio has done three times better than the S&P 500 on a total return basis -- largely because utilities have done so well. That could end, of course. But because interest rates are so low, bonds hold little interest anymore. My portfolio is loaded with muni bonds bought in previous years, but as they mature or are called, I will keep buying these blue chip stocks yielding 4% or more, probably mostly utilities, pharma, telecoms and oils. And I think foreign money will increasingly pour into American blue chips such as these; why buy Treasury paper with horrible yields? A ten-year T yields under 2% and the 30-year under

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Thanks for reading!
Don Bauder would fall much further, fearing a global recession next year. There are seven stocks. You can do better in certain ones. By nokomisjeff 6:34 a.m., Dec 23, 2011

Ticker / cash per share / price / 2012 earnings from ValueLine / (price-cash)/earnings

| Stock | $7 | $26 | $82 | 7
|-------|----|-----|-----|---
| cso  | $8 | $18 | $1.45 | 7
| goog | $129 | $630 | $40 | 12.5
| orcl | $92 | $2.42 | 9.5
| jnj  | $11 | $64 | $5.25 | 10
| pf  | $5 | $21 | $1.60 | 10
| aapl | $87 | $395 | $32.50 | 9.5
| cvx  | $10 | $103 | $13.16 | 7
| wp  | $53 | $65 | $7 | $70 | $1.3
| amgm | $19 | $61 | $5.50 | 7.5

His contention that some stocks are ridiculously cheap with the cash on hand per share. Whether they are or not is a matter of opinion which is way above my pay grade. However, I don’t like sitting on a lot of cash, or cash equivalents right now with negative interest rates. I suspect that those companies aren’t thrashed on some level with all that cash.

Frankly, I don’t think that risk has left the room and I think right now is very risky with many hidden dangers bubbling up from right under the surface. But then again I get real paranoid about freaky events that can dislocate markets.

By nokomisjeff 1:10 p.m., Dec 23, 2011

All good information. There is perhaps a 20% risk of a global recession springing out of Europe. Worse, it would be a financial recession -- the worst kind, as we learned 2007-2009. Should that happen, deflation would probably arrive, so bonds would continue their 1981-forward bull market. But utilities have similarities with bonds. With central banks handing money to banks at ridiculously low rates, it’s hard to bet against stocks. But it could turn out to be a bad bet. Remember: black swan may show up.

Best, Don Bauder

By dbauder 9:19 a.m., Dec 23, 2011

For your edification, I yanked this off of a website where I sometimes contribute. The author is my friend Charles Pennington, and he posted an interesting chart.

Ticker / cash per share / price / 2012 earnings from ValueLine / (price-cash)/earnings

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|-------|----|-----|-----|---
| cso  | $8 | $18 | $1.45 | 7
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Best, Don Bauder

By dbauder 9:12 a.m., Dec 23, 2011

Don, that is a decent strategy that should work until the cycles change (as described by Bacon.) I tend to only buy stocks when there is a huge bear market and I like to fade the final climactic sell when irrationality takes over. I tend to hold stocks like these for years and only pitch them when the position is no longer right. I generally write covered calls against my stocks to generate a little extra income and have had a measure of success doing this. I don’t recommend this strategy for everyone, as the strike price can get hit and stocks can get called away from you if you’re not watching the market.

Mr. Bios, markets are pretty much 24 hours these days and everyone all over the world is trading the pre-markets and the Globex. The overnight markets are not as thin as they were a few years ago, and show surprising liquidity at times. Still, I would not want to do a market order for 1000 ES, as it would probably move

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Thursday | 29
LOOSEN UP TO ABSTRACT PAINTING
Learn to use “basic principles of abstraction and combine them into your own style of painting.” Bring ideas for inspiration, such as photos, art reproduction, and sketches. The workshop includes instructor demonstrations and individual group critiques.

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
WHERE: Bravo School of Art at NTC Promenade, 2690 Decatur Road, Point Loma. 619-223-0058; bravoschoolofart.com

Friday | 30
MASTER CLASSES FOR ALL
It’s time to start dancing off those cookies and candy canes. Learn beginning or advanced hip-hop at Southwestern College’s dance program and Groove Basics’ master-class dance series, which is open to the public (that means you) in room 1006.

WHEN: 6:30 to 8 p.m., Fridays through May 11
WHERE: Southwestern College, 900 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista. 619-322-1015.

Saturday | 31
THE DINNER DETECTIVE, NORTH SAN DIEGO
This interactive, improvised comedic murder mystery is set in the present day. None of the performers will be dressed in costume, so the audience won’t know who’s a part of the show and who isn’t. After dinner and the “murder,” a live DJ entertains until 1 a.m.

WHEN: 6:15 to 9:30 p.m. (after-party until 1 a.m.)
WHERE: California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 N. Escondido Boulevard. 888-619-0858; thedinnerdetective.com

Sunday | 1
POLAR BEAR SWIM
The La Jolla Cove Swim Club celebrates the New Year in a chillingly refreshing way by taking a dip into the Pacific Ocean for a brisk two-mile swim. This noncompetitive social event is a fun way to meet fellow swimming enthusiasts... and a good way to wash off a New Year’s hangover.

WHEN: 6:45 to 8:15 p.m.
WHERE: Breakthrough Healing Arts, 4330 Cass Street (corner of Grand Avenue), Pacific Beach. 619-822-8842; breakthroughhealing.org/

Monday | 2
WHALE-WATCHING TIME
Get a chance to spot gray whales on their round-trip migration from the Bering Sea to Baja’s breeding grounds. Get a close-up look at wildlife and learn about gray whales, barnacles, and prey from Birch Aquarium naturalists during your cruise. Don’t forget warm clothing and binoculars!

WHEN: Various times; now through April 15.

Tuesday | 3
STORYTELLING AND PHOTOGRAPHY
Alaskan bush pilot and photographer Mark Stadsklev — whose images have appeared in National Geographic and Stern — will share his experiences via a slideshow and sign Alaskan Air: Nature’s Artwork on the Alaskan Landscape.

WHEN: 6 to 8 p.m.
WHERE: Rancho San Diego Library, 11555 Via Rancho San Diego, Rancho San Diego. 619-660-5370; alaskaphotopilot.com

Wednesday | 4
LEARN QIGONG!
If the hustle-bustle preparation for the holidays has you yearning for a bit of “peace, quiet, grounding, and balancing,” get back to basics with this practice of aligning breath and movement.

WHEN: 6:45 to 8:15 p.m.
WHERE: Breakthrough Healing Arts, 4330 Cass Street (corner of Grand Avenue), Pacific Beach. 619-822-8842; breakthroughhealing.org/
Gather No Moss

TRAVEL STORIES AND TIPS FROM OUR READERS

Cascading waterfall with Mendenhall Glacier in the background

Juneau, Alaska
By Gian Ghio

It had been a long, rainy week aboard our Celebrity cruise ship when we pulled into the port of Juneau on the morning of September 24, 2011. The weather was a brisk 48 degrees and it was raining heavily, just as it had during our previous four stops.

My wife’s and my first activity of the day was to take the tram ride up to the top of Mt. Roberts via the tramway station directly in front of the cruise ship dock. Tickets were $29 round trip for adults and included admission into the Chilkat Theater where a short film about the native Tlingit people was shown every 30 minutes.

Outside of the gift shop are several hiking trails that head through the forest and farther up the mountain. We heard there were black bears in the area but we didn’t see any in the morning.

Our second activity of the day was to catch a shuttle from the cruise ship terminal to the Mendenhall Glacier, about 20 minutes from the pier. The glacier empties into Mendenhall Lake, which has a visitor center where photographs can be taken from a distance away.

You can take a mile-long hike to the glacier and find a magnificent waterfall waiting for you on your approach. There were about 20 other people who had braved the cold, wet conditions and made the hike out there as well. I’d heard from our tour guide that this is a popular hiking place for locals, and we saw several on the paths.

When we returned to the visitor center, we heard that some bears were spotted on one of the other trails to the south. We walked along a path with our eyes peeled, only to get to a point where a gate had been closed to prevent people from coming in contact with the bears.

We were disappointed, but when we got back to town the sun had come out and we decided to ride the tram back up the mountain and take another look. Sure enough, a bear was spotted feeding along the main trail and we were able to take several good photographs of it before it ran away.

Westport, Washington
By Adam Case

I parked and walked into John’s River Lodge. It’s populated by the graying, the retired, and plump. I’d just surfed Westport and wanted a place to wet my whistle. I ordered a PBR and sat down at the bar.

I sat there thinking that this bar would be a hit in North Park. What would be an even bigger hit are the men’s bathroom walls plastered with Playboy centerfolds. Maybe the half-dozen pickup trucks parked in front should have clued me in that this place was classy. This bar was an oddity, and much the same could be said for the area.

Westport is about a two-hour drive from Tacoma and is the last major habitation before entering the sparsely populated area.

We continued our journey west, past the Olympic Mountains, and on to the tip of the Olympic Peninsula.

Other Adventures

Tony Brogdon: Fútbol player, Rosarito Beach
festivewhit: Walking in Daddy’s footsteps
Jerry Hilburn: The pelican

Bay near Westport, with Olympic Mountains in the background
Caught in the grip of faults and folds, the corrugated landscape of the Domelands exposes millions of years of geologic history. This is a good place to view marine fossils aplenty, but you can’t collect samples. The area lies in the Coyote Mountains Wilderness, which protects all natural resources — be they animal, vegetable, or paleontological.

Less than two hours’ driving takes you there. Head east on Interstate 8 to Ocotillo, and then northwest on County Highway S-2 for 7.1 miles to the unmarked turnoff, which is a dirt road heading northeast (if you reach the San Diego-Imperial County line, you’ve gone 1.1 miles too far). Drive 2.0 miles on the somewhat bumpy dirt road to the foot of some yellowish clay hills, where a signboard announces your arrival at the wilderness boundary.

On foot, go uphill (north) on the eroded remnants of a jeep road. At 0.5 mile you pass over a small summit; at 0.8 mile, the remnant road veers right (east) up a sandy wash. At about 1.3 miles you’ll see footprints veering left out of the wash and onto a terrace just north of the wash, where again you follow the remnant road. By 1.6 miles you reach the foot of a rocky slope, and your choices for further exploration include at least these two options:

Option 1: Follow a narrow footpath cut obliquely upward along the rocky slope and discover the wonderland of cavernous sandstone domes and outcrops less than a half-mile to the east. One cavalcade feature has a sandy floor suitable for a siesta. Enjoy the view over the convoluted Carrizo Badlands to the north. This is surely one of the finest views our local desert has to offer.

Option 2: Veer south and work your way over a series of sharp little ravines 0.2 mile to the rim of a steep basin draining east. Descend from there into what soon becomes a deep cleft. You pass yellow and gray clay deposits, desert-varnished granitic boulders, and sandstone walls tinted various shades of tan and orange. At one point, huge chunks of sandstone have fallen from the walls, creating a “fat-man’s misery” situation. Farther down the ravine, the walls separate somewhat, and you discover (among many others wonders) so-called “fossil reefs” — marine sedimentary rock containing nearly as much fossilized shell material as cemented together sand and silt. The shellfish represented by these fossils thrived in the warm waters of the ancestral Sea of Cortez, which covered this area during certain intervals over the past several million years.

North of the spectacular Domelands area, the Coyote Mountains Wilderness consists of a relatively unexplored maze of clay hills, or “mud hills,” many of them shot through with narrow, sinuous mud caves. Days could be spent wandering here, either by the will of intrepid and informed travelers or lost souls endlessly wandering in search of a way out.

NOTE: The information in this archived article may not be current.
HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING: Contributions must be received by 5 pm Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Send a complete description of the event, including the date, time, cost, the precise address where it is to be held (including neighborhood), a contact phone number, and a phone number (including area code) for public information to READER EVENTS, Box 85803, San Diego CA 92126-5803. Or fax to 619-881-2401. You may also submit information online at SDReader.com by clicking on the events section.

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

OUTDOORS

Botanic Adventure Learn about winter life in sage and chaparral, and a touch of geology, history, and Native Indian culture during guided walk. Saturday, December 31, 9:30am; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

New Year’s Day with a View! Hike up Stonewall Peak, enjoy the spectacular view with state park volunteers (or take easier, A.D.A. accessible hike on Azalea Loop). Bring water, layer your clothing, Snow or rain cancels. Parking fee: $8. 760-765-0755. Sunday, January 1, 9am; free. Paso Picacho campground, Coyamaca Rancho State Park, Highway 79, five miles north of I-8. (JULIAN)

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. Saturdays, 9:30am; through Sunday, April 15, free-$40. Hornblower Cruises, 1066 North Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

SPECIAL EVENTS

“How Does Religion Affect U.S. Foreign Policy?” Share your opinion during nonpartisan Civilized Conversation forum. 858-231-6209. Thursday, December 29, 7pm; free. Filter, 4998 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

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

Call 877-319-1051 or visit your local Auto Club branch for more information!

WASHINGTON continued from page 48.

I found a grocery stand that smoked their own bacon. For a price of a Madison I bought some of the best maple-smoked bacon I’ve ever eaten.

If you want fresh seafood you can find it here, too; there is Merino’s Seafood Market at the harbor, but it’s better to dig or catch it yourself. Clambaking and crabbing are popular pastimes, with razor clams and Dungeness crabs being the prizes.

What overwhelms me about the Washington coast is its untamed feeling. There aren’t little beachside bars for your convenience, and if you want to drive your 4x4 on the beach, you can. But what I love about this area is being able to see the snow-capped Olympic Mountains even in May.

Win $25 for your travel tips or a pair of movie passes for the best travel photo of the week. Go to SDReader.com/travel for more information.
Win tickets to English Beat at Belly Up on NYE!
Dave Wakeling takes the stage time and again, touring across the States, Canada, the UK and beyond.
Enter by Friday, December 30th at 1PM.

Enter to Win Tickets to New Year's Eve at House of Blues!
Spectacular NYE event with complimentary appetizers, champagne, photo booth, masquerade masks, and party favors.
Enter by Friday, December 30th at 1PM.

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**Rhyme & Verse**

**Borrower**

A poem by Una Nichols Hynum

A hesitant knock at the door. I look out, then down. The neighbor’s little boy, I think his name is Christian, Stands staring at his tennis shoes. Faded t-shirt ripped at the neck. He holds a cup tilted At a forlorn angle, I don’t remember What my mother sent me for, he stammers.

Standing at the blue door Of a long life, I can’t remember either.

What did I come for? What was it I wanted?

Una Nichols Hynum was born in Providence, Rhode Island. Her work has appeared in The North American Review, Margie, Writers Digest, Spillway, Calyx, San Diego Poetry Annual, and A Year in Ink. She was a finalist for the Heart Poetry Prize. She has lived in Austria and Germany and around the U.S. as a military wife. “Borrower” appears in her 2010 collection Cap at a Foehn Angle and is reprinted by permission. Photo credit: Yohana Hynum.

Find more poetry online at 3Reader.com/poetry

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**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 exhibition of photography and film by young artists. Closes Sunday, January 29.

**Mexican Modern Painting**

Exhibition features selection of 80 paintings dated 1907-1956 from the renowned Andrés Blaisten Collection. View work by artists including Maria Izquierdo, Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros, Rufino Tamayo, Alfonso Michel, Federico Cantú, Ángel Zarraga 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 H. 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 muddy and enigmatic looks at seemingly abandoned highways, parking lots, and buildings." Free-$12. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

**Phenomenal: California Light, Space, Surface** Enjoy in-depth look at 13 artists whose work with light as a medium in the 1960s and 70s defined an era of art making in California. Featured artists: Peter Alexander, Larry Bell, Ron Cooper, Mary Corse, Robert Irwin, Craig Kauffman, John McCracken, Bruce Nauman, Eric Otte, 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 22, 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. San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown, 1100 and 1001 Pacific Highway. (DOWNTOWN)

**San Diego’s Craft Revolution** This exhibition reveals important contributions of San Diego crafts- men to the post-war Southern California art scene. Show explores progression from sleek modern...
15. the Edo period (1603-1868). Enjoy individuals and businesses, since charm, drawing good fortune to fabricating a cat with a paw upraised made of clay, but some are wood, turies, each cat is unique; most are fitt. Made in the 19th and 20th century, a museum by collector Billie Mof-fitt. "Maneki Neko — Japan’s Beckoning Cats — from Talisman to Pop Icon" includes selections and bronze sculptures, paintings, prints, ceramics from 1940s to 2010, including recent works that have never publicly been shown. Closes Sunday, June 17.

"Maneki Neko — Japan’s Beckoning Cats — from Talisman to Pop Icon" includes selections from a collection of 155 cats given to museum by collector Billie Moffitt. Made in the 19th and 20th centuries, each cat is unique; most are made of clay, but some are wood, metal, ceramic, papier mâché. A fabricated cat with a paw upraised in the Japanese gesture of beckoning has been considered a good luck gesture of beckoning in the Japanese gesture of beckoning.

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, Alda 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 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.

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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)

FOOD & DRINK

New Year’s Eve Hop Fest
New Year’s Eve hop fest New Year’s event for beer lovers with day and evening sessions and beer brunch on New Year’s Day. Unlimited “beer tasters.” Adam Lasher Band performs during evening. Saturday, December 31, 1pm and 9pm; $40-$80. 21 and up. Handlery Hotel and Resort, 950 Hotel Circle North. (MISSION VALLEY)

GALLERIES

“You Don’t Say We Didn’t Warn You” Second reception for this artistic “look into a possible and
LECTURES
“eReader Clinic” Learn to download library “ebooks” to “eReader” devices and computers. Trainers plan hands-on demonstrations, question and answer sessions, individual instruction. Bring your devices! Friday, December 30, 11am, free. San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

SPORTS
“Red Bull: New Year, No-limits” Levi LaVallee, seven-time Winter X Games medalist and champion snowcross racer, attempts to break the distance record for a snowmobile by jumping up over 300 feet of water from the North Park to the South Park. Robbie Madison will simultaneously jump his motorcycle along LaPlaya, hoping to set the distance record on a motorcycle. Gates open at 6pm. Saturday, December 31, 11pm, free. Embarcadero Marina Park North, 849 W. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

“Easy” First Ride of the Year! Join Knickerbokers for 30-mile bicycle ride including Fiesta Island, Mission Bay Park, Liberty Station, Harbor Island. Ride starts in Mission Bay South Shore boat ramp parking lot. Bring money for “tasty food.” 858-450-0373 or 619-787-7427. Sunday, January 1, 1:00am; Rose Marie Starns South Shores Park, 500 Sea World Drive. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Pedal a Metric Century! Start 2012 with a 100k (62 mile) bicycle ride along “an exciting route” hosted by San Diego Bicycle Touring Society. 619-651-3846. Sunday, January 1, 8:45am; Doyle Park, 8175 Regents Road. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

Polar Bear Swim La Jolla Cove Swim Club celebrates New Year with annual dip into the Pacific Ocean for bruis two-mile swim. All welcome. Sunday, January 1, 1:00am; La Jolla Shores, 8200 Camino del Oro. (LA JOLLA)

Pro Hoops San Diego Sol, an ABA-affiliated professional men’s team, competes against Los Angeles Swish in SportCenter. 619-933-7740. Friday, December 30, 5pm; free-$10. Alliant University, 10455 Pomerado Road. (SCRIPPS RANCH)

Resolution Run Downtown YMCA’s 42nd annual event promises 5k run or a 1-mile walk, beginning at Sixth Avenue and Laurel St., commencing with “fitness oath” led by Honorable Judge John Meyers. 619-232-7451. Friday, December 30, 11am; free. Balboa Park, Park Boulevard at Presidents Way. (BALBOA PARK)

ST. KIERAN CATHOLIC CHURCH /

IN LA JOLLA

San Diego’s MS COLLECTION
San Diego’s MS COLLECTION
San Diego’s MS COLLECTION
No Joke

“Great music is like pizza and sex — it’s tough to get it wrong.”

The following are classical music entries from the Reader’s “Jam Session” music blog. Click to Sandiegoreader.com/weblogs/jam-session for more.

SAN DIEGO SYMPHONY: CHOPPY BEETHOVEN
Conductor John Nelson has an impressive résumé. He’s conducted four of the “big five” American orchestras. He’s conducted at the Met and Lyric Opera of Chicago and has worked at several major houses in Europe. He also won a Grammy award for a recording of Handel’s Semele on Deutsche Grammophon.

Taking all this into consideration, I didn’t like his take on Beethoven’s Ninth. I found his conducting to be frenetic, distracting, and disingenuous.

The first two movements were okay. But when we got to the third movement, I’ll admit I got angry.

There was no room in his conducting to allow this section to bloom. The tempo was trite. I understand taking a brisker tempo when an orchestra is unable to sustain a broader approach or when the audience might drift.

However, the San Diego Symphony is more than capable of sustaining any tempo. I was expecting this movement to be a revelation, but it fell flat for me.

The finale had some nice moments, and the soloists were wonderful.

When Bass Richard Zeller opened the vocal section, his voice filled the hall. Symphony Hall is a tough venue for soloists, but this quartet marshaled their voices and “painted the back wall.” Robert Breault handled the impossible tenor solo as well as could be expected. It is a brutal piece of music to sing. Soprano Heidi Grant Murphy and mezzo Susanne Mentzer sang with artistry, and the ensemble sections sounded good.

The San Diego Master Chorale was serviceable. They seem to have been directed to sing with zero legato, and the choral texture was aggressive and choppy. Again, there was no room in Nelson’s conducting to allow a vocal line to form.

The gap between the quality of the orchestra and the quality of the Master Chorale is growing. The Master Chorale is a volunteer group, and the better singers in town aren’t in it. It might be time for the San Diego Symphony to consider paying a modest core of singers to be in the chorus.

The audience must have enjoyed the concert. They rose to their feet at the conclusion. It was a fine performance, but based on what I’ve heard so far this season, I was expecting much, much more. If Jahja Ling had been conducting, I think it would’ve been better.

After the concert, as my friend and I trudged up the Seventh Avenue hill, I said, “I don’t know what I’m complaining about, the concert was fine. It was good.”

He agreed but added a caveat: “Great music is like pizza and sex — it’s tough to get it wrong.”

A SYMPHONY IS NO JOKE
With Beethoven’s Ninth behind us at the San Diego Symphony, what’s next?

Brahms’s First Symphony at the La Jolla Symphony. Granted, the Brahms isn’t until February, but it’s a happy coincidence.

Brahms worked on his First Symphony for at least 14 years. Both the public and his friends were expecting him to produce a work that continued where Beethoven had stopped with the Ninth.

No pressure, Brahms, but we all expect you to write a piece of music that expands upon the greatest symphony ever written. What’s the hold-up? Chop-chop.

What was the hold-up? As Brahms said, “A symphony is no joke.”

Brahms knew his first attempt at a symphony would be crucified if it failed to live up to the hype.

What hype?
There were two schools of German romanticism: the Leipzig school of Mendelssohn, Schumann, and Brahms and the Weimar school of Liszt, Wagner, Bruckner, and Mahler. Of these two schools, each had a champion vying for the title of Beethoven’s heir.

The Leipzig champion was Brahms, the Wiemar champion was Wagner. Brahms was conservative, Wagner progressive.

This was a legitimate war. The Leipzig school wrote a manifesto defining their approach to music post-Beethoven. They saw Beethoven as the end-all-be-all of music.

Wagner’s Die Meistersinger directly addresses the battle with a hero who sings new music that the conservative Master Singers oppose. The Weimar school saw Beethoven as a launching pad for “the new music.”

In Meistersinger, the character Beckmesser is thought, by some, to be based on Eduard Hanslick. Hanslick was Brahms’s champion and a critic of new music. In one scene, the townspeople laugh and ridicule Beckmesser’s singing, i.e., his musical ability.

The stakes were high for Brahms’s First Symphony. If it failed, it wasn’t only a personal failure as a composer but a failure for an entire school of musical thought.

Did he succeed? Go to the La Jolla Symphony concert and judge for yourself.

Find more classical reviews online at SDReader.com/classical

Gregorian Chant Mass
Pa-ter nost-er, qui es in cae-li-ces, sancti-fi-ci-tur no-men tu-um; ad-ve-ni-at reg-num
Our Father who art is heaven, hallowed be thine name, Thy kingdom

4 pm on the second Sunday of every month

- Sunday, January 8, 4:00 pm

Choir and congregational singing of Gregorian Chant, sacred polyphony, and hymns.

Our Lady of the Rosary Church
State and Date Streets (Little Italy), Downtown San Diego
Freshness Fervor

For the latest blogs from Reader writers and a complete searchable list of over 1600 restaurants, please visit sandiegoreader.com/weblogs/feast/

Shivering Salads!

I know, I know. Midwinter, and we’re talking salads? But here I am, seven at night, sitting outside Salad Style, that tiny little eatery just up from the post office (807 F Street, East Village, 619-255-6731), waiting for a Moroccan couscous salad.

At least, I start out there, with my glass of water and view of the old main post office. But with the threat of rain and that icy breeze, I decided to wimp out and scuttle inside and order a hot soup.

So now I am up on a huge old wooden stool putting away a homemade soup that really heats you up from the inside and tastes rich and potatoey but tanged up with other veggies. M-m-m. Warms the cockles of a man’s heart.

Things have sure changed since last time I came by. For starters, they’re open till seven, not three. Then they’ve made space so you’ve got about eight tables inside where the kitchen used to be (plus the four outside, which was the only place you could eat before).

And they now have San Diego beers and others on tap. They’ve even got an organic açaí beer from Eel River Brewing for $4. And wine by the carafe, which is a whole different thing. Four people could get a 24-ounce carafe of Chard for $16 (four bucks each!) and get an interesting salad and wine thing going.

I get talking to Miranda, who’s running the place tonight.

“Hey, I have to get up on a huge old wooden stool put-ting away a homemade soup that really heats you up from the inside and tastes rich and potatoey but tanged up with other veggies.”

“Everything came fresh each day and was grown locally,” Scott told me when I first met him. “They got their cheeses from the farms outside Santa Maria, the village where our restaurant was. Their cream, their yogurts...nothing was mass produced.”

Carnivore. But MaryJo and Scott — they started this — taught me to love salads. They make them so interesting.”

Miranda ain’t a total herbivore. She still eats meat, and half the salads have meat or fish in them anyway, but she says salads are her main thing.


I know that MaryJo Testa and Scott Thomas are two pioneers of locovoring, organic. They were young chefs who came out of Laurel, the upmarket restaurant on Bankers Hill, and took an adventurous long stint in some restaurant in a tiny mountaintop village in southern Italy.

“Everything came fresh each day and was grown locally,” Scott told me when I first met him. “They got their cheeses from the farms outside Santa Maria, the village where our restaurant was. Their cream, their yogurts...nothing was mass produced.”

Salad Style was the result of the freshness fervor they had when they got back. Fresh everything, plus flavor. Salads you actually want to eat.

So tonight, Miranda Gregory and José Acevedo are throwing together the soup ($5) from the weekly special board and a Moroccan couscous salad ($7 for the “small,” but that is totally enough for me).

“It’s a parsnip, cauliflower, and potato soup, with chives, scallions, green onions, whatever,” says Miranda. You’d think it’d be what grandma forced you as a kid, but it’s actually deee-lish. And really nutritious.

“I made a week’s worth of this soup,” says Miranda, who’s pretty short. “I had to get up on a stool to be able to see over the 80-quart pot and stir away. You feel like one of Macbeth’s witches.”

I only get in a few mouthfuls of the couscous salad, delicious as it is with things such as arugula, currants, toasted almonds, scallions, mint, and that couscous (which is really semolina), because that soup filled me so.

But Carla and I feast on it when I get home, down to the last toasted-almond shavings. I see they have a lunch deal: ten bucks for a house salad, soup, and a small drink. But next time I think I’m just gonna get a roasted red-pepper hummus bruschetta for $5 and a small glass of wine ($6), or an even smaller 3-oz taster (maybe $3), and eat it all out on the sidewalk. Rain or shine.

Posted Dec. 16, 12:04 p.m. by Ed Bedford

Delicious things such as arugula, currants, toasted almonds, scallions, mint, and couscous

Over a barrel: Cooks José and Miranda

Monkeying Around Yields All New Brews

Since hitting the East Village this summer, Monkey Paw Pub and Brewery has only been living up to half its billing. With a solid tap and bottle selection and cozy, unpretentious neighborhood vibe, it had every ingredient for success, but it hadn’t released any beers from their new brewing system.

That changed on Friday when head brewer Derek Freese and owner/brewer Scot Blair debuted the first four of their house beers. It’s a varied assortment that comes through on Blair’s pre-open promises to produce interesting beers that are mostly low alcohol, with several rare and exotic exceptions.

Hophop session ales are becoming all the rage, and Monkey Paw’s opening lineup includes one: Pineapple X-Press. Aptly named and 5.2% ABV, it delivers tropical flavors against a light body. On the other end of the spectrum is Mighty Joe Young, a 5.9% ABV American Stout named after the star primate from the 1949 film.

The beer features all the roasty, coffee notes one expects from a stout, plus a nice dose of hops (the “American” component of this stout). Sweet Georgia Brown, a 5.8% ABV malty brown ale with light caramel sweetness, and Santa’s Pet Monkey, the brewpub’s 9% ABV chocolate-and-vanilla imperial porter holiday ale, round out the quartet.

Next up on the brewing schedule are brews that go beyond everyday styles. Some, in fact, have never been produced in San Diego, and that’s saying something for a region that’s spawned at least one iteration of just about every known style of ale or lager in the world.

Monkey Paw, 805 16th Street, East Village, 619-358-9901.

Posted Dec. 16, 10 a.m. by Brandon Hernández

Boomerangs Gourmet Burger Joint

I tend to be a purist when it comes to my burgers. Salt and pepper only, medium rare. That’s not to say I don’t like toppings. Cheese, onions, even a fried egg gets the okay. Boomerangs Gourmet Burger Joint in Clairemont sets that whole notion on its ear.

Boomerangs wants to fiddle with my sensibilities and put stuff in my burger, too. Walk into Boomerangs, and the first thing you’ll see is a flight of stairs. It’s built into an old house, and the bar and main dining room are upstairs. It’s bright, sunny, and cheerful. There’s local art on the walls — the current featured artist is Mark Smith.
O’Hungry Boy

“Cupboard’s bare, buddy. We have to stretch it till Friday.”

Malagueña salerosa…”

Krizanto sings his heart out. I chomp into my $5 dinner: ribs, carrots, broccoli, blob of mash, white-bread bun, and butter. Take a slurp of my $1 beer.

Yeah, one Washington. In Old Town. I couldn’t believe it, either. Somehow, I ended up in Old Town at 7:50 p.m. Hungry, but tapped out. Two Lincolns. That’s it. Earlier, Carla had warned me: “Cupboard’s bare, buddy. We have to stretch it till Friday.” So I was avoiding the whole tourist-trap thing, the tourist-trap prices. I left the plaza, crossed Twiggs, hit San Diego Avenue, and there — right on the corner — was O’Hungry’s.

I know it’s been around for a while, like, 35 years. First time I came here was in 1997, with my buddy Ted. We ended up having a yard-of-ale contest. ‘Cause this is where they keep those yards of ale, in way-stretched lager glasses. But you have to watch the treacherous bull at the bottom. It can ruin your day and wash your face, too, just when you think you’ve got the yard licked. I’m talkin’ about 50 ounces — that’s four 12-ounce cans. Might not sound like that much, but it feels like somebody’s filling the other end as you drink. And, to be honest, we were only doing half-yards.

But not tonight. A yard costs $1.45 (for domestic beer, or $1 for premium). Not bad, but it may as well be a C-note for this O’Hungry boy.

Actually, I don’t even look in. There’s a sandwich board on the sidewalk with “specials” written in green, but I carry on with the river of people moving up San Diego Avenue. I’m heading for Old Town Saloon. Maybe they have some cheaper-than-tourist-trap food.

I go in to the old-time drinkin’ saloon. But what the…? They don’t do food.

Now, something I only half-registered comes back to me. The sign outside O’Hungry’s? Did it say “$5 Dinner”? Nah…no way.

I go to the corner of Twiggs, and there it is, plain as daylight: “O’Hungry’s Dinner Special: $5 dinner. Baked chicken, ham steak, country-fried steak, mahi mahi, spaghetti, BBQ ribs.”

This is doable, if there aren’t any hidden extra charges.

I’m inside in a Road-Runner moment. It’s part Wild West, part waterfront, with wooden floors, wooden tables and chairs, and a timbered ceiling. Andrea, the waitress, says, yes, the $5 offer’s still on. And, yes, you get sides.

“Tonight it’s carrots, broccoli, and mash. And bun and butter. Anything to drink?”

“Any deals?” I ask.

“Well, the one in the window,” she says. “Bud Light, $1 a mug for the first three mugs. After that, it’s $4 a mug.”

I order a beer, sweat a moment over the food, then order BBQ ribs. Andrea says the $5 deal’s on every day from 4:30 p.m. till closing, around 9:00.

Beer comes first. Ah…cool, sparkly. This is when I notice the guitarist going from table to table, asking customers if they’d like to hear a tune. Everyone seems to be from the Midwest, a tour, maybe. They act like he’s trying to sell them real estate on the moon.

Andrea arrives with my meal. Three large ribs and the veggies. The ribs are fine. Not totally Texas BBQ rip-roaring flavorful, but juicy, tender, and filling, ‘specialy with the veggies to round them out.

I’m shoving down when the guitarist passes my table. So far, he’s had no takers. I say, “How ‘bout ‘La Malagueña’?” Figure if he’ll take $2, I can afford him.

And guess what? He launches into the finest rendition I’ve ever heard of that song. Haunting. The guitar work. The clear, passionate voice.

Dang. Are those tears in my eyes? (Can’t be the beer, it’s Bud Light.)

I apologize for the measly two bucks. The guitarist — his name’s Krizanto — accepts them gracefully. Says he sings all around Old Town. What a treat.

“Next time, the yard of ale,” I say to Andrea, as I pay up.

“Secret is, take it slow,” she says. “Especially the last part. Because I have to do the cleaning up.”

Turns out drinking yards of ale is an ancient custom. Like, 1600s. England. Bet Will Shakespeare qualified a few of what they called “the Cambridge Yard.” But, mostly, it was a refresher for stagecoach drivers while the horses were changed. Aussie prime minister Bob Hawke became famous when he downed the 2½–3 pints in 11 seconds, when he was studying at Oxford University. It was the world’s fastest. (The Guinness Book of World Records says it’s down to five seconds now.)

I pinch myself. For eight bucks I’ve wined (okay, beered), dined, and had a live rendition of my favorite Mexican song. All on a prime corner in Old Town.

“The owner,” I say to Andrea, “why does he do this?”

“Stan? Stan Chu? He knows these are hard times, and he needs to meet his customers halfway.”

I’d say you’ve done that and more, Stan.

“Stop the press! New Year’s Eve, they’ll have the $5 dinner. Save big on your celebration!”

The Place: O’Hungry’s

The Location: 2547 San Diego Avenue, Old Town, 619-298-0133

Type of Food: American

Prices: O’Hungry’s breakfast special, two eggs any style with home fries, bacon, $2.99; huevos rancheros with ranchero sauce, beans, corn tortilla, $6.99; $3 Well Drinks / $3 Domestic Draft Beers / $3 Off All Appetizers

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Sat, Dec 31

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ED BEDFORD

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Andrea delivers her five-dollar rib plate

Ed’s rib dinner and dollar beer

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John and I sit at the bar and order a couple of Green Flash Hop Head Reds ($5.50) from José, our host, bartender, and server. José gives us the low-down on the menu. Burgers are made to order, fresh Black Angus beef, hand patted, and come with three add ins, cheese, and a side. I get a 1/3-pound burger with bacon, red onion, and pickle chips are perfect accompaniments. The fries are regular cut, with the skin on. They could have been hotter. They weren't freshly dropped, but they're still pretty good, with lots of roasted, chopped garlic and black pepper. Anyway, I ate all of them.

John’s burger comes out medium, just how he ordered it. The onion rings are good, thick cut, panko breaded, and well seasoned, with a fine shake of thyme and oregano in the crispy, crunchy coating. Boomerangs also does the “build your own” thing with several other menu items, including appetizers, salads, specialty sandwiches, mac and cheese, and adult (read: boozy) iced tea.

Boomerangs Gourmet Burger Joint, 4577 Clairemont Drive, 858-483-9500.

Posted Dec. 15, 10:33 p.m. by Mary Beth Abate

Smokin’ at the Motor City Deli

The stretch of Miramar Road between the 805 and the 15 probably doesn’t spring to mind when you think about great lunch spots. But all those folks in the auto-body shops, warehouses, and business parks have to eat somewhere, right? So when I was out that way getting an estimate for my poor bumber (as the victim of a hit-and-run fender bender), I thought it was fitting to stop at Motor City Deli for lunch.

There’s a cute young woman behind the counter, and I ask her for a recommendation. “May I offer you a sample of our house-smoked meats?” she asks. Well, sure, I’d love that. She puts some tri-tip, pastrami, brisket, pulled pork, and chicken breast in a small bowl. I try the pastrami, pork, and brisket, all good, and order pulled pork ($6.99) on a french roll. Then I try the piece of tri-tip. For some reason I’m not a huge tri-tip fan, but I stop my server in mid-taste and ask for that, with onions, mushrooms, and provolone ($7.99). All speciality sandwiches come with a side. They are out of mashed potatoes and gravy, so I get coleslaw.

The roll, from La Jolla Baking Company, is lightly crisped, and there’s a good ratio of meat to bread. The mushrooms and onions are nicely grilled, with melty provolone covering it all. Best of all, there’s a nice, quarter-inch pink smoke ring around every slice.

It’s smoky, juicy, and peppery. The coleslaw is pretty standard. If the parsley in it tastes chocolatey, some, it tastes chocolatey, earthy, but mostly just smooth. The coffee’s Kona, from Hawaii. The waffle is from Waffle Lion.

Anastasia from Vladivostok brings my waffle. Melissa — her family is from Guam — hands me my coffee.

The coffee’s Kona. From Hawaii. The waffle is from Heaven. Melissa — her family is from Guam — hands me my coffee.

When I was leaving, I asked for a to-go cup for the rest of my soda ($1.39). The young lady poured a fresh, full cup for me to take. Nice touch.

Motor City Deli, 7094 Miramar Road, 858-566-6562.

Posted Dec. 15, 4:48 p.m. by Mary Beth Abate

Waffle Lion

Anastasia from Vladivostok brings my waffle. Melissa — her family is from Guam — hands me my coffee.

The coffee’s Kona. From Hawaii. The waffle is from Heaven. Melissa — her family is from Guam — hands me my coffee.

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Motor City Deli, 7094 Miramar Road, 858-566-6562.

Posted Dec. 15, 4:48 p.m. by Mary Beth Abate

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Anastasia makes my waffle. She says all this would cost about the same in Vladivostok. She’s studying here.

Larry says everyone who’s been to Hawaii knows Lion coffee.

“And mostly, when they think of Lion, and Kona coffee, they remember a good time in their lives. They get sentimental about it. Maybe it was a family holiday over there, maybe a honeymoon. But people get dreamy when they see our sign up here.”

For sure, my coffee’s velvety smooth, and the waffle is a sticky, crunchy, chocolatey mess. Beautiful.

Larry says the company started in Toledo in 1864. But it transferred to Hawaii 38 years ago. “We’re definitely number one in Hawaii,” Larry says. But now he wants to bring it back to the mainland. He hopes this is the first of many Lion places here. “Right now, this is the only one,” he says.

We’re both standing near the window, looking out to the wild earthquake gulley outside. So does he hope to, uh, shake up the coffee status quo here? “Well if I don’t, it’ll be my fault,” he says.

Posted Dec. 15, 1:39 p.m. by Ed Bedford
All-You-Can-Eat Buffet

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Why can’t we say Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Eid, have a great Kwanzaa, Happy Winter Solstice?
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Puesto to Bring the Street to Wall Street
Street foods are a vital component of nearly every culture. Over the past few years, street staples such as poutine, sausages, and skewered meats aplenty have been getting their due and elaborate makeovers at the hands of gourmands, bringing heightened awareness to the gloriousness of everyday, everyman fare. From carts to trucks to bistros and high-end restaurants, every class of food dispensary is taking it to the streets. Proof of the permeation of this trend will come in January when Puesto, an upscale fast-casual eatery specializing in edible Mexican comfort, opens in La Jolla. Meals will be made to order, using all-natural ingredients from a walk-up griddle that — were this a trendy, more costly eatery — would be referred to as an “exhibition kitchen.” A variety of proteins — fish, chicken, al pastor, and carne asada — will be ripe for the grilling, along with vegetarian options such as zucchini flowers, corn truffle (fungus-coated corn kernels, a delicacy known in Mexico as Huitlachochle), and soy chorizo potatoes. Those meats will be the base for tacos, guisado (grilled foods), bowls, and salad bowls.

The variety of it all, as with real Mexican seafood, comes in the form of a wide array of accoutrements. Customers will be able to add fresh vegetables, grilled pineapple, nopales (cactus paddles), and...
six house-made salsas, including more out-there styles such as jalapeño-pistachio and chipotle with hibiscus flowers.

Puesto is the brainchild of brothers and La Jolla High School alums Eric and Alan Adler. These native, first-generation San Diegans have family roots that trace back to Mexico, as does the chef they’ve enlisted to realize their vision, Luis Gonzalez. A native of Mexico City, Gonzalez figures to bring something far beyond typical enchilito-esque Mex-Americana cuisine to The Jewel.

Let there be salsa, La Jolla. Puesto will be located at 1026 Wall Street.

Carnitas’ Snack Shack
The long-awaited (why does opening a business take so much time?) pork love-child of Hanis Cavin and Sara Stroud, Carnitas’ Snack Shack, has opened.

Hanis was the head chef at Kensington Grill for five years. Sara has managed all over town, from Cohn restaurants to Urban Kitchen.

Now, about the name. You might remember the stories I wrote about their real-life porker pet, Carnitas the pot-bellied pig. It was their beloved pet and their mutual love of pork that inspired Sara and Hanis to open the shack and name it after their hefty little boy.

The shack’s real-life mascot will be making guest appearances, which will be announced on the shack’s Facebook pages beforehand. And the ever-changing menu is posted daily on both of those pages and the shack’s website. Speaking of food...

In Sara’s words, those at the shack revere pork. “We worship pig,” she told me. Therefore, most snacks are pork-centric and pork plentiful. Take the recurring menu item, the pork sandwich: shaved pork, pork cutlet, and bacon, smashed into a bun with pepperoncini relish.

The pork belly, which David thought was “perfect,” is also likely to be on the menu. “We took that off the menu for one day and had angry phone calls,” said Sara.

Hanis says the shack is going through 180 pounds of...
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Calendar
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Additional Dishing on Barleymash
Last week I wrote about Bar-

Octopus Artist Opens Arms to Market Street
I catch him coming out of Starbucks. Modest-looking guy. Except I know he’s a “magician.”

Alfredo Gutierrez is in the middle of painting the murals for the new place opening next to Funky Garcia’s (421 Market Street, Gaslamp, 619-233-8659). And, actually, it’s Funky, Mo, and Alberto who are expanding with a new eatery/bar to be called El Pulpo (the Octopus). Alfredo’s an artist from Tijuana and lives in Mexico City.

“ ‘I was up here in San Diego a few weeks ago getting some paint supplies. I called the guys at Funky’s to say hello, because I had done their murals there, and they said they’ve got another place they’re starting up next door.”
Result: weeks of painting underwater scenes at El Pulpo, just past the Gaslamp Hotel. And what a scene. Everything is painted, from the main room — with its show kitchen and underwater scenes covering the walls — to the men’s bathroom, with its Funky-looking Mermaid.

Plus, joining El Pulpo on the corner, they’re opening a full bar called the Reef. Both should be open around late January.

Around the corner, they’re opening yet another eatery/
leyshack, the bar-restaurant moving into the soon-to-be-vacated Whiskey Girl space on Fifth Avenue and Market Street downtown.

Since then, I’ve unearthed additional details and a copy of the tentative menu. Barleymash will be open for lunch during the day before converting, as expected, into a dinner and nightlife venue in the evening. Also, the space’s downtown area will be transformed into a posh contempo cocktail lounge called Ginger’s, serving martini-style cocktails to Carrie Bradshaw types.

The menu, as initially reported, will be focused on barley. This unexpected ingredient will be used for pretzels, crackers (served with cheesy ale fondue), burger buns, and flatbreads. The buns and flatbreads will be used for Barley Pies, to be topped with a variety of ingredients, including artisanal cured meats, pork belly, and beer-brained bratwurst.

Barleymash will be located at 600 Fifth Avenue. Posted Dec. 19, 10:26 a.m. by Brandon Hernández

The Neverending Sandwich: Rubicon Deli

I ate lunch yesterday at Rubicon Deli, 3819 Mission Boulevard in Pacific Beach, and today I shared the other 75% of the sandwich with John for breakfast. Doesn’t everyone eat tuna sandwiches for breakfast? No? Never mind, my point is it was a big sandwich.

When you want to stop for lunch in PB, especially on a cold, rainy day, I recommend Rubicon. Rubicon Deli, 3819 Mission Boulevard, includes the other half of the sandwich. Rubicon Deli, 3819 Mission Boulevard, includes the other half of the sandwich.

I ate lunch yesterday at Rubicon Deli. They have several house sandwiches, a build-your-own menu, salads, soups, and smoothies. I get a full-sized Spicy Tuna on pesto bread ($9.49, $6.49 for half), a bowl of shrimp-and-lobster bisque ($4.95), and coffee ($2, from Cafe Moto). While I’m waiting, I have a conversation with three different people. Cool, I like that.

The bisque is okay, but it doesn’t have a very pronounced shrimp or lobster flavor. It’s more of a standard soup base with some chopped shellfish, rather than a shellfish stock, as bisque should be.

The sandwich has a decent helping of tuna salad (celery, red onion, grated carrot, parsley, mayo) with avocado, pepper jack cheese, red onion, lettuce, tomato, pepperoncini, dill pickles, mayo, and habanero mustard (which I order on the side, like a wuss, but it was unnecessary).

I can’t really taste a pesto flavor on the bread, in spite of its obvious presence, but the toasty parmesan is nice. It’s a soft, pillowy nest for all those toppings and does an admirable job of holding everything but the chopped lettuce in place. There’s good crunch from the pickles and tangy peppers. And a delicious little two-bite chocolate chip cookie, too!

If I were a 22-year-old surfer guy, I could probably do justice to the size of this thing. I saw more than one young man busily chowing down. Pretty decent deal, overall. Plus, I didn’t have to cook breakfast this morning. Posted Dec. 23, 1:35 p.m. by Mary Beth Abate

You Say Cubano: Bolillo Tortas

Bolillo Tortas, the new eatery at 417 Fourth Avenue in the Gaslamp, has a mission statement on their website which reads in part, “[Bolillo Tortas’] mission is to be the most important torteria in America and to be an ambassador of the true Mexican culture to a nation that is blinded by the negative aspects it sees in the news.” That’s a lot of pressure...
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**Reader**

December 29, 2011

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**RESTAURANT**

**REPUTATION**

to put on a sandwich.

Bolillo are traditional sandwich rolls for making tortas, as are telera, the softer, round, three-scored ones. Bolillo are like short, fat baguettes and have a thick, crunchy crust. My choice today is a Torta Cubana ($9.75) and a cool, refreshing tamarind water ($2.50).

A traditional Cuban sandwich has pretty specific ingredients, the only real disagreement being whether you are pro or anti salami. The Mexican tribute to the Cubano is usually more liberal, and Bolillo Tortas is no exception.

My sandwich, top to bottom, has mayo, chopped avocado, thin-sliced red onion, tomato, iceberg lettuce, fried egg, roasted pork, milanesa (breaded steak), cheddar cheese, grilled ham, refried beans, and yellow mustard.

The bolillo is nicely crunchy. This is the kind of sandwich you have to eat in sections. In one chomp you taste the sharp mustard, salty sweet ham, and cool, crisp lettuce; in the next you have rich, beefy grilled steak, melty cheddar, and creamy avocado. It’s properly untidy. In other words, I let my napkin lie unused in my lap and hope no one notices my messy face.

On the side are a grilled jalapeno, stuffed with a bit of mozzarella and wrapped in thick, smoky bacon, and a small, freshly made romaine salad topped with onion, sliced almonds, and dried cranberries, simply dressed with an olive oil/mustard vinaigrette.

While Bolillo Tortas may not achieve world peace, this sandwich is a good place to start.

**So Long, Solunto**

Changes next door to Davanti Enoteca. Solunto bakery (Panificio E Ristorante Solunto, 1643 India Street, Little Italy) has been sold and is about to get a name change and a face-lift.

Someone told me Solunto was named after an ancient Greek hilltop city in Sicily. For sure, the Solunto bakery has been around for the longest time and had a heck of a baking reputation. Pastries include sfogliatelle ("many leaves"), the light-leaved wonder that melts in your mouth.

Today, I happen to catch Paolo Tagliani and his wife Sherry locking up Solunto. They’re running it for the guy who owns Arrivederci in Hillcrest, Antonio Mastellone, who took it over recently. So there’s going to be a name change soon.

“Yess, Solunto will become Panetteria,” says Tagliani. “We will continue baking Italian cookies and pastries, but we will also upgrade the place and add a deck outside. We’ll have beer and wine and stay open late. Right now we close at 4 p.m.”

Paolo expects Panetteria to open in a couple of months. Thank goodness, they will still be baking sfogliatelle.

And why not? Paolo says they sell like, uh, hotcakes.

---

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**New Deck in Town**

I was hiking through Little Italy yesterday, past the new Davanti Enoteca (1655 India Street, Little Italy, 619-237-9606). Something’s different. I recognize Tony, one of the crew there.

“What’s new?” I say.

“Our outside deck,” he says.

“This is our first day. We’re just opening. Come and be the very first customer. Make history!”

Man, I’m tempted. Sure they must have a happy-hour thing going. But I’m pressed for time.

I’m surprised they have this up and running, actually. I know the city had Davanti Enoteca rip up the outside to make certain under-side walk pipes accessible. Now they have another deck. It
Call the Tijuana River Slough. And between, you've got a copter to 30 feet and drops a clam, which splits on the hard left of him. Nearby, a seagull by a shark. There's not much. The seal was probably attacked by a shark in the main eating area, and they say they've been coming here for years. Sharon says she's been working here 14 years, Benji the cook's been at it 9 years.

"It's IB. Family," says Sharon. "April and Matt Morgan are the owners. Mother and son. We'll be celebrating 20 years running this place next July!"

Very IB. I swear, this is one of the most settled communities on the coast. And still, kinda forgotten. Our own Shangri-La. The sourdough burger? Benji gets my burger together, cuts, hands it to Sharon. Time to eat!

It's good. Moist, crispy outside, and more than a boy should take on in the middle of the day. Dang, with a beer... but this afternoon, I'm working stiff.

Posted Dec. 22, 3:26 p.m. by Ed Bedford

**The Last Hamburger in America**

The seal was probably attacked by a shark. There's not much left of him. Nearby, a seagull climbs vertically like a helicopter to 30 feet and drops a clam, which splits on the hard sand. Beyond, three helicopters circle, practicing take-off and landing from Ream Field. And between, you've got a huge marshy savannah they call the Tijuana River Slough.

Yes, folks, we're at the End of the Known World. It's also the location of the Last Restaurant in America. And of good $3 tacos and maybe the best sourdough burger west of the Rockies. (Okay, let's say the best sourdough burger I've had all year.)

It's the IB. Forum at 1079 Seacoast Drive, Imperial Beach (at Imperial Beach Boulevard, just this side of the sloughs, 619-429-7507). Friday nights, Ibetans come here in droves for their All-U-Can Eat fish fry ($13).

I'd hopped off the 934 bus just to take a run up that beautiful beach and watch the dolphins swimming off the shore. Plus birds circling over a school of fish — anchovies, I bet — who were freaking out, what with the dolphins and all. That fresh air does you good and sure tangs up your hunger buds.

So you come off the beach, and just north of those vast sloughs is the Forum, and Sharon, running round taking orders from the lunch crowd. And it is a crowd.

The place has a big eating area, a dark bar area, a place where you can grill your own steaks, and a patio with a fire ring. Sharon mentions they have their lunch special, a half-pound burger or chicken with fries and a Bud or soda for just under $8. Or...
and it’s ground and formed into patties onsite. The result: burgers that feel more home-made than prefab and exhibit a pure, clean beefy flavor that goes nicely with cheddar that’s aged six months and potent, tasty condiments such as balsamic mustard and hot pepper relish.

Even though quality beef is clearly the focus here, there are two non-meat options on the menu, the Veggie #1 and the vegan-friendly Veggie #2. My favorite veggie burger, hands down, is Burger Lounge’s. I order it every time I dine at any of the local chain’s outlets. My one complaint about their quinoa-based patty, however, is that it tends to crumble apart.

That is not the case with Elevation Burger’s Veggie #1. The addition of mozzarella cheese and its trademark elastic qualities help hold together a long list of other ingredients, primarily mushrooms, brown rice, rolled oats, bulgur, and cheddar.

It makes for a strange, somewhat spongy mouth-feel, but it’s flavorful. If you want the veg and the beef, they do a Half the Guilt Burger where they stack a veggie patty on top of a beef patty.

Feeling good about ordering a veggie burger, I immediately made up for my healthy choice by ordering a milkshake. Elevation Burger’s are hand-scooped. Chocolate, vanilla, and coffee ice cream serve as bases, and one or two mix-ins (Oreo’s, berries, organic cheesecake powder) can be added for free.

At the suggestion of a regular, I tried an outlandish mix of coffee ice cream, bananas, and mango. It was delicious. The mixture was caramel in color and flavor, with a nice fruity freshness and a lingering hint of java.

With nothing on the menu over six bucks, the health upgrade is affordable and without a downgrade in flavor. Elevation Burger is located at 2641 Gateway Road in Carlsbad.

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A Little Whine with My Cheese: Oliveto Cafe & Wine Bar

Let’s get the whine part out of the way. If you go to Oliveto Cafe & Wine Bar for happy hour (3–6 p.m. daily) expect-ing that the half-price small plates menu will be given to you voluntarily, this will not happen.

And you will not be offered that special, even if you ask at 5:50 p.m. “What are your happy-hour specials?”

If you should, at 6:01 p.m., find out that there is indeed a happy-hour small-plates menu and inquire as to why you weren’t given that when you asked, you can expect that person to avoid you like the plague for the rest of the evening.

So, anyway, we start out with a couple of glasses of Arrogant Frog Cabernet/Merlot blend...
Artisan salami highlights the traditional craftsmanship of skilled sausage makers.

It really needs some salt and seasoned and a tad overdone. It’s crisp but woefully under

nana and a tangy lemon aioli. It’s crisp but woefully under-seasoned and a tad overdone. It really needs some salt and pepper in the coating.

The point of an artisan cheese-and-salumi plate is to highlight the traditional crafts-
manship of skilled cheese- and sausage-makers. The only description we received of our plate was, “Prosciutto, bleu, brie, parmesan, mozzarella, and salumi.” In addition, there were a couple of marinated mushrooms, which were, with their mustardy vinaigrette, the best thing we ate all night — a bit of average caponata and some chopped flavorless tomatoes (“bruscetta topping”).

I wish that restaurants wouldn’t try to serve tomato-topped bruscetta in the winter. The tomatoes aren’t good, so why not come up with a seasonal substitute instead of spongy pink cubes? Say, a nice olive relish, a savory compote, or a chutney? The prosciutto was okay but cut so thickly that it was difficult to chew. The cheeses and the salumi were just sort of there, nothing more than what you might get at Trader Joe’s.

I’d been looking forward to trying Oliveto’s, so I was disappointed at the average-to-bland food. It’s pretty and romantic inside; it’s a shame the food and service doesn’t match the surroundings. Posted Dec. 21, 2:06 p.m. by Mary Beth Abate

A Bit of Hawaii in PB: Leilani’s Cafe

Leilani’s Cafe on Cass Street in Pacific Beach is so comfy, so homey and friendly, that you feel as though you could walk in with pajamas and bunny slippers on and no one will look up except to say, “Hello.”

We walked in unprepared, no cash, but Monique, who runs the place with her brothers and sister, says, “No problem, there’s an ATM at the corner. Why don’t you order, and it’ll be ready when you get back?”

Sure enough, we take a quick walk up a block and back and there are two foil-covered plates just being put out for us.

I’ve ordered the Leilani’s Spicy Hawaiian Fried Rice ($6.75). It’s a big plateful. Lots of rice, studded with chunks of spicy Portuguese and mild Italian sausage, shredded carrot, and green onion, stir-fried and topped with a healthy dose of spicy sauce. The traditional scrambled egg is not mixed in but cooked into a small crêpe and placed on top.

At first bite, the rice seemed a little under seasoned, but that’s a good thing. You can add more spicy sauce and Kikkoman’s without having it become too salty. The sausage is good. The Italian has a nice, pronounced fennel flavor.

John got Ono Kalua ($8.50), slow-cooked pork over plain rice, topped with two over-easy fried eggs. The juices of the smoky, tender pork run all over the rice, and the eggs run all over everything. It’s just delicious. I keep sneaking bites of it. That, along with a couple of cups of good strong coffee, makes a comforting, lazy way to start a Sunday. Posted Dec. 21, 12:34 p.m. by Mary Beth Abate
Who Are Those Guys?

Joe Walsh heard a copy of their debut CD and liked it. “He said it was pretty fucking good,” says Steve Bulger — Stevie B — the singer/harpist who fronts 145th Street. The band recently won a series of eliminations to end up as the inside track

145th Street carries an old-school wallop, like when rock was romancing trad blues in the ‘60s.

The win in San Diego means that the BLUSD will provide each of the band members with $750 in travel cash (BLUSD is hosting a fundraiser at Humphrey’s January 21 to help cover travel costs). But what would a lose at the IBC mean? “It means that we went to Memphis, that we made it that far,” says Bulger. The event is generally crawling with music-industry types and the way he sees it, exposure can only help 145th Street reach bigger stages.

— Dave Good

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— Dave Good
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like real-world exaggerated dialogue. As if I was considering trying to hit on the yoga girl, and they actually did."

“I sent them a link to my blog and did not hear back, so they’re either contacting their lawyers or maybe they think they’ve picked up a crackpot.” — Jay Allen Sanford

**Techy Grooves** Pro BMX biking, the dance-club Moonshake, and North Park boutique Hunt & Gather all have something in common: Lee Reynolds, also known as Dr. Indulgent.

While growing up in the United Kingdom, Lee gained notoriety in BMX competitions by attempting riskier tricks than most, including spinning 540 degrees in the air with his feet off the pedals. At age 16, Reynolds became British champion. He acquired bike sponsorships from Hutch, Haro, and was the first BMX biker sponsored by Airwalk. After breaking his ankle on two separate occasions, requiring two plates and 15 screws, Dr. Indulgent devoted more time to spinning vinyl rather than spinning himself in midair and moved to San Diego in the early ‘90s. “I couldn’t get around too much...I was a stay-at-home dad. That’s when I mastered my DJ skills,” Reynolds tells me as we sit at the kitchen table of his Normal Heights home.

Many moons later, Dr. Indulgent, Mark E. Quark, and Bob Dazzla joined forces to form moveable dance club Moonshake, which recently celebrated a three-year anniversary at Kadan in University Heights. Avoiding terms such as techno and house, Moonshakers fly use the tag line “Future Disco, Spacey House, and Techy Grooves,” so as not to “conjure up images of diva vocals,” says Reynolds. “We play more avant-garde stuff from those genres.” Between Mark E. Quark’s 25-year history and Dr. Indulgent’s 18 years of DJing and organizing events, they manage to lure out-of-town artists such as Tim Baker, Android Cartel, and DJ Kaos of DFA to the intimate Moonshake shows. The Moonshakers also bring in an outside Turbo sound system with warm sounding subwoofers, provided by Joseph Rosales. Bob Dazzla explains that some of the albums they play are from the late ’70s and require the right equipment to “sound the way they were meant to sound.”

A DJ setup resides at Reynolds’s second-hand store Hunt & Gather, a boutique owned by him and his wife Zoe. The shop contains jewelry by local designers, re-worked vintage garments, and a selection of records. Zoe has been styling professionally, and Reynolds maintains that Hunt & Gather provides that vibe.

There will be a Moonshake New Year’s Eve, plus every first and third Friday at Kadan, no cover charge. Hunt & Gather is located at 2871 University Avenue and is open seven days a week.

— Bobby Bray

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

**CONTRIBUTORS**
Chad Deal, Tone Good, Dorian Hargrove, Mary Leary, Ken Light, Bart Mendosa, Jay Allen Sanford, David Stampone
Thursday 29
Middle East boogaloo. And belly-dancing! Oakland entertainers and festival favs Beats Antique bring their latest and greatest, Elektrarone, to Belly Up for a night of tribal partying and gyrating belly buttons. "Sidecar" Tommy says Elektrarone's the closest the trio has come to capturing the live Beats Antique experience. "Our live show speaks louder than any of our albums. It gets really crazy at the end, pretty fun, crowd surfing, animal masks and weirdness," says Sidecar. I, for one, can never take my eye off the waverin' ravels. These cats sound like they throw down....

Casbah sets up Mini Mansions. Mikey Shoes, bassist for Queens of the Stone Age, built this band outside QOTSA's desert-rock confines as an outlet for his pop tendencies (PTs). On last year's full-length s/t debut, the L.A.-based trio nods at classic-rock, power-pop ditties with the confec-

and open the show.... "Party punk to rawk your face?"

This Week In Music

Go show some local love when Wendy Bailey & True Stories drop their new disc, String Theory, at Bar Pink. According to True Stories guitarist and frequent Reader contributor Bart Mendoza (Shambles, Manual Scan), the stage is going to see a steady stream of local notables in support of this charmed and charming indie-rock singer-songwriter, including but not limited to: Roni Lee, Joey Harris, Mario Escovedo, Victor Penalosa, and Itai Faenmer. String Theory, produced by Mike Kamoo at his Earthing Studios, is due to drop January 6 from Blindspot Records....

Saturday 31
New Year’s Eve has got something for everybody. Everybody, and a lot of these are going need some advance planning lest they sellout, so read real quick and then get on the stick: Casbah’s got SoCal psych-pop acts the Growlers, Tomorrow’s Tulips, the Abigails, and Tropical Popscicle... post-rock duo El Ten Eleven lands at Soda Bar with Hills Like Elephants... Til-Two’s got a ton o’ local fun, featuring Grand Tarantula, the Bloody Hollies, Stephen Rey and the Slicks, and Lady Dottie and the Diamonds... and while we’re in the neighborhood, Swam’s New Year’s Heath chucks up SD garage-rock perennials Beehive & the Barracudas, with Christmas Island and Mrs. Magician setting the stage. psych-pop trio Short Eyes and Child Bride get hitched at the Tower... blues-rockers River City flow into Tin Can Ale House with Western Set, VDrago, and DJ Gonzalez. 4th&B gets Kinky (like, *menxibronica*)... while local-favorite party bands: Candye Kane, Bushwalla, and the English Beat count it down at Belly Up... for those of you who like it harsh, Carlsbad thrash band Nihilist and SD’s punkably bad boys the Strikers hit the Shakedown with Skeeter’s Deadbeat Diablos... while you — yeah, you, punky — take the mic unfolding Eleven’s human jukebox for Punk Rock Karaoke. Wicked cathartic, and what better time to get it all out — "SHOULD OLD ACCOUNTANTS GET TOO DRUNK AND SCREAM TILL THEY THROATS BLEEED... DA DA DA... DA DA DA..." — I love that one.

Friday 30
Go show some local love when Wendy Bailey & True Stories drop their new disc, String Theory, at Bar Pink. According to True Stories guitarist and frequent Reader contributor Bart Mendoza (Shambles, Manual Scan), the stage is going to see a steady stream of local notables in support of this charmed and charming indie-rock singer-songwriter, including but not limited to: Roni Lee, Joey Harris, Mario Escovedo, Victor Penalosa, and Itai Faenmer. String Theory, produced by Mike Kamoo at his Earthing Studios, is due to drop January 6 from Blindspot Records....

DJ Greyboy put the band back together this year for Jam Cruise and the Outsideland Music Festival in San Francisco.

His Greyboy Allstars (Denzel Denson, Robert Walter, Chris Stillwell, Elgin Park, and Eric Kalb — jeez, talk about superfuzz) will bring their old-school and jazz thing to Belly Up....

Akron akid the Daze Band funks up Anthology Friday night. The dance-track throwback are best known for early ‘80s R&B radio hits “Let It Whip” (for which they won a Grammy) and “Joystick”.... Else: you’ll find Subterranean Horses, surfacing for the first time in eight years with original frontman Davit Buck (Homeless Sexuals, Zillion Happy Volts), out at Tower Bar with the Deadbeat Diablos, featuring Skeeter from DC Hardcore legends SCREAM...and in Middletown, indie-pop big band Get Back Lovetta gets back to Casbah..., synth punx Stalins of Sound will be down the street on Kettner at Kasan... while pano-rock three-piece Street of Little Girls is up the hill at the Tin Can.

Find Club Crawler online at SandiegoSkateworld.com

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The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Bl., Little Italy, 619-232-4355. Thursday, 8:30pm — Mini Mansions and Dark Thirty. $8. Friday, 8:30pm — Get Back Loretta, the Burning of Rome, Kut 2 Up. $10. Saturday, 8:30pm — The Growlers, Tomorrow’s Tulips, the Abigails, and Tropicle Popsicle. $20 day of show; $24 advance.

Cosmopolitan Hotel and Restaurant: 2600 Calhoun St., Old Town, 619-297-1869. Saturday, 5:30pm — The Bayou Brothers and Michele Lundeen. Free with dinner from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. Music and dancing only, $20 in advance; $25 at the door.


Dizzy’s: Second Avenue & J St., Downtown, 858-270-7467. Friday, 8pm — Daniel Jackson, Marshall Hawkins, Gilbert Castellanos, & Joshua White. $15.

Eleven: 3519 El Cajon Bl., City Heights, 619-450-4292. Thursday, 9pm — Chinese Rocks, Cardiac Kids, Billy Rath’s Street Pirates. $6.

Friday, 9pm — The Suicide Chords, Someday Assassins, Empire State, Honest Iago. $6. Saturday, 9:30pm — Punk Rock Karaoke. Sing/scream/yell to your favorite punk-rock tunes with a live band. With Dean Reis, Cody Young, Thaddeus Robbes. $12.

Flying Elephant: 850 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, 760-434-2660. Friday, 8pm — Trouble in the Wind and Tant Sister Radio. Saturday, 8pm — West Coast Toast. With DJ Devoe.

Hard Rock Hotel: 207 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 866-751-7625. Saturday, 8pm — New Year’s Eve Bash. Eleven DJs on three floors. $70-$100.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Shelter Island, 619-224-3577, Thursday, 8pm — The Soul Persuaders. Soul. $5.

Friday, 9pm — Rising Star. Disco/dance. $12.

Saturday, 9:30pm — Rockola. Classic-rock covers. $59.

Kadan: 4696 30th St., University Heights, 619-640-2500. Friday, 9pm — Stalins of Sound and Poeke-Wolve. Free.


Saturday, 9pm — Cory Wilkins. Rock. Free.

Onyx/Thin: 852 Fifth Ave., Downtown, 619-235-6699. Saturday, 7pm — NYE 2012. With DJ Rags, Muzik Junkies, DJ Dam, more. $20.


RA Sushi: 474 Broadway, Downtown, 619-321-0021. Sunday, 8pm — New Year’s Eve Industry REMIX. January 1 event for our service-industry friends.

Ruby Room: 1271 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-7372. Friday, 8:30pm — Bonded by Blood and Warbringer. Metal. $10.

Saturday, 6:30pm — NYE Rock

This Week’s Shows

4th&B: 345 B St., Downtown, 619-231-4343. Saturday, 8pm — NYE 2012 Bash. Featuring Kinky.


By William Crain

Double-neck guitars are inherently ridiculous. Did Jimmy Page really need to cart that gigantic Gibson EDS-1275 along on tour just so he could switch from 12-string to 6-string for the solo in “Stairway to Heaven”? Of course not. He played it on a double-neck because it looked cool.

If you’ve seen El Ten Eleven’s Kristian Dunn before you’ve heard him play, you might wonder what he’s trying to prove by strapping on an instrument with one neck for guitar and one for bass. You wonder, What’s he going to do? Play them both at the same time? And then you see him do exactly that. Dunn also loops some of his parts using effects pedals, creating the sound of several guitarists and bassists playing at once. On top of that is the extraordinary drumming of Tim Fogarty, who provides powerful dynamics and rhythm complexity.

It’s amazing that just two guys can make such a big sound, and watching them do it onstage can be mind-blowing. But when you listen to El Ten Eleven’s all-instrumental music at home, it’s interesting, even if you don’t know how it’s made. A lot of El Ten Eleven’s music fits in that hard-to-find category of instrumental music that you can play in the background while you get some work done but which also rewards closer listening. There’s also a distinct sense of humor at work. Mostly that shows up in song titles such as “I Like Van Halen Because My Sister Says They Are Cool,” but it’s also unmistakable in the band’s weird cover of Radiohead’s “Paranoid Android.”
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1/21 Dead Man’s Party
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1/23 Mark Hummel’s Blues Breakout
1/24 Alabama Shakes
1/25 The Wood Brothers
1/26 Lucinda Williams
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Trombonist Fred Wesley would like to be known for more than just funk and soul. Since the late ’90s, straight-ahead jazz has been the focus of his Fred Wesley Group. “But trying to get back to jazz has been a problem,” he says. “People want to hear the funk, but I found out I can do both.”

You can’t blame his fans. For decades, Wesley was the powerhouse in James Brown’s J.B.s and later in Parliament-Funkadelic. George Clinton’s band. Which one challenged him the most creatively? “That’s a good question,” he says by phone. He thinks it over for a minute. “James did. He was the ultimate challenge for a side man. He came up with the wildest ideas in the world, and I had to put them in force.” But the J.B.s influenced Clinton as well. “George told me to do whatever I wanted to — just make it good. Give up the funk. That was George’s thing. And it had to be good funk.”

Fred Wesley was born in Georgia in 1943. From the start, he aspired to play real jazz. “I didn’t even know who James Brown was. I joined his band just to get to New York and be discovered as a great trombone player.” He also wrote music with Brown and has in recent years heard more than a few of his riffs sampled by rappers. “I didn’t see that coming. At first, I frowned on it. Why can’t these guys make their own music? Then I got the first royalty check, and I thought, Whoo. These guys can sample all they want.”

In San Diego, Wesley will appear as a member of the Greyboy Allstars. They recorded West Coast Boogaloo together in 1995. He says Greyboy was the beginning of the jam-band sound (a group that plays a variety of genres). No jazz here: “You’ll hear some real funky music.”

FRED WESLEY: Greyboy Allstars, Belly Up Tavern, Friday, December 30, 9 p.m. 858-481-8140. $30.

— DAVE GOOD
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Barrel Up: 143 South Cedros
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January 13 — 4 Oz. to Freedom.
January 15 — Handsome Furs.
January 20 — Agent 51 and Prist.
January 23 — Mark Hummel’s
Harmonica Blowout.
January 26 — Lucinda Williams.
January 27, January 28 —
Oromatii.
February 2 — Joe Walsh.
February 3 — Keller Williams.
February 4 — Martin Sexton.
February 7 — Dr. Dog.
February 12 — Abbey Road.
February 18 — Atomic Punks.
February 19 — Steve Poltz Third-
Annual Birthday Bash.
February 23 — Ra Ra Riot.
February 28 — Los Lonely Boys.
March 3 — Jackie Greene.
March 29 — Todd Snider.
March 30 — Michael Rose.
March 31 — Super Diamond.
April 12 — Dark Star Orchestra.
April 14 — Pine Mountain Logs.
April 21 — Cat Empire.
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 20 — The Local
Weather.
January 21 — Bazerk, Fuzz-
Huzzi, Cory Wilkins Band,
Fairfield Fats Band.
January 26 — Tornado Ryders
and Schmalz.
January 28 — HelloKent.
The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Bl.,
Little Italy, 619-232-4355.
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.
January 14 — Sweet & Tender
Hooligans.
January 19 — Jael Saxon.
January 20 — Fu Manchu.
January 21 — Earthless.
January 26 — Nico Vega.
January 27 — The Howls, Jess
LaMonaca, Family Wagon, Old
Tiger.
January 28 — The Muffs.
January 29 — Dengue Fever.
Conrad Prebys Music Center
at UCSD: Russell Lane at
Gilmur Dr., La Jolla.
January 29 — Cecil Lytle and
Gilbert Castellanos.
Copley Symphony Hall: 750 B
St., Downtown, 619-235-0804.
January 22 — Wilco and White
Denim.
April 13, April 14 — Tribute to
Ray Charles.
The Coyote Bar & Grill: 300
Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad,
760-729-4695.
January 5 — Shelle Blue.
January 6 — The Blues Brokers.
January 7 — Big Shot Reub & the
Reloaders.
Dizzy’s: Second Ave. & J St.,
Downtown, 858-270-7467.
January 18 — Martin Taylor.
January 21 — Darwin.
Eleven: 3519 El Cajon Bl., City
Heights, 619-450-4292.
January 7 — Coda Reactor.
House of Blues: 1055 Fifth
Ave., Downtown, 619-299-2583.
Laugh Your Way into 2012
Show at 7:00 & 10:00 on New Year’s Eve
or on Friday, Dec. 30th at 8:00 & 10:30
Mad House Comedy Club
Get your tickets online: madhousecomedyclub.com or
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Click on “Submit a Concert Review” or
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John Seal & William Dominick

San Diego Reader December 29, 2011 79
Youth Lagoon's *Ring for My Halo* will take you for a walk on the Vile side, if psych-folk flopper rock is your taste in tea, and we think it is. 7. *Serendipity*’s Family and Friends is a flat-out soul-bearer of a trip-hop disc. Infectious honesty, That’s art changing a motherfucker. 3. You made it to the pure enjoyment end of the list. Good for you. Bon Iver's *Bon Iver. Wow, right?*

How come it only got three votes, SanDago? Spoiler: this one is Pitchfork’s numero uno this year — last year — whatever. 2. Wilco’s *Love and Wheat* got a lot of props for the *e*Trade baby.

Join Us was this year’s comeback surprise. 9. Glenn Campbell’s *GHOST ON THE CANVAS* makes our list because we respect the hell out of this guy and think you should, too. The Paul Westerberg-penned title track is, like, song of the year. 8. Can we lump Cass McCombs and Ryan Adams at number 8? Yes, we can, cuz they’re passing each other on the walk of fame.

Top-ten. So, without scientific and original tributors to compile our CD hit list for 2011, *The Year of Hibernation*...

~Holiday Gift Cards are now on sale!~

Til-Two Club

Happy Hour 7 Days
4-7pm, $3 wells and craft drafts

Wednesday, 12/28
A Brief History of Rhyme
DJ Heather Hardcore & Marcus Exx
Old school, R&B, Soul, Free Style, Bobby Brown

Saturday, 12/31
New Year’s Eve!
GRAND TARANTULA
THE BLOODY MOLLYS
STEPHEN REY & THE SLICKS
LADY DOTTIE & THE DIAMONDS
WEST SIDE INFLECTION

Free Champagne Toast at midnight!
Tickets might be gone at brownpapertickets.com or at the door

Monday, 1/2
Karaoke

Tuesday, 1/3
Cocktail Night
Hosted by He Gordon Downs
47/46 El Cajon Blvd.
619.516.4746
www.tiltwoclub.com
www.facebook.com/tilttwo

YOU can lump the rest of the thrift-store sweater sets of ’90s indie-rock icons, which fit the Brit trio to a tee. Their st debut is bloody charming.

New Years Eve Show
Steve Trevino

Friday & Saturday December 30 & 31 & 7 & 10:30

916 Pearl Street • La Jolla
thecomedystore.com

To purchase tickets, call (858) 454-9176

2011 Best of San Diego Readers Poll

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

EJR

We asked our “Everyone’s a Critic” contributors to compile a CD hit list for 2011, which we cross-pollinated with our own in-house faves to drop on you this wicked-scientific and original top-ten. So, without further adooooon:

10. Youth Lagoon’s electro-pop collection

The Year of Hibernation is this year’s bed-sit comp to rise from the interweb cesspool. You just have to encourage the yutes to lock to the site, be comple-
tists not defeatists, and 22-year-old Trevor Powers completed the crap out of this record. Also, he looks a lot like the E*Trade baby.
February 25, February 26 — Air Supply.


January 6 — Old Man Wizard.

January 7 — The Short Eyes.

The Tower Bar: 4757 University Ave., City Heights, 619-284-0158.

January 6 — Writer and Chairs Missing.

January 13 — Stalins of Sound and Uzi Rash.

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.

March 24 — Romeo Santos.

April 10 — Kelly Clarkson.

April 28 — So Cal Reggae Festival

2012.

May 13 — Roger Waters.

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

April 15 — Rise Against, A Day to Remember, Title Fight.
BAY PARK

San Diego Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 4-9pm: 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.

Boar Cross'n: Monday-Thursday, 3-7pm: $2.75 domestic pitchers all day. 1/2-off appetizers.

CALIFORNIA LAGER

The Alley: Daily, 11am-7pm: $2.75 wells, domestics.

Belleville: Daily, 5-7pm: $3 domestic beer, happy hour wine, well drinks.

Balboa Park

Monday-Friday

San Diego Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 4-9pm: select house & domestic beers, house wine, well drinks, 1/2-off appetizers.

Offshore: Tuesday-Thursday 7-10pm. Cheap drinks. Cheap eats. 1/2-off appetizers.

hookahs Tuesday-Thursday 7-10pm.

Achiote Restaurant:

Monday-Friday

Effin’s Pub & Grill:

Monday-Sunday

20% OFF Home Brew Supplies

20% OFF all Bee’s Wine, Cider & Mead making supplies. We have a full line of Fresh Hops, Malt Extracts, Grains, Kegs, Bottles, White Labs Yeast & MORE.  With this coupon. (Offer excludes starter kits.) Expires 1/5/12

2022

FEBRUARY

JANUARY

JANUARY

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, email to happy-hour@sdreader.com, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186, or submit information online at SDReader.com/drinks.

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20% OFF all Bee’s Wine, Cider & Mead making supplies. We have a full line of Fresh Hops, Malt Extracts, Grains, Kegs, Bottles, White Labs Yeast & MORE.  With this coupon. (Offer excludes starter kits.) Expires 1/5/12

THE MERK BISTRO’S FRESH BASIL GIMLET

In a cocktail shaker, put: 3-4 fresh leaves of basil 1 oz. fresh lime juice 1 oz. agave nectar Muddle together and add: 1 ½ oz. Zubrowka Bison Grass Vodka Shake hard over ice, strain into martini glass, garnish with a lime twist and fresh basil leaf.

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Chianti: Daily, 4-7pm, 9-11pm: $5 martini, house wine.
Currant: Daily, 4-7pm, 10pm-midnight: $5 wells, sangria, house wines. 1/2-off entire bar menu.

Dobson’s: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2 drafts, $4 margaritas. $5 well. $8-$11 appetizers: fried calamari, steamed mussels, mussel bisque, brise.

Downtown Johnny Brown’s: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: 3 domestic bottled beer, $3.50 pints of the day. 40% off appetizers.

Dublin Square: Daily, 2-7pm: $3 wells, drafts, bottles. 1/2-off appetizers.

Elephant & Castle Pub and Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm, $3.50 beer. Monday, 5-6pm: $4 calls.

La Fiesta: Daily, 11am-6pm: $2.50 drafts, $2 domestic bottles, $3 house margaritas, $4 frozen mojitos.

The Fish Market: Monday-Thursday, 3-6pm: $4.25 20-oz. drafts, house wine, well liquor; $1 off appetizers.

Knotty Barrel: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $3.50 beer.

The Fleetwood: Monday-Friday, 5-6pm: $4 calls.

Funky García’s Mexican Restaurant: Daily, 3-7pm, 1/2-off all drinks; $1.50 carne asada and pollo asado tacos.

Gaslamp Tavern: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $3 alitas, house wine, wells. Appetizer specials.

La Gran Tapas: Tuesday-Saturday, 5-7pm: $2 drafts, $3 cask wine, sangria; $4 wells.

Las Vegas Bar & Grill: Monday-Saturday, 5-7pm, 10pm-midnight: $2 Bud Light/Coors Light drafts, $3 margaritas, wine, wells, sangria. 1/2-off seafood bar and appetizers.

The Hopping Pig: Monday-Saturday, 2-6pm: $4 draft craft beer, $3.50 well & wine.

House of Blues: Daily, 4-7pm: $2 domestic drafts, $3 wines, $5 wells, $4 martinis. Killer happy hour menu.

Jsix: Monday-Friday, 5-8pm: 1/2-price wine by the glass, $2 off bottles & drafts, including local brews.

Knotty Barrel: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: Two-for-one all beers, $4 wells & house wine. 1/2-off all appetizers.

O’Brothers: Daily, 3:30-6:30pm: $3 bottled beer, $3 glass of wine. $7 sliders with fries.

Patrick’s II: Daily, 11am-8pm: $2.50 bottle beer, $3 wells, Bud Light pints, $4 calls, margaritas, bloody marys.

Rock Bottom Brewery: Daily, 4-7pm, 10pm-close: $1 off handcrafted beer ($4.25 for 20 oz. glass); $1 off premium wells, $2 off wine by the glass.

Rockin’ Baja Lobster: Daily, Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $4 calls, margaritas, bloody marys, $4 domestic drafts, $3 wines, $3 wells, $3 signature cocktails, $5 house wine. 1/2-off appetizers.

Saltbox: Monday, 3-7pm: Two-for-one all beers, $4 wells & wine. 1/2-off all appetizers.

Siren at Hotel Palomar San Diego: Daily, 5pm-11pm: Best Local Showcase in SD. Monday-Friday, 3:30-6:30pm: Two-for-one all beers, $4 wells & wine. 1/2-off appetizers.

San Diego Wine and Culinary Center: Tuesday-Saturday, 5-8pm: $5 house wine, wells, $7 Christopher’s Ceviche. Noon-6pm: tasting flights.

The Shout House: Thursday, 7pm-2am: College & Military Night. $3 Miller Lite draft, $5 Red Bull shot, $7 Miller High Life bucket.

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

Tabule: Monday-Friday, 5-6pm: 1/2-off all drinks and appetizers. Saturday-Sunday, 2-6pm: 1/2-off all drinks and appetizers.

Tasti & Thirst on Fourth: Monday-Saturday, 3-8pm: $1 off handcrafted cocktails/beer/wine (excluding specialty cocktails/beer/wine). Monday, 5-6pm: 1/2-price specialty cocktails/beer/wine.

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

Tivoli Bar & Grill: Daily, 4-7pm: $1 off pitchers, $3.50 off liquor.

Urban Bar & Grill: Tuesday-Saturday, 4-7pm, 9pm-close: $3 drafts, $4 wells, $5 signature cocktails, $5 house wine. 1/2-off appetizers.
Yard House: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $3.50 domestic pints, $4 craft/ import pints, $4.50 goblets, $4.25 wells, $5.75 house martinis, $2 off wine by the glass. $6.50 sliders, 1/2-off select appetizers & pizzas.

EAST VILLAGE

Hive Sushi Lounge: Daily, 5-7pm: $2 domestic, $4 micro, $2.50 sake, $3.50 well, $4 house wine. Miso, edamame, $9.99.
Hotel Indigo: Daily, 5-8pm: $4 domestic & local bottles, wells & wine. Lotus Thai: Daily, 5-7pm: $3 all drafts, $5 select wines, large Singh beer, all Hal Soja cocktails - 5 traditional Thai appetizers.

Monkey Paw: Monday-Friday, 5-9pm: $1 off drinks and cocktails.

EASTLAKE

Chili’s: Monday-Thursday, 5-7pm: $1 off all drinks, house margaritas, $4.99 premium margaritas. Smokin’ Sam’s BBQ: Monday-Thursday, 5-7pm: $2.50 domestic pints, wine; $3 sangria. Doggy happy hour: $2 beef & rib bones.

EL CAJON

Blarney Stone Pub: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $5 off all drinks.

Calypso: Monday-Thursday, 4-6pm: $2.75 bottled beer (12 oz.), $3.75 beer at the door. "Party only" - $35 advance / $45 at the door.

Tickets will sell out Buy Now! Ask about Hotel Special!
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25¢ Wings

Daily Lunch Specials
11am–3pm
Sunday Brunch 9am–7
$3 Bloody’s and Mimosas

Tuesday 1 tacos & 3 Margaritas

Happy Hour
3pm–7pm daily
Drink Specials and 1/2 off Appetizers
$3 Beer of the Month all day

MIDWAY DISTRICT

Brick Alley Bar & Grill: Daily, 3-7pm: $1 off drafts, $2 off tall beers.

Des’s Bar and Grill: Monday-Friday, 7-7pm: $3 wells, domestic beers. 11pm-midnight: $3 drafts.

Wine Street: Tuesday-Thursday, 5-7pm: $5 wine tasting. Saturday, 6-6:30pm: $10 wine tasting.

MIIRA MESA

Callahan’s Pub & Brewery: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 house beer, domestic drafts, well drinks, house wine. $5 appetizers.

MISSION BEACH

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

MISSION HILLS

The Aero Club: Daily, 2pm-2am: 50¢ off beer and wells.

Cafe Bleu: Daily, 3-6pm: $5 select wine by the glass; special prices on starters, hors d’oeuvres, sandwiches.

City Wok: Monday-Saturday, 3-10pm: 1/2 off appetizers, beer, shots.

MISSION VALLEY

The Alamo Spot at Kings Inn: Monday, 4-7pm: $3 Gold margaritas, house wine, $2 drafts, $3.50 wells.

Tuesday, Thursday, 4-7pm: $3 house wine, $2.50 wells. Wednesday, 4-7pm: $5 any martini, $3 house wine, $2 drafts, $3.50 wells. Thursday, 4-7pm: $3 house wine, $2 drafts. Friday, 4-7pm: $1 off any tequila shot, $3 house wine, bottled beer.

1. Double D’s on Broadway: Daily, 10am-noon, 4-7pm: $2.50 domestic, $5 off mixed drinks, $1 off shots.

2. El Cajon Grand: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2.50 domestic beer, $3 wells.

3. Main Tap Tavern: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: $1 off 16 oz. drafts, $2 off pitchers, $3 calls. $5 nachos.

4. Cap’n Kenos: Monday-Friday, 6-6:30pm: $2.50 drafts, wells. Free appetizers.

5. D Street Bar and Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 wells, $2.50 domestic drafts. $2 off all appetizers.

6. Savory: Daily, 5-6pm: 30% off food & beverages in the bar & lounge area.

7. Union Kitchen & Tap: Tuesday-Saturday, 9:30am-7pm: Two-for-one all wine by the glass.

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


10. CJ’s Club: Daily, 5-7pm, 9pm-midnight: All wells $2.75.

11. The Caliph: Daily, noon-7pm: $4 wells, $3 domestic bottles.

12. Tre Porcellini: Daily, 4-7pm: $3 domestic bottles, $3.50 drafts and house wine.

13. Wine Steals: Tuesday, 5-30pm: $5 wine tasting. Saturday, 4-6:30pm: $10 wine tasting.


15. Bud’s Louisiana Cafe: Wednesday-Thursday, 5-30pm: $1.50 price beer and wine by the glass.
Bar Pink: 
NORMAL HEIGHTS
• 3-5pm: $2.99 shakes/malts.

Cafe La Mazet: Tuesday-Friday, 4-6pm: $1 off all drinks; 1/2-off appetizers in the bar.

Lai Thai Restaurant: Daily, 4-6pm: $2 Thai beer.

Nestor: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $2 off domestic pitches, $3.50 wells.

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.

Ruby’s Diner: Monday-Friday, 3-5pm: $2.99 shakes/malts.

NATIONAL CITY
Baja Oyster Bar: Monday-Sunday, all day $8.99 fish tacos. 3-6pm: $.99 fish tacos. 3-6pm: $3 domestic drafts and bottles, discounted shots.

The Vine: Daily, 4-6pm: 1/2-price entire wine and specialty beer list.

WINSTONS: Monday-Saturday, 1-6pm: $3.50 wells. $1 off all beer/wine.

OCEANSIDE
Tredmont Street Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $4 waters, house wine. $1 off beer.

Old Town
Cosmopolitan Hotel and Restaurant: Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 3-6pm: $3 wells, house wine, and crafts.

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

710 Beach Club: Daily, 4-7:10pm: 1/2-off food & beverage.

Bare Back Grill: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $3 Miller Lite, amber ale, well drinks.

Bub’s Dive Bar: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 drafts, $10 pitchers. 1/2-off appetizers.

Mora’s Lounge: Daily, 4-7pm: $2.50 drafts, $3.50 wells, $4.50 house wine. 4-6pm: $4 appetizers: spicy chicken wings, fried calamari, potato skins.

SD Tap Room: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $1 off drafts, $2 off appetizers. 3/$5 wine and sake.

West Coast Tavern: Daily, 4-7pm: $3 wells, draft, house wine.

Ocean Beach
Blue Parrot: Monday-Friday, 2-6pm: All drinks and appetizers 1/2-price (all day Monday).

Sunshine Coa: Daily, 5-6pm: 1/2-off all pitches.

The Vine: Daily, 4-6pm: 1/2-price entire wine and specialty beer list.

OCEANSIDE
Ocean Beach
Pier View Pub: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $1 off drafts, $2 off pitchers.

Tremont Street Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $4 waters, house wine. $1 off beer.

NORTH PARK
Bar Pink: Monday-Friday, 4-8pm: $1 off drafts and calls.

El Comal: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $3 beer, $4 wells. Two-for-one mixed drinks.

Lips Restaurant: Sunday, all night: Industry Night, $3.50 wells, $5.50 calls, $25 off entrees & appetizers. Must show employee ID or pay stub.

The Office: Daily, 5-6pm: Two-for-one price on all drinks.

Redwing Bar & Grill: Daily, 11am-6pm: $2.75 wells, domestic bottles.

The Smoking Goat: Tuesday-Friday, 4-6pm: 1/2-off select bottles of wine.

ToroNado: Daily, 11:30am-5pm: $1 off drafts.

U-31: Tuesday, 5-8pm: $2 drafts, tacos. Saturday, noon-6pm: $3 you-call-it, burgers. Sunday, noon-6pm: $2 Buds, mimosas.

New Years Day @ 9am FOOTBALL BREAKFAST BLUEBERRIES & LEMON SYRUP JUICE

Casa Reveles Mexican & Seafood Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 2-6pm: $2 domestic; $3 imports, wells Discounted appetizers.

KARTER: Chili Coast Burgers: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $5.50-7.50 off tap beer.

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

Santee
Landre’s Sports Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $1 all drinks. $5 appetizers: potato skins, garlic/bacon fries, shrimp cocktail, more.

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

Vista
Sunshine Co.: Daily, 3-6pm: $1 off drafts, $2 off appetizers.

West Coast Tavern: Daily, 4-7pm: $3 wells, draft, house wine.

Ocean Beach
Blue Parrot: Monday-Friday, 2-6pm: All drinks and appetizers 1/2-price (all day Monday).

Sunshine Coa: Daily, 5-6pm: 1/2-off all pitches.

The Vine: Daily, 4-6pm: 1/2-price entire wine and specialty beer list.

Winstons: Monday-Saturday, 1-6pm: $3.50 wells. $1 off all beer/wine.

Ocean Beach
Pier View Pub: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $1 off drafts, $2 off pitchers.

Tremont Street Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $4 waters, house wine. $1 off beer.

Old Town
Cosmopolitan Hotel and Restaurant: Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 3-6pm: $3 wells, house wine, and crafts.

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

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Bub’s Dive Bar: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 drafts, $10 pitchers. 1/2-off appetizers.

Mora’s Lounge: Daily, 4-7pm: $2.50 drafts, $3.50 wells, $4.50 house wine. 4-6pm: $4 appetizers: spicy chicken wings, fried calamari, potato skins.

SD Tap Room: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $1 off drafts, $2 off appetizers. 3/$5 wine and sake.

Sinbad Cafe: Daily, 4-8pm: $1.50 drafts, $2 wells, $2.50 imports. 11am-9pm: $12-$15 hookahs...

Tony Roma’s: Daily, 1-4pm: $3 wells, $3 off appetizers.

Point Loma
Captain’s Quarters: Daily, 3-7pm: $2.50 domestic drafts and bottles, discounted shots.

Extreme Pizza: Daily, 4pm-7pm: $6 craft beer pitchers.

Riley’s Music Lounge: Daily, 4-8pm: $1 off everything, $2 beers.

The Beach Grass Poway: Daily, 4-7pm: $2.50 drafts, $3.50 microbrews, $4 select wines. $5 appetizers: pan-seared calamari, tempura avocado, veggie and hummus, more.

Ramona
Boll Weevil Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $2 off all pitchers.

Cheer’s: Monday, 2-5pm: $1 off drinks. $10 steak. Tuesday, 2-5pm: $1 off drinks. $3 tacos. Wednesday, 2-5pm: $1 off drinks. $5 wings. Thursday, 2-5pm: $1 off drinks.

Rancho Bernardo
Capri Blu: Daily, 3-7pm: 1/2-price drafts, wells, discounted bar-menu food.

Carvers Steak & Chops: Monday-Friday, 2:30pm-7:30pm: 1/2-off drinks. $3-$4 off appetizers.

Rancho Penasquitos
Deli Stop Sports Pub: Daily, 4pm-7pm: $1 off all beer, $3 Corona, $3 wine, $1 off all appetizers.

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

Rancho Santa Fe
Delicias: Daily, 4-6pm: $5 draft beers, house wines, well.

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

Santee
Landre’s Sports Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $1 all drinks. $5 appetizers: potato skins, garlic/bacon fries, shrimp cocktail, more.

SCRIPPS RANCH
Stone Flats: Daily, 5-5pm, 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, 3-7pm: $3 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 Cafe: Daily, 5-9pm: $1 off local drafts.

South Park Abbey: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $3 beers, beer specials.

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

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

University City
Apollonia Greek Bistro: Daily, 3-6-30.30pm: $3 ouzo apéritif, $2 bottled beers, $3 wine by the glass.
**NEW YEAR’S EVE**

**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 nifty 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-striped costumes combine with John Lee Beauty’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 THURSDAY AND FRIDAY; 11AM, 2PM, AND 5PM SATURDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 31.

**Sat. Night Live Live from JEFF RICHARDS DEC 30 DEC 31**

Laugh Your Way into 2012

Shows at 7:00 & 10:00 on New Year’s Eve or on Friday, Dec. 30th at 8:00 & 10:30

**Mad House COMEDY CLUB**

Get your tickets online: madhousecomedyclub.com or

619-702-6666

@ the top of Horton Plaza

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**New Year’s Eve Package**

RING IN 2012!

Solve a mystery-comedy over a special New Year’s Eve celebration dinner! This unique and exciting theatrical experience moves around your table and amidst the action the suspects serve a delicious meal as we ring in 2012! Now Playing...

**Package Includes:**

- Interactive Comedy-Mystery Show
- A 4-course Dinner: Appetizer, Salad, Soup, Dessert, w/choice of Entrée:
  - New York Steak
  - Prime Rib
  - Chicken Cordon Bleu
  - Chicken Apple Almond
  - Vegetable Lasagna
  - Grilled Vegetable Plate
- Party Favors
- Champagne Toast w/ a Mystery Café Commemorative Glass

Tickets are Selling Fast— Call Now!

Only $150* Couple!

* Price Per Person Purchased Separately

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Tickets are still available for our weekly Friday & Saturday Shows ($59.50 pp). Ask us about:

- Group Rates (available for 8+)
- Booking Your Holiday Party
- Mysteries to Go for special events
- Corporate and Private Parties

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**NEW YEAR’S EVE**

**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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**SOME LOVERS**

A WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL

Tickets start at $35

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**FINAL 4 PERFORMANCES! MUST CLOSE SATURDAY!**

(619) 23-GLOBE (234-5622)

_The Old Globe_ BROADWAY’S BEST AND SANDIEGO’SFinest

[www.TheOldGlobe.org](http://www.TheOldGlobe.org) | Group Sales (619) 230-0843 x2400
No Point
Spielberg relies a great deal on the ignorance of his viewers.

The ritual Top Ten ceremony waits until next week, as we look at the last movie glimmers of 2011:

**War Horse**
There is a hellish episode in *War Horse*. The English stallion Joey, having endured over three years of the First World War after being hauled into it by a foolishly hopeful young cavalry officer, finally panics. Running through the trench lines, he flips flat onto his back and gets entangled in barbed wire like a trussed turkey. It is terrifying, and it also nakedly reveals the craziness of Steven Spielberg’s attempt to make us feel the nightmare of the war by fixating our empathy on a horse.

Shortly before the war in 1914, Joey bonded to a gentle English farm boy, Albert (Jeremy Irvine). Spielberg films the land like MGM’s old dream of thatched and downy England, yet the script rumbles with foreshadowing. Joey and Albert try to save the family farm from a greedy landlord (David Thewlis) because Albert’s dad (Peter Mulren) is a partly lame alcoholic and his mom (Emily Watson) is a noble drudge. As the fast, lean, elegant beast plows a sloping, rocky field, the muddy furrows suggest, of course, the trenches of the coming slaughter.

For a while, military scenes try to maintain the lush, moody beauty of earlier pastoral sequences. Joey looks heroic as a cavalry steed, and his proud new owner (Tom Hiddleston) takes him into battle as if expecting a better *Charge of the Light Brigade*. Then the Germans (those devilish Huns!) bring out the machine guns. Having given us the old Errol Flynn rush, Spielberg shows some modern slaughter. But we don’t see the horses being mauled, mutilated, and dying — in the pictorial aftermath, they form a pretty carpet of corpses. *War Horse* is amazingly short of blood.

The horse’s improbable survival is threaded through human-interest stories. A sweet, orphaned girl makes Joey her first ride, and German brothers cherish him for a while. Two writers carved this soap from Michael Morpurgo’s book, a kid-fiction novel that became an acclaimed stage play. He was first inspired by a local mare and by meeting a WWI veteran (around a million British horses died in the war). Joey, played by several animals, is a stirring steed. But positive comparison to *Black Beauty* or *My Friend Flicka* is thread through human-interest stories. A sweet, orphaned girl makes Joey her first ride, and German brothers cherish him for a while. Two writers carved this soap from Michael Morpurgo’s book, a kid-fiction novel that became an acclaimed stage play. He was first inspired by a local mare and by meeting a WWI veteran (around a million British horses died in the war). Joey, played by several animals, is a stirring steed. But positive comparison to *Black Beauty* or *My Friend Flicka* fal-
We Bought a Zoo

Cameron Crowe’s We Bought a Zoo is one of those movies cleverly designed to turn critics into predators. With fangs bared, the reviewer snarls something such as, “This is We Bought a Zoo and Stepped in a Soft Pile.” Having written that, I admit that the animals are enjoyable, and the two young humans are pretty much the ultimate snookums of adorableness.

One of them is Lily, who works at the small, rural zoo recently bought by former print-journalist Benjamin Mee (Matt Damon). Lily is acted by Elle Fanning, who has shot up in adolescence and towers over Benjamin’s teen son Dylan (Colin Ford). She moons for Dylan, and whenever she unleashes her radiant smile, the movie moons for her. The camera has a parallel crush on little Maggie Elizabeth Jones as Ben’s daughter Rosie, the mascot of goo-goo goodness, like the celestial love child of Walt Disney and Shirley Temple (sorry if that image is a bit uncomfortable).

Ben sinks his money into the zoo, hoping that will overcome his and the kids’ anguish about their late wife/mom. He even bonds emotionally with an aging, dying tiger. Zookeeper Kelly (Scarlett Johansson, looking fresh from a safari) tells him it is time to let the old cat go. Very soon, Kelly will be the best therapy of all, and Lily will help Dylan heal, while darling Rosie scampers about as if staging her very own Dr. Dolittle.

Matt Damon is an appealing Ben. Infalibally funny Thomas Haden Church (Sideways) is his skeptical brother. The zoo crew charms, including Patrick Fugit, once the boy star of Crowe’s Almost Famous (a former San Diegan, Crowe includes S.D. references, though the film was shot in the L.A. area). A gifted and guiltless manipulator, Crowe alternates shots of swell kids and animals with heartfelt memories of the late wife (Stephanie Szostak), who looks like a Breck Girl shampooed in heaven. As Ben’s clouding nostalgia for her merges with tender love of the dying tiger, it becomes difficult for us to smile, chuckle, weep, and barf all at once.

While short on fun for a family film, this could provide holiday escape for viewers eager to flee 3-D and CGI and super heroes and violence and war horses. The movie is based on the memoir of Benjamin Mee, an English journalist turned zookeeper who was the subject of a British TV documentary. His story has gone to California for lush infusions of sunshine, plugs for chain stores, and greeting-card sentiments sincerely delivered. For all of its soft slushiness of tenderness and towers over Benjamin’s teen

Dee Rees covers familiar ground with conviction. Like so many black-family films (and many gay-themed films), it relies on tightly laced ensemble strength. Maybe it is Rees’s love of her excellent cast, and her relative inexperience, that left her hooked on medium closeups and a nudging music track. But what happens to Alike and those around her is moving and worth attention. Pariah is a good way to start 2012, and it opens January 6.

Reviewed in the movie capsules: The Darkest Hour.

— David Elliott

MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by David Elliott, Matthew Lekohn, John Rubin, 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.

The Adventures of Tintin — Three of the Franco-Belgian comic-book yarns by Hergé are smoothly poured into a pretty, motion-capture animation by Steven Spielberg. Short on real cartooning, long on quaintness, short on story, long on hectic action, it is for unimaginative boys 7 to 12. For the rest of us, it is a kind of projectile doldrums. Emotions are never captured. There is a fine plane crash and a dog in yappy debt to the Thin Man’s
The Darkest Hour — Two American business- 
men (Emilie Hirsh, Max Minghella) meet 
with fifty girls (Olivia Thirlby, Rachel Taylor) 
in a Moscow dance bar. Then the aliens ar- 
rive, looking like falling Christmas decor as 
they land but invisible as they track and kill 
Chris Gorak’s generic film falls into clichés 
and isn’t very scary, but the effects are vivid 
and Moscow, deserted, has a massive beauty. 
The weak script tops with a WWII slogan: “I 
can’t go any further. Moscow is at my back.”
2011. — D.E.
★★★
A Dangerous Method — Meryl Streep is Fascist 
Ranch 12; Palm Promenade 24; Plaza Bonita 
14; Poway 10; Rancho Del Rey 16; Rancho San 
Diego 15; River Village 6; San Marcos 18; 
Temecula Tower 10; Town Square 14; Vista Village

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked — It’s possible that the 
big family business by delivering one last 
and flat, shammy 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.
★★★
FASHION VALLEY 18; GROSMONT CENTER 10; HORTON PLAZA 12; JOLLA 12; MIRA MESA 18; MISSION VALLEY 20; MISSION VALLEY HAZARD CENTER 7; OCEANIDE 16; OCEANIDE MISSION MARKETPLACE 13; OTAY RANCH 12; PALOMA BONTIA 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 Girl with the Dragon Tattoo — Fearing a pos- 
sible 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 roboti- 
ization, this witty, handsomely animated 3-D animated feature is the most delightful 
Santa biopic since Edmund Gwenn dressed 
the man up as a syncopated swing dancer. 
It’s from the studio that brought us Wallace and Gromit. 2011. — S.M.
★★★
The Artist — A comedy of unseasoned 
movie love, shot in Hollywood by French 
director Michel Hazanavicius, stars the 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 
Fay Dunaway) and the enmity of a 
cute, he wins the friendship of a girl (delight- 
ful Cloe Grace Moretz) and the ennui 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 explosion of clips, 
sounds, 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 fascinating. 2011. — D.E.
★★★
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 
cripped into a coma. He is also trustee for a 
big patch of Kauai that excites his greedy 
and the enmity of a 
drived (even bloated), and the tension of that 
is fascinating. 2011. — D.E.
★★★
The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo — The Hoff- 
manira, this witty, handsomely appointed 
 Protocol — Tom Cruise returns, and reliably 
Butcherfield is Hugo, maintaining the clocks 
Strangelove. Jeremy Renner and various 
musical instrument brands 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. — D.E.
★★★
The Muppets — Any similarities between 
Jim Henson’s Amstrad-based assemblage 
and hack-screenwriter Jason Segel’s dweebo 
are coincidental. Bright lights, belligerent 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 false dope of nostalgia. In the 
past, at least we had high-powered celebrities 
cameos to bank on. This time, the best 
they can muster is James Carville, Judd Hirsch, 
and Jack Black. 2011. — S.M.
★★★
HILLCREST

Washington Post
December 29, 2011
San Diego
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-Sat 11:00, 1:45, 3:15; Ocean Oasis (Not Rated) Fri-Sun 12:00 p.m.

**CARMEL MOUNTAIN**
Reading Carmel Mountain
3120 Carmel Mountain Road (800-326-3264 #2704)
The Adventures of Tintin (PG); Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G), Arthur Christmas (PG), The Darkest Hour (PG-13), The Descendants (R), The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (R), Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG-13); My Week with Marilyn (R), Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13); War Horse (PG-13); We Bought a Zoo (PG); Young Adult (R)

**CLAIREMONT**
Reading Town Square
4665 Clairemont Drive (800-326-3264 #2722)
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); My Week with Marilyn (R), Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13); War Horse (PG-13); We Bought a Zoo (PG); Young Adult (R)

**CORONADO**
Vintage La Costa
820 Orange Avenue (619-437-6161)
Call theater for program information.

**DOWNTOWN**
Reading Gaslamp
701 Fifth Avenue (800-326-3264 #2709)
The Darkest Hour (PG-13); Hugo (PG); The Ides of March (R); J. Edgar (R), Midnight in Paris (PG-13); Moneyball (PG-13); My Week with Marilyn (R), New Year’s Eve (PG-13); The Sitter (R), War Horse (PG-13); The Way (PG-13); We Bought a Zoo (PG); Young Adult (R)

**REGAL HORTON PLAZA**
Horton Plaza (619-444-FILM)
Call theater for program information.

**KENSINGTON**
Landmark Ken
4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236)
OUTAGE (R) Sat - Mon (1:00), 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, * No 9:00 PM Show Saturday, 12/31/11, Fri, Tue - Thu (1:00), (3:00), (5:00), 7:00, 9:00; Discount Shows at Landmarks’ Ken Classics Indicated in Brackets (*)

**COOKING IN PROGRESS** (NR) Opens Friday, June 6

**LA JOLLA**
AMC La Jolla
8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (888-262-4368)
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), The Muppets (PG); New Year’s Eve (PG-13); Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13); War Horse (PG-13); We Bought a Zoo (PG); Young Adult (R)

**Landmark La Jolla Village**
4879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-419-0236)
TINKER, TAILOR, SOLDIER, SPY (R)
Fri: (10:00), (1:00), (4:00), 7:00, 10:00, Sat - Mon: (10:00), 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00, * No 10:00 PM Show Saturday, 12/31/11, Tue - Thu (1:00), (4:00), 7:00, 10:00, A DANGEROUS METHOD (R) Fri: (10:00), (2:00), (4:20), 7:20, 9:35, Sat - Mon (10:00), 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 9:35*, * No 9:55 PM Show Saturday, 12/31/11, Tue - Thu (1:00), (4:20), 7:20, 9:35, YOUNG ADULT (R) Fri: (10:30), (1:30), (4:30), 7:30, 9:50*, Sat - Mon (10:30), 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:50*, * No 9:50 PM Show Saturday, 12/31/11, Tue - Thu (1:30), (4:30), 7:30, 9:50; MY WEEK WITH MARILYN (R) Fri: (10:30), (1:10), (4:10), 7:10, 9:35, Sat - Mon (10:10), 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:45*, * No 9:45 PM Show Saturday, 12/31/11, Tue - Thu - Fri: (1:10), (4:10), 7:10, 9:45, Discount Shows at Landmark’s La Jolla Cinemas Indicated in Brackets (*)

**MIRA MESA**
Regal Mira Mesa
10733 Westview Parkway (800-326-3264)
Call theater for program information.

**MISSION VALLEY**
AMC Fashion Valley
7079 Parkway Boulevard (888-262-4368)
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), The Muppets (PG); New Year’s Eve (PG-13); Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13); The Sitter (R), Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn — Part 1 (PG-13), War Horse (PG-13); We Bought a Zoo (PG); Young Adult (R)

**AMC Mission Valley**
1460 Camino Del Rio North (888-262-4368)
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), Happy Feet Two (PG), The Immortals (R), Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG-13), The Muppets (PG); New Year’s Eve (PG-13); Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13); The Sitter (R), Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (R); Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn — Part 1 (PG-13); War Horse (PG-13); We Bought a Zoo (PG); Young Adult (R)

**UPTOWN**
Landmark Hillcrest
3965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236)
THE ARTIST (PG-13) Fri (12:00), (2:30), (5:00), 7:30, 9:30*, * No 9:30 PM Show Saturday, 12/31/11, Tue - Thu (2:30), (5:00), 7:30, 9:30, A DANGEROUS METHOD (R) Fri: (11:20), (1:30), (4:30) 7:10, 9:30*, Sat - Mon (11:20), 1:30, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30*, * No 9:30 PM Show Saturday, 12/31/11, Tue - Thu (11:30), (4:30) 7:10, 9:30, THE ARTIST (PG-13) Fri: (11:00), (1:30), (3:55), 6:20, 8:45; Sat - Mon (11:00), 1:30, 3:55, 6:20, 8:45, * No 8:45 PM Show Saturday, 12/31/11, Tue - Thu (1:30), (3:55), 6:20, 8:45, THE DESCENDANTS (R) Fri (11:05), (1:40), (4:20), 7:00, 9:40*, * No 9:40 PM Show Saturday, 12/31/11, Tue - Thu (1:40), (4:20), 7:00, 9:40 SHAME (NC-17) Fri: (11:30), (2:00), (4:40), 7:20**, 9:45*, Sat - Mon (11:30), 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 9:45*, * No 9:45 PM Show Saturday, 12/31/11, Tue - Thu - Fri: (12:00), (4:40), 7:20**, 9:45, ** No 7:20 PM Show Wednesday, 01/04/12, Discount Shows at Landmark’s Hillcrest Cinemas Indicated in Brackets (*), PARIAH (R) Opens Friday, January 6

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center
1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1231)
Alaska: Spirit of the Wild (Not Rated) Fri 8:00 p.m., Born To Be Wild IMAX (G) Fri 12:00, 2:00 Sat, Sun 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, Mystery of the Nile (Not Rated) Fri 8:00 p.m., Santa vs the Snowman (G) Fri, Sun 11:00, 3:00, 5:00, Under the Sea (G) Fri-Sun 1:00, 4:00, 7:00
EASTLAKE
AMC Otay Ranch

The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Fri-Sun: 1:45, 4:20, Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri-Sat: (10:20) 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 9:55 Sun: 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 9:55, Arthur Christmas 3D (PG) Fri-Sun: (10:20) 12:45, 3:10, The Darkest Hour (PG-13) Fri-Sat: (10:15) 12:30, 2:45 Sun: 12:30, Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) Fri: (11:00) 12:55, 3:05, 4:05, 6:15, 7:15, 9:30 Sat: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 3:05, 4:05, 6:15, 7:15, 9:30 Sun: (10:00) 11:55 12:55, 3:05, 4:05, 6:15, 7:15, 9:30, 10:00, New Year's Eve (PG-13) Fri: (10:25) 12:00 7:10, 10:00 Sat: (10:25) 12:20, 3:45, 7:10, 10:00, Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13), War Horse (PG-13), We Bought a Zoo (PG)

RANCHO SAN DIEGO
Regal Rancho San Diego
2951 Jambacha Road (800-326-3294)
Call theater for program information.

SOUTH BAY
CHULA VISTA
AMC Palm Promenade
7277 Denny 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), Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13), The Sitter (R), War Horse (PG), We Bought a Zoo (PG)

SANTEE
Santee Drive In
10990 Woldside Avenue (619-446-7447)
Call theater for program information.

NORTH INLAND
ESCONDIDO
Regal Escondido
152 W Grand Avenue (760-291-0119)
Call theater for program information.

FALLBROOK
UltraStar River Village
5256 S. Mission Road (760-945-8784)
**San Diego Museum of Art**
4545 Park Boulevard and Mission Avenue
San Diego, CA 92108
Phone: (619) 232-8500
Website: sandiego.org

**Monday, January 9, 2011**

**My Week with Marilyn** — Aopsycho
pekaboo 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, who has her own issues written right into her veins, and things begin to get complicated. During this time, an unshaven queue keeps an eye on the proceedings, with a moody, muted feeling almost to the end. 2011. — M.L.

**Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** — More a tournament of effects. In this franchise, the great sleuth has become a Hollywood Bond empyioned by 21st-century pyrotechnics and whirl-by-editing. The cases come so fast we'd need a computer to grasp them, as Guy Ritchie puts Sherlock ("Sher-loc") to work through hectic spectacles including mad chases, dress-up grand guignol, the destruction of a forest, Stephen Fry in the nude, gothy, classsy 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.

**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 — it's a story about families, the making and breaking of them. If the film ever made a step back from its own overheated drama, it might find a collapse into farce. But it stays absolutely in the frantic, crazy, muddled moment. With Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson. 2011. — M.L.

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**Monday, January 9, 2011**

**Outrage** — As usual, the power lines of greed get tangled and bloody for Tokyo's yakuza (gangster) clans. Kitano's "Beat" Takeshi wrote, directed, and stars.

**Pariah** — Reviewed this issue.

**Shame** — Less a film than an attractively illustrated chronicie 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 veins), and things begin to get complicated. During this time, an unshaven queue keeps an eye on the proceedings, with a moody, muted feeling almost to the end. 2011. — M.L.

**SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS**
Directed, and stars.

**THREE DAYS IN THE LIFE OF COLETTE**

**Wuthering Heights** — 21st-century pyrotechnics and whirl-by-editing. The cases come so fast we'd need a computer to grasp them, as Guy Ritchie puts Sherlock ("Sher-loc") to work through hectic spectacles including mad chases, dress-up grand guignol, the destruction of a forest, Stephen Fry in the nude, gothy, classsy 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.
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RULES OF THE GAME:
1) Submit your completed puzzle to sandiegoreader.com. Address: 1703 India St., San Diego, CA 92186-5803, or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India St., San Diego, or scanned and e-mailed to puzzles@sdreader.com. Submissions by e-mail must be attached in JPEG format, 800 by 800 pixels, maximum file size of 100KB. Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or viewed.
2) Submit the correct answers to one of the puzzle-contest rankings. And now for the really small print:
3) The puzzle-contest rankings, shown among those who correctly solve the puzzle and entered in the spaces provided. Completion the journey four times a year!
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6) Late entries will be considered.
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9) Prize winners will be posted online at sdReader.com.

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Start with the issue of May 12, we will award writers of the best messages, perhaps:
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TO THE PERSON WHO DISCOVERS THE PUZZLE’S SOLUTION:
Your patience and contribution are appreciated. A puzzler and a writer?

THE READER PUZZLE:

1. The “she” in “She’s Gotta Have It!”
2. Disco era phrase
3. Division into two parts
4. Puppet often seen on Herbert Garrison’s hand on “South Park”
5. Poker payoff
6. Quick
7. Big image maker
8. Julie of “Modern Family”
9. Toddler figures?
10. Alphabet book phrase
11. “Exactly!”
12. “Your safety is our priority” org.
13. With 37–Across, feature of some homes... or a feature of 17–, 22–, 45– and 52–Across
14. See 35–Across
15. Old biddy
16. Homer’s name in the Arabic version of “The Simpsons”
17. Big honkers
18. “All systems...”
19. Holder of a couple of slugs, perhaps
20. Baroque dance
21. DDE opponent
22. “That’s all...”
23. On whom two in a symbiotic relationship depend
24. Prefix with grade
25. “Like... not...”
26. Smidgen
27. Enlarge a house
28. Medallionsome
29. Cross words
30. Down
31. Martin’s role on “The West Wing”
32. Israeli-designed weapon
33. Rainbow, e.g.
34. “Uh-uh!”
35. Good way to finish
36. 1865 assassin
37. Shade tree
38. “Whoopee!”
39. Spanish city where the bulls run
40. Goes along
41. Ben of Ben & Jerry’s
42. “Tarnation!”
43. Feeble-minded
44. For everyone
45. Performed without help
46. Where sailors go
47. 1992 Dream Team member
48. Advanced
49. Beer in Bilbao
50. Church’s percentage
51. Advanced
52. Feeble-minded
53. 50.
54. “Angela’s Ashes” sequel
55. Short trip
57. Backstopper
58. 10.
59. 50.
60. 20.
61. 10.
62. 50.
63. 20.

We cannot accept your entry without the following:
Name: ____________________________
Address: ______________________________________________
City: ____________________________ State:_________ Zip Code:__________
Personal Message: __________________________________________
SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:

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This week’s winners:

Martha Arzdwielicz, Clairemont, 3. We all know that a New Year’s resolution goes in one year and out the other. Last year’s resolution was to... (or whatever you want to add.)

Maria Coda, Oceanside, 3. Why is there a suicide hotline phone number on the Coronado Bridge but no phone at all?

Gayle Studer, Mission Valley, 3. Are the wages of sin better than no wages at all?

George Jackson, Oceanside, 2. Light travels faster than sound, explaining why some people appear bright until they speak.

Conway Redding, La Mesa, 2. There’s no time like never.

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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.
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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 local 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 Realstar baseball caps or T-shirts. And you will print the winning messages in the paper. Puzzlers with rankings will still be posted online at SDReader.com.

(All winning entries will be screened for plagiarism.)

Double negatives are a no-no.

My mom didn't let me go to concerts.

My family thinks I like these T-shirts.

My mom didn't let me go to concerts.

No pets. 294 Ballantyne. On-site parking.

All I got from Santa was Rudolph's scat.

All I got from Santa was Rudolph's scat.

No pets. 294 Ballantyne. On-site parking.


Rene Lancaster
Comedian and Valet, Normal Heights

Ask a girl if she’s seen The Sound of Music, then they ask if I’m in that movie, but then I say, “No, but I have it on DVD.” This question would be much easier if I actually had some moves I could put on for the ladies.

April Ventura
Comedian, National City

I flip over right in the middle of passion with no warning. It’s super Greco-Roman and it usually doesn’t have a positive response. Oh! You mean, move as in before I lure them into my apartment... in that case, I just show up. I’m a girl, so it’s all in the bag.

Brian Simpson
Security at Mad House/Student, South Park

The first thing I do is listen. More like eavesdrop, but I wait until I hear something I know about, then I bust in with a legitimate conversation. You just basically have to pretend they’re interesting.

Zeus Santos
Material Handler, Mira Mesa

I ask them: “How many pounds does a polar bear weigh?” Enough to break the ice! No, just kidding. I don’t do that all the time, but I have done it before with limited success.
Brainstorms
by Don Rubin

Party animals
Each of the creatures in this political bestiary is associated with one of the clues below. See if you can match them up.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Great Britain</th>
<th>Genymandering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crass Russia</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tammany Hall</td>
<td>Farm Workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican Party</td>
<td>Progressive Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace</td>
<td>War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Join or Die</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Democratic Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soviet Union</td>
<td>Black Power</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We cannot accept your entry without the following:
Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City: ____________________________ State: __________ Zip Code: __________

Please check one:
Hat: _______ T-shirt: _______ M _______ L _______ XL _______

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:
Give up
Apple Turnover

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 7/0 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: 619-232-7997 or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-8.3.0, or delivered through our mail slot at 1709 India Street in Little Italy or scanned and e-mailed to Puzzles@sdreader.com. Submissions by email must be attached as .PGF format. 600 by 400 pixels, maximum 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.

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**North County Coastal**


**OCEANSIDE, $1,050.** 1BD-1BA available in quiet park in quiet area. Near Beach. 858-481-9588.

**North County Inland**

**VISTA, $780.** Studio apartment, laundry and parking. Close to Palomar College. No pets allowed. Call Randy at 760-405-7317.

**Old Town & Uptown**

**DOWNTOWN SD, $1,150.** 1BD-1BA apt. 6th floor st/parking. Located on 8th. Close to gaslamp. Available now. 619-231-3200.

**DOWNTOWN SD, $1,400.** 1BD-1BA apt. 3rd floor w/ parking. Close to Horton Plaza. Call 619-232-0433.


**DOWNTOWN SD, $1,200.** 1BD-1BA apt. 2nd floor st/parking. Close to Horton Plaza. Call 619-233-0280.

**DOWNTOWN SD, $1,250.** 1BD-1BA apt. 6th floor. Close to Horton Plaza. Pets allowed. 619-233-0933.


**DOWNTOWN SD, $1,950.** 2BD-2BA apt. In the Gaslamp. 2 parking spots inside garage. Walgreens, Target...all walking distance. 619-232-1003.

**DOWNTOWN SD, $1,300.** 1BD-1BA apt. $1,295. Utilities included. Pets allowed. 619-232-2323.

**DOWNTOWN SD, $1,375.** 1BD-1BA apt. Available now. Parking included. Utilities included. Pets allowed. 619-231-7595.


**DOWNTOWN SD, $1,695.** 1BD-1BA apt. Close to Horton Plaza. pets allowed. 619-231-5987.


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To Hate Cleaning? Let us help! Weekly, bi-weekly or monthly rates. References: Honest. Immediate response. Call Maria at 619-794-2523. housescleaningyou@gmail.com

Uncle Joe’s Plumbing and Heating 619-422-0948. Haltamos esperar. Senior discounts. Visa, Sc, Mt, C, D, JCB, AMEX. Week same day. 619-422-0948.

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ENGINE STEAM CLEAN $49.95
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100% customer satisfaction. 10/10/10/10

100/100/100/100

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SMOKE WEED every day. Seriously, weeds makes everything better! I smoke probably a gram of medical marijuana per day. One my rule, however, is never smoke and drive. That's just a recipe for a wrecked car and a crazy DUI. Smoke once you're off work, home and safe, is all I can say.
PERSONALS

FAVORITE HAPPY NEW YEAR! If you have no leaf, then forget about it. Frost the ice has melted.

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CARS

FLAGGER, 6’x12’9”-15’ Od. Ask. $53. Experienced writer needed for civil rights issues. Must have own computer. 619-759-0519.

WANTED/ TRADE

SPORTS

Bargain, 619-295-5101; email JBL@cox.net.

WANTED:

collections. No records/ videos. 619-973-4606.

Peanuts and Dr. Seuss art, autograph with original letter, $150. 702-3488.

Pflueger, Creek Chub, South Bend, and miscellaneous by Heddon. Collection of 20 years. 17 assorted, unused tickets, programs. Private or public parties. 619-272-7383.

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WANTED:

collections. No records/ videos. 619-973-4606.

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Happy Holidays from American Apparel

Meet Brenda.

Brenda is an assistant in the creative department. She was born in Compton and moved to Texas, where she worked at a company retail store. She now lives in Downtown LA with her cat named Chicken, and is known around the office for baking award-winning cheesecakes. She is wearing the Crepe De Chine Sleeveless Button-Up and The Disco Short.

Retail Locations:
San Diego — Gaslamp
840 5th St.
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San Diego — Fashion Valley Mall
7007 Friars Rd.
(Next to Michael Kors)
Phone: (619) 262-3180
San Diego — Hillcrest
3867 4th Ave.
(Corner University Ave.)
Phone: (619) 231-1846
San Diego — Pacific Beach
1280 Garnet Ave.
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