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NEWS & FEATURES

City Lights
Economists forecast national, state, and county growth (and shrinkage) for 2013; and News Ticker ......................................................... 2
Not everyone is excited about "Papa Doug" Manchester’s La Jolla restaurant plans ................................................................. 3
Letters ................................................................................................................. 4
Neighborhood News .............................................................................................. 6
Diary of a Diva
Barb finds sincerity in “no” ............................................................................... 8
SD on the QT
Almost factual news .................................................................................................... 12
Blog Diego
Sponge for knowledge of all things weird................................................................. 16
Sporting Box
The history of sports, abridged ............................................................................. 18
Best Buys
Takes some green to chase away the holiday blues .................................................. 20
But He Seemed So Single
 Pretty women snapped up immediately. By Siobhan Braun .................................. 22
I Try to Never Wear the Same Thing Twice
Rockin’ the muumuu. By Elizabeth Salaam ........................................................... 34
Puzzle Wordsmiths play here .................................................................................. 88
Typo Patrol Results ............................................................................................... 89
Sudoku Find fame in a numbers game ...................................................................... 90

CALENDAR

Events
Outdoors, Special Events, Dance, Food & Drink, For Kids,
Galleries, Spoken Word, Comedy, Book Signings, Lectures,
Sports, Art Museums, Classical Music ................................................................. 43
Travel & Getaways
Alaska’s spectacular Turnagain Arm .................................................................... 44
No virgin forest, but there’s shade in Buena Vista Park ......................................... 45
Poetry
“Ring Out, Wild Bells,” by Alfred, Lord Tennyson ............................................... 46
Religion
They seek the lost and serve the found at Shepherd of the Hills ......................... 48
Restaurants
King of the mountain of beers, 2012 edition ........................................................... 51
Feasters’ delights (and disappointments) .................................................................. 52
Music
Blurt ......................................................................................................................... 60
Everyone’s a Critic ..................................................................................................... 66
The Wrinkle Room offers character and cougars ..................................................... 68
Happy Hour ............................................................................................................. 70
Theater
Hilarities and incompletions in 2012’s theater productions .................................. 73
Movies ...................................................................................................................... 74
Economy for 2013: SD worse than state, nation?

By Don Bauder

Are you tired of sluggish economic growth? Well, you could live in Europe, which is in a recession, or Japan, which has been struggling since 1989. Local economists look for slow growth in the United States, California, and San Diego next year, amid continuing global woes — and maybe even a sharp slowdown in booming China.

Problem: our slow growth won’t be good enough to improve our festering unemployment problem significantly. Our central bank, the Federal Reserve, will continue to drive interest rates lower, supposedly to combat joblessness. This could make Wall Street happier, as stock and bond prices rise with more money floating around, but won’t help Main Street much except in one important way: housing could continue its rebound.

Ross Starr, professor of economics at the University of California San Diego, says the United States economy will grow by about 2 percent, although inability to fix fiscal cliff problems could have us in a recession by midyear. Europe “could hit bottom, but will be recovering from an immensely depressed level,” says Starr. “Japan is in stagnation but may be perking up. Both Europe and Japan need cheaper currencies, but there are institutional roadblocks. “China has had immensely rapid growth,” but its attempt to transition from an investment to a consumption economy could slow it down sharply.

In the United States, both consumer and capital spending have been slowed down by uncertainty about taxes as much as 25 percent of the economy in recent years, but that’s coming down and could drop almost to 20 percent, says Cunningham.

“Starting in the fourth quarter of this year, there have been military declines; some contractors have sent out notices of layoffs,” says Cox. The biggest impact thus far has been in contracting, but “we could lose 10,000 to 20,000 uniformed military personnel, mostly in the Marine Corps, in 2013,” says Cox. “This could possibly be offset by the shift of the military from the East Coast to the West Coast.”

San Diego’s Northrop Grumman and General Atomics Aeronautical Systems are the nation’s big builders of drones. There are rumors of possible drone cutbacks — but also rumors of expansion of that business.

Cox thinks the county will add only 12,000 jobs next year — a 1 percent gain over 2012, when the same number of jobs was added. There will be declines in local government employment but stabilization in state government jobs. There should be more teacher openings. Healthcare employment will do well, as usual. “One of the places we will see employment growth is in construction,” says Cox, as residential business picks up. Home values will probably rise 5 percent, greatly because of the low interest rates...
Manchester’s La Jolla restaurant rattles residents
By Dorian Hargrove

If I could tell you there was going to be a restaurant there, or an art gallery, an office, or a bank — I would. I will tell you there is no definite plan for it.”

That was Tom Voss, president of Manchester Resorts during an interview with a reporter from the La Jolla Light in March 2012.

The space that Voss was referring to is the former Simic Art Gallery inside the Manchester Financial Building, located at 1205 Prospect Street in the heart of downtown La Jolla. The building currently houses three art galleries and a small Opus Bank branch office.

Since 2011, neighbors living on Rosalyn Lane, a small one-way street that runs parallel to Prospect, have raised concerns that Manchester and company plan to use the space for a large outdoor restaurant.

In the March 2012 interview, Voss was quick to debunk those claims. “It’s a long, narrow space and we’re making some improvements on the walls, ceilings and floors to get it in better shape for whatever tenant we end up having,” he said.

What Voss didn’t say was that Manchester Resorts had already obtained permits from the City of San Diego in September 2011 to transform the Simic Art Gallery into the “Amaya La Jolla Restaurant.”

Shortly after obtaining those permits, contractors hired by Manchester Resorts began preliminary construction on a new dining area, building new interior non-bearing walls, and hanging a suspended ceiling, as well as all necessary electrical, mechanical, and plumbing work.

Recent documents obtained from the state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control also show that Manchester’s company had plans for a restaurant with “amplified music” and live entertainment, including a DJ or a jazz band playing on site.

Once completed, the restaurant will measure 5899 square feet — 8362 square feet when factoring in two covered patios and the entry patio. The restaurant will feature a newly installed suspended ceiling and multiple skylights.

City documents show Manchester has spent $1,009,891 on permits.

Residents of Rosalyn Lane say they’ve known about the plan since construction began. During that time they have complained about the impacts from noise, traffic, and parking on their narrow residential street.

Leigh Hyman lives in the long, narrow space and worries that Manchester is strictly adhering to all requirements. According to a city employee, Manchester’s plans for adding “outdoor dining areas” will need to be removed from the plans before proceeding. As for the covered patios, those areas will be used as “galleries.”

But Voss denies allegations that he or his company intentionally misled residents or the city. “Around the time that the owners of Simic [Art Gallery] told us that they were not going to renew the lease, we had to do some improvements to the building. I believe there was a leak in the building. We repaired it at that time that we began to consider putting a restaurant in the space.”

“We did not decide to move forward until June of this year. There was always the chance that we would build a restaurant, but then we shelved it while we looked at other opportunities.”

And now that the decision is final, Voss looks forward to moving forward toward June 2013.

Neal Obermeyer

A LITTLE TRICKERY CAN MAKE THE BEST CHRISTMAS SURPRISES!

Oh my goodness! This ring is beautiful!
From the wrapping, I thought you got me a basketball, you sneaky devil!

Well, from the wrapping, packaging, labeling, note and press conference, it looks like you gave me a huge budget surplus...

This notice of application to sell alcohol hangs outside the construction site.

A former art gallery at the Manchester Financial Building on Prospect in La Jolla is being transformed into a restaurant.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALAN DECKER

continued on page 40
Featured Deals This Week

$10 for $20 in fresh seafood and drinks
Moby Dick Fish Market & Grill
on sale
Wednesday–Wednesday, December 26–January 2

$49 for custom-fit whitening kit, exam and x-rays
Carlsbad Plaza Family Dental Practice
on sale
Thursday–Wednesday, December 27–January 2

88% off gym membership
$25 for a 1-month gym membership
Victory MMA and Fitness
on sale
Friday–Thursday, December 28–January 3

Letters

We welcome letters pertaining to the contents of the Reader. Phone them in at 619-235-3000, x460; address them to Letters, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803; or submit them at SDReader.com/letters. Include your name, address, and phone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Border Moguls
I was reading your Neighborhood News article, “Border Bounty: Federal government settles border land lawsuit with county and state” (December 13), concerning Border Field State Park. That kind that they’re disputing — in 1984 I was working as a park aide and I witnessed the park officials acting as real estate agents. They were making reports that Herman Smart, who owned that ranch, had an eyesore on his property because he had a tractor sitting there, and a couple of old cars. They were cutting the barbed-wire fence and letting his cattle through. They basically railroaded the poor man out of his property. I witnessed all of this.

My concern is that it’s a conflict of interest for a state park official to act as a real estate agent or land mogul, land-grabbing in the interest of California in parks and railroad the public out of their property, and then making these multimillion-dollar land deals with the government.

Carmen
via voicemail

Defending Belching Beaver
Re: “My Beer Radar — ¡Dos!” (December 6, Feast!)
May writers such as Brandon Hernandez realize that when critiquing establishments, one should strive to remain within one’s profession. The gentleman’s critical opinion of the name of Belching Beaver Brewery is not at all true. They enjoy a rapidly growing following with the general public and industry insiders — myself humbly included in the latter.

Timothy Claxton
via email
continued on page 42
SHEN YUN
A Gift You’ve Been Waiting For Your Lifetime

After SELLING OUT in January 2012, Shen Yun returns next week with ALL-NEW program. From the legend of the Yellow Emperor to the story of the Terracotta Army, from the mountains of Tibet to the banks of the Yangtze River... Shen Yun takes you on a magic journey through ancient dynasties and faraway lands.

Based in New York, Shen Yun is reviving the 5000 years of divinely inspired Chinese culture, which has been mostly destroyed under communist rule. Today, you can no longer see a show like Shen Yun in China.

Standing ovations at the world’s top venues, royalty attending in Europe, sold-out shows throughout North America, and packed houses across Asia have made Shen Yun an international sensation. Millions of people come away from Shen Yun inspired and awestruck.

"THE BEST! THE BEST! THE BEST!"
— Charles Wadsworth, artistic director, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

“In a world of chaos, trauma, and negativity, Shen Yun brought sth. most needed in this world: HOPE—hope for a better world, for a better future and for a better life.”
— Jesse Miranda, producer, director, Los Angeles

“5 STARS! I’ve seen enough shows, none can compare Shen Yun. The best word to use is ‘MIND BLOWING’... See it six times!”
— Richard Connema, renowned Broadway critic

“Spectacular! ABSOLUTELY THE GREATEST of the great. Really OUT OF THIS WORLD!”
— Christine Walevska, cello virtuoso

“We haven’t seen anything so wonderful in many, many years. It really NOURISHED OUR SOULS.”
— Donald Neuen, Distinguished Professor, Director of Choral Conducting, UCLA

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LEMON GROVE

When pit bulls escape
Fifteen-pound dog brutalized by attack, woman forced by vet costs to give up ownership

At 7:00 in the morning on November 6, on a quiet block in Lemon Grove, three pit bulls escaped from their yard. They attacked a seven-year-old tan “cha-weenie” mix named T-Bone, who was sitting on his owner’s front porch. T-Bone, who weighs 15 pounds, didn’t stand a chance against the three pit bulls that attacked him.

T-Bone, who was sitting on his owner’s front porch. T-Bone, who weighs 15 pounds, didn’t stand a chance.

His owner, Nancy Linhardt, and three neighbors tried to save T-Bone as six additional neighbors witnessed the horrifying scene. Police were called, but by the time the pit bulls were subdued, T-Bone was torn apart.

Linhardt and her neighbor Cherise raced the dog to Pet Emergency & Specialty Center in La Mesa. His chest was torn open and his right arm was broken in five places. Bone stuck out from his leg in three spots.

Emergency vets informed Nancy that T-Bone needed immediate surgery, estimating the cost at $6660. The owner of the pit bulls, a Navy woman who lives across the street, eventually showed up. This was reputedly the third attack by her dogs in the preceding two weeks. She accepted responsibility, saying she’d “pay for everything” but wanted to move T-Bone to a cheaper hospital.

Franctic, Linhardt took T-Bone to Animal Medical Center in El Cajon. The cost to operate was estimated at $4122.80. They wouldn’t treat T-Bone until someone made a substantial down payment, so the Navy woman said she was going to her bank.

Linhardt waited three days for her to honor her word and bring money for the operation. She hasn’t been heard from since.

Finally, the doctor couldn’t wait any longer; they had to operate or T-Bone would soon die. Linhardt came up with $700, and on November 9 he got his surgery. But aggressive infections kept the vet busy trying different antibiotics (an expensive process) that worked.

With T-Bone's medical costs ballooning and the pit bull owner out of contact, Animal Medical Center gave Linhardt a choice: she could keep T-Bone and let him die (because she couldn’t afford further care) or relinquish her ownership of the dog to the hospital and they would save him and find him a new owner.

On November 12, Linhardt signed the papers and gave up T-Bone. Today she knows he lives but has no idea where. Linhardt filed a vicious-dog-attack report at the Chula Vista Animal Control. The pit bull owner still lives but has no idea where. Linhardt filed papers and gave up T-Bone. Today she knows she'd “pay for everything” but wanted to move T-Bone to a cheaper hospital.

When pit bulls escape
Fifteen-pound dog brutalized by attack, woman forced by vet costs to give up ownership

Foodland Market is said to be moving into the 4949 Santa Monica Avenue location.

The Hirmez brothers, who own Apple Tree Market, also own the old Bank of America property at 4976 Newport Avenue, where the Ocean Beach Surf & Skate store is currently located. According to an unidentified employee, the Hirmez brothers will “spend lots of money renovating it into a first-class market.”

Many people have been worried that the well-liked Surf & Skate store will end up home- less by the retail musical chairs. However, news has leaked that the surf shop will relocate one block south, to the old Mission Electronics building at 5032 Niagara Avenue (where, most recently, the Flying Handlebar bike shop was located).

I spoke with Ashley at Ocean Beach Surf & Skate. She said the shop is scheduled to be reopened at the new spot in late February 2013 and will also be incorporating a “new indoor skate ramp.” The building is about half a block from the entrance to the O.B. Pier; “That is almost as close to the beach as you can get,” said Ashley.

OCEAN BEACH

Retail shuffling
New Apple Tree Market location planned, O.B. Surf & Skate to move near pier

The Apple Tree Market in Ocean Beach is closing at the end of the year, and a new location was recently announced in the Ocean Beach Surf & Skate store is cur- rently located.

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ANNE ROSSI, DECEMBER 20

LAKESIDE

Hey, the lake’s back
Recent rains restore Lindo Lake water levels

Until the other day, the upper pond at Lindo Lake Park had been dry since the beginning of last summer. The pond is full of water once again, thanks to the rain runoff from this past week’s storm.

While the upper lake was empty due to drought conditions, San Diego’s Park & Recre- ation Department took advantage of the dried-up lake and removed cattail plants from both sides of the upper pond.

Thursday morning, December 13, the upper pond began to fill as the heavy rains poured down in the East County. By Friday evening the pond was almost back to normal.

Another storm is expected to come through next week, and with a little luck the lake will fill up to capacity.

BILLY ORTIZ, DECEMBER 16

IMPERIAL BEACH

Seeping seawater
Sand project creates pool near homes; cast-iron pipes at risk?

Some Imperial Beach residents who own beachfront condominiums are worried. They say they have been complaining to city hall for months after high-tide water started pool- ing in an area of beach that was replenished with sand. A $22.5-million project headed by the San Diego Association of Governments entailed pumping more than 1.4 million cubic yards of sand onto regional beaches.

Residents believe the pooled seawater is seep- ing under their homes, into parking garages, and percolating through their front sidewalks where street-side landscaping is dying. They now fear their sewer, water, and phone lines will corrode.

“I’ve lived here 30 years on Seacoast Drive,” said Dave Recker. “I own the place, and as a continued on page 92

END OF THE YEAR BIG CLEARANCE

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Sun: 11am-5pm

Deer IN THE SHADOWS

The new site of Ocean Beach Surf & Skate, 5032 Niagara Avenue, will include an indoor skate ramp.

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JUSTIN POWELL, DECEMBER 20
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- Completely replaces the factory mirror
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- Screen is invisible when not in use

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#### JVC**

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When I tell friends I don’t “do” Christmas in the traditional gift-exchange sense, the most common reaction is, “How do you get away with that?” They never ask why — they just want to know how. Many express their own desire to do the same thing — to have what would amount to “another Thanksgiving” with family and friends who share gratitude over a meal instead of the stress and obligation that comes with fretting over who to get what and how much money they can afford to spend on what tends to be stuff no one really needs.

I’ve become so comfortable expressing my thoughts honestly and directly that it’s easy for me to forget how hard it was the first time. I forget the bubble of anxiety that swelled in my belly as I worked up the courage to be honest with my family about my holiday preferences. I forget the bitter taste of fear that was in the back of my mouth when I spoke words I knew someone wouldn’t like but had decided I must say.

For a long time, saying “no” never seemed like an option. And not only to widely accepted social conventions, but also to stupid little things, like turning down an invitation to a party or denying a friend asked me for a ride. And I said “yes.”

If I was unwilling to adjust my schedule to make myself available for her at a certain time, the onus was on me to say so. A friend would understand and figure out another way home. It’s like that old saying: “Never make excuses. Your friends don’t need them and your enemies won’t believe them.”

Teaching myself to say “no” was like stepping out of a cave and into the sunshine. At first, the light burned my eyes — but then, as my vision adjusted and I took a good look around, I was amazed that I’d been struggling so hard for so long to get around in the dark.

My friend Kimberly recently told me that one of her favorite things about our friendship is that she never feels like she has to explain herself to me, and vice versa. “I know that if you call to ask me to dinner and I say, ‘I just want to hang out at home tonight,’ you won’t feel put off,” she said. To me, this is the highest compliment. Honesty is intimacy.

I have found the best way to say “no” is to be friendly and firm. In the case of assumed family obligations, it’s never easy. In order to say “no,” I have to accept that I will be disappointing whoever is asking something of me. It was David who pointed out that some people will be disappointed no matter what I do — that whole “it’s impossible to make everyone happy all of the time” thing. But it was my mother who helped me embrace my husband’s advice, albeit it in an indirect way.

My mom comes from the “modify the behavior of others by inflicting guilt” school of Catholicism. This worked great when it came to keeping four crazy little girls in line. Over the years, Mom’s expression of disappointment became a kind of Catholic-guilt reflex.

When I brought her to a nice Italian restaurant for lunch, she was disappointed that they didn’t have a rigatoni-with-meat-sauce dish (she ordered one anyway, and the restaurant delivered, so I had to hand it to Mom for getting what she wanted). When we went to high tea last week, she was disappointed that the flavor she wanted wasn’t among the extensive selection on the menu. She was also disappointed that one of her daughters (my sister Jenny) had chosen to stay at home with her toddler and new baby instead of joining the rest of us for lunch. When I gave Mom a Christmas tree ornament (which I had carefully selected at a store on the East Coast and carried on the plane to prevent breakage), she was disappointed that the glittery red bird was a cardinal and not a chicken.

I accepted long ago that I suffered Jack Donaghy’s plight — it will never be possible to fully please my mother. So, rather than break my bones to bend myself into her mold of the ideal daughter, I am the daughter I am. And I have never felt as close to my mom as I have since I stopped trying so hard to please her. I began to notice that Mom is, on each occasion, as delighted in one thing as she is disappointed in another. So, though she’s disappointed that I won’t be joining the family on Christmas Day, she’s thrilled that we’ll be getting together another day. And so am I.

It was only four years ago that I asked my father to understand and accept my decision to have a quiet day at home with David on Christmas instead of partaking in the family brouhaha. Though Dad said he respected my decision, the disappointment

continued on page 42
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Ghost of Ravi Shankar: George Harrison Was Right!

“Life really does flow on within you and without you!” declares recently deceased sitar master, reflecting on famous song based on his own work. “Well, at least the ‘without you’ part is true.”

Former Encinitas Resident Gives Us One More Reason to Love the Beatles

“Life really does flow on within you and without you!” declares recently deceased sitar master, reflecting on famous song based on his own work. “Well, at least the ‘without you’ part is true.”

San Diego Poetry Society Announces Winner of 2012 Award for Best Local Poem

Lee “Hacksaw” Hamilton Honored for “Baseball is Back: A Poem by Hacksaw Hamilton”

On April 4 — opening day of the Major League Baseball season — a poem by Lee “Hacksaw” Hamilton appeared on the website SanDiego.com, a poem entitled “Baseball is Back: A Poem by Hacksaw Hamilton.” And at a special ceremony held at the Mission Valley Tilted Kilt last Tuesday, the governing board of the San Diego Poetry Society announced that the free-verse work was the winner of its coveted “Best Local Poem” award, narrowly beating out Chargers head coach Norv Turner’s “Contractual Obligations” and Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers’s “Set, Hut, Suffer” for the prize.

From the judges’ notes: “Brilliantly, Lee ‘Hacksaw’ Hamilton has written a poem explaining what baseball is about without ever mentioning what baseball is actually about: hitting a thrown ball with a stick and then running from one anchored sandbag to another. Instead, he says that it is about other things: personality on the field, teams, places, owners, managers, the past, numbers, and any number of other things. This kind of dry and slippery poetic allusion deserves and demands our recognition. Stylistically, his systematic ellipses force a kind of meditative rhythm on the part of the reader — a rhythm not unlike that of baseball itself. The wordplay, too, is notable. Go ahead, read ‘rainouts and beanballs’ out loud, and see if it doesn’t make you smile.”

In recognition of his efforts, Lee “Hacksaw” Hamilton will have his name engraved on the floor of the new Central Library’s poetry section in Sub-Basement D.

Walter Mencken’s Almost Factual Christmas Gift Recommendations #3

Home Desalination Plant!

Hey, Mom and Dad! We all know that science is important for making apps and building a better McRib, but did you know that it can also be lifesaving? It’s true!

That’s why we here at SD on the QT want your children to learn science! And what better way to learn science than by producing fresh, clean, drinking water? (Yes, we know the answer to that question is, “By producing pure, delicious alcoholic beverages and/or crystal meth,” but bear with us — this one’s for the kids.)

In light of San Diego’s monster deal to buy unsalted seawater for its thirsty golf courses and dog parks, the timing couldn’t be better for you to invest in this home desalination plant, priced at just $50,000! The plant comes completely disassembled, so your child will be able to learn how each component contributes to the production of salt-free water — just like the stuff that comes out of your tap! And it runs on ordinary household electricity — about the same amount as you would use to power a city block. Just drive down to the beach, load up a dozen empty milk jugs with seawater, bring ’em home, toss ’em in the machine, and — voilà! — four hours later, you’ve got over three quarts of fresh, non-toxic, life-sustaining water.

Of course, we understand that not every family can afford $50,000 for a machine that makes water, so we are also proud to offer our bargain version: Billy the Bowl’s Toilet-to-Tap Wastewater Washstation. No, it doesn’t wash you in wastewater; it washes your wastewater! At just $10,000, it’s much cheaper than our home desalination plant. And it costs far less to run. The only catch is, it’s kind of gross. Still, beggars can’t be choosers, and kids need to learn: sometimes you ask for the pony but you settle for the hobby horse.

Walter Mencken’s Almost Factual Christmas Gift Recommendations #4

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BLOG DIEGO

POST TITLE: TMI = Trading Masturbatorial Inquiries
POST DATE: December 18, 2012

I am a pretty open book. I’m spread-eagle when I write, because secretly I want people to know all my weird inklings. I write about a lot of superfluous mumbo-jumbo. It’s liberating, putting yourself out there and risking embarrassment. We only live so long and we all have a voice. I wish more people opened up, because I love taking a stroll down everyone’s crazy block. Sometimes we need to creep into some red-light district avenue of life, peering off peripherally at the scandalous silhouettes sticking their tongues out between their fingers.

It’s a rush being open to new experiences, good or bad. A cosmic bond — Taoist, Christian, atheist — an allegory of experiences is what I envision. I have been writing in my journals since Hooked on Phonics brainwashed my little feeble brain. I envisioned myself as a gentle Anne Frank. I’m not kidding. My first journal, the heading reads, “I hope to be like Anne Frank, and have people read of my ordeals.” Admittedly, I had a flair for drama, so these conceived ordeals are pretty exaggerated.

My biggest ordeal was wearing an overall-style dress, bending over in the cafeteria, and having everyone gawk at my Hanes Not-Her-Way wedge. I don’t think my journals will be in the human archives, and my life was nothing close to escaping the Nazi regime. I was just a pro at embarrassing myself. I was like a drunken sailor walking down the hallway; I must’ve eaten shit on a daily basis. My equilibrium is pretty shitty, and I trip and fall a lot. This was the determining factor in my 86ing skirts in middle school. I don’t know how many people saw my ass, but that is the cross I must bare….

My equilibrium is pretty shitty, and I trip and fall a lot. This was the determining factor in my 86ing skirts in middle school. I don’t know how many people saw my ass, but that is the cross I must bare….

I have been laughed at a lot in my early years, so I wear humiliation like a Girl Scout badge. It’s a part of life — get over it! I don’t padlock my journals. They are a free-for-all for future historians. I know I will be in the annals of time as a freak, and that is all peachy keen with me.

There’s no such thing as NORMAL. We all pretend to be normal, but pretending to be something we are not is a recipe for self doubt and feels pretty shitty at the end of the day. For me, it’s easier to judge “normal” people than freak-formers. More than meets the eye! I spent a lot of years holding in my inner freak. When JTT was a preprocess sex-god (that’s wrong), I was drooling over the bulge-tastic David Bowie from Labyrinth. When girls were collecting Barbies, I was obsessed with Trolls. I wasn’t even allowed to own a Barbie because I was known for tearing their heads off and poking my eyes with their dagger-like hands. Plus, there were the incessant questions I asked my debutaunt Grandma. “Why don’t they have a baguette or a noodle?”

I can also remember going to see The Lion King in theaters and yelling at the screen, “Where’s their penises!?” I was in-time, I think, for all of 1994. I was just curious! I wanted to know! I really didn’t plan out the outcomes, I was all action and no theory.

I was a sponge for knowledge of all things weird. I wasn’t interested in anything practical. That’s probably why I’m inept at all things logical. Whenever I play Trivial Pursuit, I win all the pink pie pieces. I rock at Rock ‘n’ Roll Jeopardy. I probably could tell you every crazy, non-useful fact you could imagine. Like, why cats show their butts to humans. [Ed. note: it’s a form of greeting that indicates trust.]

Mind-blowing! Look out, Alex Trebek! I don’t mind being a loser as long as I’m free and no maniac villagers decide to come drag me out of my room, clad in my man-shirt and lady boxers, and burn me at the stake. If someone reads this and has a “me-too” reaction, then that makes all the difference. Freak nation unite!

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The plan was to write an end-of-the-year column about the biggest sports stories of 2012. And it would have been a boffo piece of work. But, that was before I learned the world was going to end on December 21 or 23.

There’s an early deadline this week due to a Christmas that’s never going to happen, so I’m writing this before Earth has actually expired. I know you’ll understand why I’m a little short on details, but we all know one of the following events caused Earth’s die-off: the Mayan prophecy, Hopi Indians, massive solar storms, galactic alignment, Planet X, Timeway Zero (everything imaginable will occur at the same time), I Ching, or news-starved cable networks. One of them got us, it really doesn’t matter which one. So, this is it, the end-of-the-world sports wrap-up column giving a final tip of the hat to the biggest sports stories Earth has ever known.

I’m short on space, so I’ll skip the first 4,500,000,000 years and take us straight to the Phanerozoic Eon, Cenozoic Era subdivision, and then skip forward 65 million years to a sport known by it’s rather lifeless name, Mesoamerican Ballgame. Supporters call it a type of Naumachia? Caesar is hosting. Caesar built an artificial lake in which he placed real ships and real crews and had them reenact historical sea battles. Here’s the hook: real blood and guts and death. According to the noted naval war antiquities site cracked.com, “As if watching the team you bet on literally sink right in front of you would not have been bad enough, it was not out of the ordinary to see many of these men slipping around on their own blood in the process...."

“Naval warfare in Ancient Rome also featured a lot of flamethrowers armed with a type of napalm called Greek Fire, which combusted the instant it contacted oxygen. So, with the waters red with blood and thick with bloated corpses, you were also likely to see a few thousand would-be sailors get burned alive as well.”

“...It’s hard to top that kind of red-blooded sports action, and even making allowances for the increasing difficulty recruiting that many people to kill or be sacrificed, medieval sports never came close to the Roman gold standard. Medieval World was an era of courtsy sports. Sports of the day included embroidery, poetry writing, lawn bowling, croquet, dancing, chess, and playing cards. What can I say, it was like the fourth quarter of a Detroit/Jacksonville game that went on for 300 years.

Things picked up in 1776. The place: Staines-upon-Thames. Harry Sellers thrashes Peter Corcoran to take the Championship of England boxing title. Boxing insiders say Corcoran took a dive, and they make a persuasive case.

Baseball, college football, and basketball came along a couple centuries later, but that was mere prelude to the 20th Century and the crown jewel of human sportsdom, the sacred, transcendent NFL. I will miss their blood sacrifice Sunday services.
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The 12 days of Christmas are usually a roller-coaster of emotions in the Kelly home. A high on Christmas, post-Christmas low, high of New Year’s, followed by a cavernous low in January.

“You know the post-holiday blues have hit when the special of the night at your local restaurant says, ‘Soup of the day: cream of Prozac,’” said my man Patrick at dinner, reminding me of an old top-ten Letterman bit. “What’s our plan to keep that creamy soup away during the holidays?”

A few days later, I filled in my family on some blues-busting holiday activities. “Why don’t you ring in the new year with a Polar Bear Plunge, New Year’s Day, 10 a.m.?” I asked Patrick. “La Jolla Shores. They provide coffee and cider, and there’s a chill potluck.”

“Pass on the plunge, but yes to the chill. For a wintry activity, I say ice-skating,” he countered, “and not that tiny little rink down at Horton Plaza.”

“I like the prices, but let’s move away from chilly activities,” Patrick suggested, “and bring in some sun.”

“How about the San Diego Big Bay Balloon Parade?” I asked. “The parade on Harbor Drive is on December 27th, starting at 10 a.m., and the best viewing is around the Maritime Museum on Harbor Drive.”

“San Diego Botanic Garden has the World’s largest Lego exhibit,” Patrick suggested, “and not that tiny little rink down at Horton Plaza.”

“Lamb’s Players Theatre has a free festival after the parade at the Broadway Pier,” I added, “and it includes the Battle of the University Bands. Then, maybe you and I could go on a harbor cruise. Champagne, dancing, three-course meal for three hours — sounds like the holidays to me,” I exclaimed. Hornblower’s December Nights Dinner Cruise costs $73 per person, with boarding at 6:30 p.m. at the Grape Street Pier.

“Couldn’t we go to Balboa Park?” our daughter chimed in. “It’s so pretty at this time of year.”

“Sure,” I answered. “We could see a concert at the Organ Pavilion. The Sunday, December 30th, concert is the House of Scotland Pipe Band. And on January 1st, the concert is called Happy New Year from the Spreckels Organ Pavilion, performed by Carol Williams at 2 p.m.”

“What about some theater this season?” Patrick interrupted. “‘Lamb’s Players Theatre is offering An American Christmas’ at the Hotel del Coronado, running through December 26th at 6:30 p.m.” Three hours in the ballroom with hors d’oeuvres, five-course meal, champagne, and entertainment: adults, $135; children, $95.

“Weren’t you the one fainting over high prices,” I asked?

“I know how to keep a visiting mother-in-law happy,” he grinned. He’s a fourth Wise Man, this husband of mine.
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In July, my friend Bekah (not her real name) calls to announce her engagement. I am shocked by the news. The last I heard, she was dating a guy named Mike, whom she’d met on the online dating site Match.com. A few weeks into their relationship, Bekah texted me a photo of Mike in striped jeans and a leather vest with nothing underneath. He reminded me of Captain Jack Sparrow.

“The sex is amazing,” she said.

She sent another picture, the two of them in motorcycle jackets, posed in front of an Easy Rider–style bike. In this photo, Mike’s resemblance to Johnny Depp was uncanny.

They broke up a few weeks later.

“The ridiculous way he dressed got old,” she said.

Before Mike, Bekah dated a doctor she met on eHarmony. The site matched them through a personality test. After doing an internet search of the doc, Bekah learned that a local magazine had named him one of her city’s most eligible bachelors.

Their first date was at a wine bar. It went well. The next morning, a Saturday, Bekah was awakened by a text message: “Do you have any STDs or STIs? Are you on birth control? Have you ever had an abnormal pap smear? Being a physician, you wouldn’t believe the things I have seen!”

She never spoke to the doctor again.

Two weeks later, Bekah met a new guy online. She decided to Skype with him to avoid the possibility of a wasted Friday evening. Fifteen minutes into their Skype date, the guy held up a framed picture of his ex-girlfriend and asked, “Do you think she’s hot?”

Bekah told him she was tired and logged off.

She exchanged countless emails with a photographer before meeting him.

“We have a great connection,” she told me.

But it turned out that the photographer looked nothing like his pictures.

“He listed his height as six feet, but he was closer to five-six and had a receding hairline. He took
Twenty-two-year-old Rebecca (not her real name) meets me at Cosmos Coffee Café in La Mesa on a Wednesday night. Her OkCupid dating-profile photos show a raven-haired, blue-eyed sexpot, but when she first walks past, I don’t even notice her. Dressed in a pink blouse over a frumpy maxi dress, Rebecca looks nothing like her online images.

When she started internet dating, she was a 19-year-old college student living in Mobile, Alabama. She signed up with the site Christian Mingle, hoping to find like-minded, faith-based men.

She had never been kissed.

“I immediately, I received lots of sexual messages. I was asked by one man to have phone sex with him, and he asked if I could be loud during it. I was a young, Southern, Alabama girl looking for a relationship. I learned quickly that maybe one out of 50 guys on there really wanted to get to know me. Because of that, I deleted my account within 24 hours."

The following morning, when she checked her email, she discovered one last Christian Mingle message. It was from a 23-year-old named Chris (not his real name), who lived in Corona, California.

“He told me I had beautiful eyes and a nice smile. He said he wanted to get to know me better. I thought it was cool that he lived in California.”

Charmed, Rebecca talked to Chris through Yahoo messenger. They soon exchanged phone numbers and began to speak daily. Within two months, they were in a long-distance romance. Despite never having met, they discussed marriage.

“I was supposed to go to California for my college spring break to meet him, but my family said no. My dad said, ‘If this guy wants to marry you, he’ll come here.’ I didn’t tell my parents that we met through a dating site till later. My dad was totally creeped out. He said, ‘Whoa, whoa, you haven’t even met this man. How do you know you love him?’ They didn’t understand."

In the end, Chris flew to Rebecca’s parents’ home for a five-day visit. Rebecca was convinced he was the man with whom she wanted to spend the rest of her life. A month later, on the final day of her sophomore year in college, she dropped out of school and caught a flight to California in order to be closer to Chris.

“I had never been out of the Southern states. When I flew to California, it was my first time on an airplane. I didn’t tell my parents I was moving until the day I left. I called my parents on the way to the airport and said, ‘I’m moving to California. If you want, you can meet me for lunch before I leave.’ My dad was so upset, he had a breakdown. My mom was sad. They thought it was insane.”

Rebecca’s parents had a hard time grasping that their 19-year-old daughter had dropped out of school and was moving across the country to live with a guy after spending only five days together.

Rebecca arrived in Corona in May. By July 4, she realized that Chris had portrayed himself one way over the internet when, in reality, he was a completely different person.

“Chris was happy with my online picture and with the way I planned to look, but never with the way I really was.”

Rebecca admits that she was naive.

“Honestly, it was a little reckless. It was the first time I had been in love... my first kiss.” She sighs. “He was my first.”

After six months,
Rebecca moved back to Alabama to live with her parents. She swore off online dating. But she soon grew bored and returned to California. In January 2012, she moved to San Diego.

She signed up for dating accounts with OkCupid and Plenty of Fish. Within a week of living in San Diego, she met a personal trainer on OkCupid. They began a five-month relationship.

“Two months ago, he married the girl he cheated on me with,” she shrugs. “And that’s not even the worst of my dating experiences. I had a guy lie about his entire identity. We started talking because I thought his profile photo was cute. He claimed he lived in La Jolla. But things didn’t add up. He said his rent was $600 a month and that his complex was ghetto. There is nothing ghetto about La Jolla, and you can’t rent an apartment there for 600 bucks.”

The man started sending Rebecca photos. He sent her a penis picture. They had phone sex a few times. Whenever she tried to make face-to-face plans, he came up with excuses about why he couldn’t meet her. After two weeks, he admitted that the photos he’d sent were of a friend. Also, he lived in New York, not La Jolla.

“He swore the penis picture he sent was his, but the other photos weren’t. He sent me a pic of what he really looks like. He is not attractive.” Rebecca laughs. I am surprised at the ease with which she accepts this. “I never thought I would actually meet someone I’d want to marry from one of these sites.”

“Two months ago, I left my then-boyfriend. He sent me a message. I thought he was hot. He took me to Benihana on our first date, and to a movie at Mission Valley AMC afterward.”

Rebecca moved back to California. In January 2012, she moved to San Diego. She signed up for dating accounts with OkCupid and Plenty of Fish. Within a week of living in San Diego, she met a personal trainer on OkCupid. They began a five-month relationship.

“I know exactly what to say in my dating profile to get any guy on these sites to email me,” she confides. “I used to be more vulnerable and real about who I was. Now I say things like: ‘I am awesome, I’m so much fun, and you can’t handle me.’ I can get the most attractive guy on these dating sites to email me. It makes me feel powerful. I have dates every night of the week. I leave Wednesday night open, just in case I want to go on a second date with one of them.”

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San Diego Reader December 27, 2012 25
Rebecca says that tonight she has her choice between the ugly, sweet guy and a new date. Both are waiting to hear whether she will be joining them for dinner.

“It takes me maybe 30 minutes on any given night to find a guy to go out with. I usually message three different guys. Someone always gets back to me.”

Rebecca has never gone out with anyone outside of internet dating. She has no idea what it’s like to meet someone randomly without checking out stats beforehand: height, weight, smoker, likes or dislikes dogs, does or does not want kids.

“I love it. It’s like a game. My 40-year-old coworker says she wishes she did what I am doing now when she was my age.”

“The problem with online dating in this town is that we live in Man Diego. There are not enough women to go around,” Carlos (not his real name) says. We are sitting in a mutual friend’s living room in Serra Mesa. Carlos is attractive, fit, and could pass for late 30s. He is 48.

“I’ve had a profile on Match.com for over a year and have only gone on five or six dates,” he says. “My profile has been viewed 14,500 times. I recently spoke to a woman who had 12,000 views after just two days on Match.” Carlos sighs with frustration. “The pretty women are snapped up immediately.” He describes his first Match.com encounter.

“I set up a date with a woman at Wine Steals in Point Loma. She had multiple photos on her profile. It was questionable how recent they were, but I decided to be open-minded. She said a minute that he would never go out with her again.

“I try to date women my age. I want to be realistic. I am looking for a relationship, not just a hook-up. I have my age preference set at 37–48. Women age quicker than men. Unfortunately, they don’t have the same shelf life. I sympathize with older women’s plight, but at the same time, I don’t want to date someone that looks old.”

Carlos has learned from his online dating experience that if a woman claims to be 40, he needs to tack on an additional five years, at least.

“Women either post outdated photos or lie about their age by 10–15 years.”

Over Labor Day weekend, Carlos set up a Sunday-night dinner date in Little Italy with a good-looking woman whose profile he viewed on Match.com.

“Her photos looked great. That night, I saw an older lady making a beeline for me. She knew who I was because I actually look like myself in my pictures. Halfway through our date, she admitted that she was five years older than she’d listed on Match.com. I think it was more like ten. That was our last date.”

Carlos finds that, in order to make an online connection, he needs to be the one to initiate things. He is the first to send a message requesting a date.

“I look at profiles and send messages to women I think I want to get to know. I rarely, if ever, hear back from them. San Diego ladies have their pick of the litter. They have to weed through the men on these dating sites. The women here have guys pawing all over them. They have more choices.”

Carlos is frustrated over the amount of work it takes to find a woman online to date.

“My view of women has become jaded. Women...”
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on these sites say things like, ‘I want someone that makes me laugh.’ I can respect that, but I am not a comedian. I shouldn’t have to be. There are women on Match that say you have to make a minimum of $150,000-plus a year in order to even contact them. I can appreciate it, if that’s what they want, but if a man makes that much money, he doesn’t need to be on Match.com to get a date.”

Carlos thought it sounded like fun.

A few months ago, Carlos noticed that Match was advertising an event called “The Stir.”

“Basically, it was a singles mixer. In the advertisement, they had good-looking people smiling and having a good time. It was at House of Blues in the Gaslamp.”

He arrived early at House of Blues. The place was pumping. Loud music blared from the upper level. There appeared to be a nice mix of older and younger people. Carlos told the doorman he was there for the Match.com event. To his disappointment, he was led to a different gathering downstairs.

“It was in a hidden corner that looked like a dungeon. I walked in and looked around. The people were losers. I was wearing nice slacks and a nice shirt. These guys were wearing cheap tennis shoes and jeans. I thought, Hell, no, I’m not staying for this. There were only a couple of girls. I left. By that point, there was a big line of people trying to get into the event. I wouldn’t date any of them.”

Due to failed dates, Carlos has nearly given up hope of meeting a nice San Diego woman online. “It’s easier for girls,” Margarita says. “You can be a minimally attractive

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woman and get hundreds of messages from guys trying to date you. I got a lot of messages. I think I responded to Avi because he’s a really good writer. What he wrote was eloquent and funny. He wasn’t trying too hard or being too serious. It didn’t seem like he was just trying to get laid.”

Avi and Margarita agree that the profiles on dating sites are fairly generic. For the most part, everyone says the same thing. For instance: everyone likes to take walks on the beach, go on picnics, and drink a nice glass of wine.

Margarita says, “For me to click on a guy’s profile, something had to really stand out. Everyone had the same crap. It became borderline cheesy. I’m not going to lie: the first thing I looked at was their picture. As soon as you click on them, you get a stat sheet. It’s pretty awesome, assuming they’re telling the truth. You learn if they are college-educated, a smoker, like dogs, or if they want kids. It was easy to get rid of people based on their stats. It takes all the hard work out of dating. I could come home from work, sit on my couch, and read people’s stats.”

“Women on these sites say things like, ‘I want someone that makes me laugh.’ I can respect that, but I am not a comedian.”

Avi went on a handful of dates through JDate prior to meeting Margarita. “I went out with one girl who looked cute in her pics. She had a nice-looking bikini photo, but when I met her at a bar in PB, she ended up looking like a Chargers linebacker. Another woman invited me to the University Club, had me pay for our $100 meal, and later serenaded me on a grand piano. It was awkward.”

After emailing back-and-forth through JDate, Margarita and Avi decided to meet at Altitude in the Gaslamp on a Saturday night. Avi showed up at 9:30 with a group of friends. Margarita and some of her friends were to meet them at 10:00. Margarita called and canceled, and Avi spent a chunk of his night talking to her over the phone from the club.

“At 12:30, she told me how much she loved chocolate-covered macadamias. I had a box at my place from a recent trip to Hawaii, so I said, ‘What if I come over right now? I’ll bring a box of those chocolate-covered macadamia nuts.’”

Margarita agreed. Avi arrived at Margarita’s La Jolla apartment at 1:15 in the morning. She looked out the window and saw him parking a cherry-red 1989 BMW.

“My first impression was, Gross! What kind of douche drives a fire-engine-red used BMW? I thought, ‘Let me get this chocolate and get him out of here. I was gagging.’

“I was dressed nice because I’d just come from downtown,” Avi says. “Margarita came to the door in old sweats and a sweatshirt. Her hair was pulled back. I could tell she was cute, but I had no idea she had a slamming body.”

They both smile at the memory. “We walked her dogs for two hours that night,” Avi says.

Margarita says, “When I opened the door, he was talking a lot. I needed Man, this guy won’t shut up. It was late. I needed from downtown,” Avi says. “Margarita came to the door in old sweats and a sweatshirt. Her hair was pulled back. I could tell she was cute, but I had no idea she had a slamming body.”

They both smile at the memory. “We walked her dogs for two hours that night,” Avi says.

Margarita says, “When I opened the door, he was talking a lot. I was, like, Man, this guy won’t shut up. It was late. I needed
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to walk my dogs. I figured he could come with me to walk them. I thought he couldn’t be that bad. He was definitely more excited over the whole thing than I was.”

“I was just excited to finally meet a cute girl,” Avi says.

Three days later, the two went on a real date. Avi took Margarita to a Padres game.

“When I picked her up, she had on snug little white capris.”

Margarita laughs before correcting Avi. “They weren’t snug!”

“She looked adorable,” Avi says. “Her hair was in a ponytail. She had on a Padres shirt on. She seemed excited over the whole thing than I was.”

He was definitely more excited to walk them. I thought he couldn’t be that bad.

A few days after their date, Margarita emailed Avi. She told him she wasn’t interested in him romantically. But Avi wasn’t about to let her go.

“I made her meet me for lunch the next day. I claimed I was in her neighborhood.”

He convinced Margarita to give him one more chance. Friday night, he took her to the San Diego Symphony.

Saturday, both of them had dates with other people from JDate. Avi took a woman to the Corinne Bailey Rae concert at the Embarcadero. Margarita went with a freelance writer to a party at Kitty Diamond in Hillcrest.

“I liked Avi, but I wasn’t going to take my JDate profile down just yet. It’s like buying a pair of jeans from Nordstrom. After three wears, you can return them and get something different at Neiman Marcus.”

After four weeks of dating, Avi and Margarita mutually decided to take down their JDate profiles. They began an exclusive relationship.

“I realized pretty quickly that I didn’t want to waste my time with anyone else,” Margarita says. “It was never forced with Avi. I didn’t have to pretend to be anyone other than myself.”

“I said ‘I love you’ first,” Avi says, “but she said it with her eyes. She had hungry eyes. I wanted to ease her pain.”

Margarita rolls her eyes.

“In July, she sent me a blown-up photo of an engagement ring. ‘Just in case, hehehe,’ it said.”

Margarita shoots back, “I don’t remember doing that.”

A year after their first date, Avi asked Margarita to marry him.

Avi wrote JDate a thank-you letter that included his and Margarita’s love story. Shortly after, the couple was contacted by the site.

“JDate was doing an advertising blitz and wanted to interview us. We said, ‘Sure.’”

They were invited to Los Angeles, were interviewed, and had photos taken.

“We had no idea how the photos would be used,” Avi says. “We signed a waiver saying that JDate had the right to use our images. We got no compensation. Not long after, I got a text from someone in New York saying that our photo was in Times Square, up on a billboard.”

“That was a shock,” Margarita says. “After that, a friend of mine in L.A. sent us a photo of a gigantic billboard of Avi and I, in the heart of L.A. It was cool but weird.”

“Later, we did a national televised commercial for them,” Avi adds.

In April 2009, two years after their first date, Avi and Margarita got married at the Museum of Contemporary Art in La Jolla.

“We recommend online dating to family and friends constantly,” Margarita says. “It’s effortless. If you know what you like, you don’t have to waste your time. It sounds shallow, but who the heck has time to date in the old-fashioned sense? Meeting someone at a bar or club is so much harder.”

“It’s rare nowadays to find the high-school or college sweethearts,” Avi adds. “People don’t date like that anymore. That’s a lost art.”

—Siobhan Braun

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I try to never wear the same thing twice

The first day I meet Kenny King, his nipples show through a short-sleeved white button-up. So does a tattoo across his belly that reads “KING.” Oddly, the see-through shirt isn’t the first thing I notice. Instead, upon entering Frock You, the Park Boulevard vintage-clothing store where King works as the manager, I’m mesmerized by his hat. This tall, woven straw number calls to mind the Amish, though I imagine they’d consider the long (pheasant?) feather ostentatious.

King’s whole package reads as bizarre — from the hat, to the high-waisted twill (or is it tweed?) pants too short to even graze his ankles, to the bolo tie, the crocodile shoes, and the four turquoise rings that adorn his fingers.

When I suggest that the outfit reads “naughty Amish,” King laughs. “That’s the look I’ve been rocking lately. It’s kind of minimalism.” Then he adds, “I’m all over the map. When people ask what my favorite decade is, my answer is ‘Now. Because we can mix and match.’ I can walk down the street wearing a muumuu, gold chains, and cowboy boots, which I do, and nobody cares.”

The second time we meet, over coffee at Influx in Golden Hill, his look is more subdued. King is off work, sporting a Monsters of Rock T-shirt from 1988 that features Godzilla in a pair of sunglasses, carrying...
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an electric guitar. King says he’s wearing 1960s swim trunks — they’re colored with bright fish — because his new tattoo needs to breathe.

Then he shows me the woman etched into the back of his thigh. Her lashes are long and she wears a neck-load of jewelry.

“I like that she’s pretty and holding a bat,” he says (think Dracula, not baseball).

Today, for our third encounter, King has on a T-shirt with a repeated Campbell’s Soup logo. His snapback trucker hat is also printed with the soup logo. Black cut-off jeans and red high-top Chuck Taylors complete the look. He says he’s dressed himself as a tribute to Andy Warhol (who’s tattooed onto King’s left forearm).

It’s day one of the August Huge Frocking Sale, an every-other-month event at Frock You. The store is located on the border between Hillcrest, University Heights, and North Park, on a wide boulevard that still exhibits some of the area’s working-class roots. Despite the increased presence of spas and expensive-trinket boutiques, an occasional elderly resident still walks by carting bags of clothes to the laundromat.

Today, racks of sale items have been set up in the partially tented yard between Frock You and a weathered apartment building next door. The combination of signage, an open fence, and foot traffic around the storefront give the block a festive atmosphere. Though it’s midday and sweltering, the yard is buzzed with early-bird shoppers. Inside, where the goods are full-price, King mans the register under the breeze of ceiling fans. A line snakes around to the open front door.

“I love that shirt,” says a guy in a black rock T-shirt. He nods at King. “You’re rockin’ the hat. That’s f**kin’ killer.” The guy places a taupe-colored gabric-shirt on the counter for King to ring up.

“Yes, thanks,” King says, bagging the shirt. “I actually took a picture of myself in front of the original [Warhol] paintings at the Museum of Modern Art. I literally cried.”

The guy looks away and mumbles, “Right on,” clearly not the type to cry and talk about it.

A moment later, a tall girl with a black pixie cut greets King familiarly, coming around the counter to kiss his cheek.

“I’m here for the Burn,” she says. That would be Burning Man, the annual weekend “experiment in temporary community dedicated to radical self-expression and radical ing in the pre-dawn hours. A sporty California blonde couple in khaki shorts and tank tops throws a pile of $40 as fur coats on the counter, along with an $8 pink-and-gold turban. They’re both sweating.

“You guys are going to Burning Man, I take it,” King says.

“No,” the woman says, smiling. “We’re just really cold.”

“Yeah,” the guys adds. “This summer’s not hot enough for us.”

King laughs. The couple does, too.

Across the store, two women flip through a rack of floral prints reminiscent of Little House on the Prairie and grandma’s-closet-scented housedresses. One woman pulls out a peach-green plaid dress.

“This is so Peggy,” she says to her friend, referring to Mad Men’s ambitious young feminist character. “You’re so Peggy.”

“When people ask what my favorite decade is, my answer is ‘Now.’”

When the line dies down for a moment, King takes a break. “People come here for several reasons. He leans against a rack of old-timey fancy lady slips. “Some come for costumes, so I have to be educated about the different eras. Others, who are collectors, come because they have a love of a specific decade or a specific label. Some come just for the fun of treasure-hunting. I get a lot of kids coming in for prom dresses. They’re the ones who want to stand out and be unique from the pack.”

For the next few minutes, King philosophizes that creative people are drawn to vintage clothing because they want to stand out. Frock You, he says, and other vintage stores in what he calls the “tri-neighborhood area” (North Park, Hillcrest, and University Heights) fill a need in San Diego, helping it to develop a semi-self-reliance (as stated on the event website) that takes place in Nevada’s Black Rock Desert.

“Sure,” King says. “There’s tons of stuff outside.”

Before pixie-cut leaves to shop the racks in the yard, she points at King. “You look great. I love it.”

Along with Frock You, three other vendors have set up shop outside. One is known for vintage costumes, a big sell in the months prior to Burning Man. Furs are a hit, too, as months prior to Burning Man, the annual Rock Desert.

“Then he shows me the event website) that takes place in Nevada’s Black Rock Desert.

He shrugs off the idea of creating a blog to showcase the photos. He’s not interested in doing what everyone else does. A few days from now, he’ll email a handful of the outfit photos to me. Some are as…interest ing as the Amish get-up he wore the first time we met.

In one, he wears a red-and-white-striped jacket, black pants, and a flat-topped straw hat adorned with a wide black ribbon. He looks like a popcorn-seller at the circus. In another, he wears black jeans, a black T-shirt that says “F**k the Man” (spelled correctly), a black, short-sleeved hoodie, and a silver-studded rocker vest. The hood is pulled up, and his long hair is combed over his face.

“I’m not a fashionista,”
he says. “I have fun playing. Every day’s an opportunity to push the envelope.”

On the street, people sometimes whisper and laugh at him. When they do, King considers the outfit “a job well done.”

I assume he’s hiding hurt feelings about being laughed at, but looking at the pictures, particularly one in which he wears a large floral-print muumuu and his head wrapped, African-woman-style, in an orange-and-brown paisley scarf, it’s clear that these outfits are Kenny King’s art medium. It’s also clear that he likes to amp up the shock value.

King offers a story to explain his point of view.

“About two months ago, my home was ransacked, robbed, violently intruded — by two men, I suppose. They kicked my door down and came in with butcher knives from the [apartment] downstairs.”

Luckily, King wasn’t in his Logan Heights home when this happened. He knows about the butcher knives only because the intruders left them behind. The burglars stole jewelry, clothing, credit cards, his passport, and other things that he shrugs off now.

“What they did take that hurt for a few days is my fireproof filing-cabinet safe that held 15-plus years of photographic negatives. It was something that could only mean something to me and that I could never replace. Now, it’s in a landfill somewhere, I’m sure.”

As much as that hurt, though, King began to see “details and synchronicity.” It made him believe “there’s something greater in the works.”

There were, for example, photos in his collection that he’d considered burning in the weeks leading up to the burglary. The burning would symbolize “liberation from the past.” The break-in accomplished the same thing, if on a larger scale.

“For so long, I was trying to be an artist, to be somebody,” he says. “Now I can be liberated to become a nobody, which is really to be somebody.”

He cites the Socratic Injunction “Know thyself” as the theme of the “inward journey” he is now on, and he’s ready with an answer when I ask how dressing for a reaction from other people constitutes an inward journey. “I’m not trying to create art as a product,” he says. “I’m on a quest for the art of being.”

That quest has specific particulars. For example, every suit King buys for himself lands in the hands of a seamstress before he wears it. Though this may not seem unusual, his request of the seamstress is: he asks her to make the pants highwaters.

“The first few times I went, she pinned the hem right at my ankle. I was, like, ‘Higher, higher,’” he says.

Then, there’re his orange socks. Again, not so strange, except that he went to great lengths to get them. After failing to locate the right color anywhere else, he found himself in a Hermes store. The salesperson looked online and discovered, in their inventory, that there were only two pairs in the country.

“I said, ‘Can you ship them to me?’ So she did. There are only two pairs in the country, and one of them is mine.”

How much is a pair of orange Hermes socks?

“About 50 bucks. I know it’s a splurge, but they’re great.”

King’s love of all things vintage began in junior high in Salinas, California, where he was inspired by the Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane, and Country Joe Airplane, and Country Joe

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and the Fish. He grew his hair out and started collecting vintage rock T-shirts, of which he has about 120 today. He shopped for himself at thrift stores and eventually became a “picker” — someone who shops at garage sales, thrift stores, and estate sales, to find things to resell at buy/sell/trade stores.

Salinas had a good supply of vintage clothing, but no demand, so whenever King was ready to sell his booty, he traveled 100 miles north to San Francisco.

Although the bulk of his formal education is in fine arts and art history — which led to jobs with antiquities dealers, fine-arts appraisal companies, and the San Diego Museum of Art — his obsession with silent films and classic cinema drove his study of fashion.

“In those old movies, whenever there’s a crowd scene, I’ll pause [the movie] and take it all in.”

If I hadn’t originally been directed to Frock You by so many hip and vintage-happy San Diegans, I would never have guessed from looking at him that King is the Frock shopper’s stuff.

“Are you getting that Odd Fellows costume?” he asks the man, who holds up a coat with gold fringe on the epaulettes.

The man says it’s already been paid for, that he pur-
man nods absently, watching King's hands as he folds and bags red-and-black houndstooth-print pants. The man has purchased them for $36.

"Aren't these buckles beautiful?" King asks.

Again the man nods.

When the couple has gone, King says to me, "I'd love to own one of those Odd Fellows costumes."

Three long-haired teenage girls in halter-tops stand around a rack of sunglasses by the register. They're spinning the rack and trying on shades, checking themselves out in a full-length mirror. Every ten seconds, one puts her hair up in a loose bun on top of her head while another shakes her hair free. Up and down the hair goes.

Meanwhile, King resumes his cash-register duties, ringing up customers and bagging their new/old clothes.

A woman who’s purchasing a blue-and-white dress says to King, "I think you dressed every single one of the men at a Mad Men party I went to. Every time someone would say, 'Hey, where'd you get your suit?' to one of the guys, he'd say, 'Frock You.'"

I'm running my fingers over a slip at the front of the rack, priced at $24. It's long, pink, and diaphanous —dying to be worn by a woman with a drink in one hand and a cigarette in the other. I tell King it reminds me of Betty Draper.

"Mad Men has rekindled our interest in the early 1960s. That was a good era."

He explains that his six years on the job at the shop have been an education in all things fashion-related.

"You become kind of an amateur historian," he says.

Later, he'll explain that, for some, connection to a particular era is more about how the styles of that time fit their bodies. For instance, that woman might not care for the bias cuts of the 1930s because she doesn't like how they fit her shape.

"Our greatest work of art is ourselves," he says.

"Is that a quote?" I ask him. Did someone famous say that?

King shrugs. "Don't know. I would assume so."
— Elizabeth Salaam

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Economy for 2013

continued from page 2

rates. (Keep in mind that home values plunged by more than 40 percent beginning in late 2005 and are still down by about 35 percent from that peak. Median home values are above $360,000, among the highest in the nation.)

In its heyday, real estate, including construction, represented 23 percent of the San Diego economy, says Cunningham. Only a couple of sizzling Florida markets had higher percentages. San Diego’s percentage has gone down, says Cunningham.

In 2013, “consumer spending will slow,” says Cunningham. Higher taxes will definitely impact spending. Coming out of the 2008–2009 debacle, “we were showing consumer spending increases, but on a per capita basis we are far below where we were before.” One problem is that internet purchases haven’t been counted in taxable sales. But that began changing in September, when Amazon.com, the biggest online merchant, started collecting sales taxes on purchases made by California buyers. Those tax receipts will help local governments. But whether sales are brick-and-mortar or online, “people are just not spending,” and the tightfistedness may intensify next year.

“There is not much income growth,” says Cox. “There are more people with jobs, but they are not earning as much.” On the other hand, some are doing very well — particularly in tech. Investment capital is pouring into San Diego far more rapidly than in recent years, notes Cox. A December report by the Bay Area Council Economic Institute indicates that tech jobs are 11.1 percent of San Diego County jobs. That puts the metro area 13th in the nation. The average San Diego tech salary is $110,408, topping the United States average of $95,832.

Tourism is recovering, says Cox, but employment is not back up to pre-recession levels. Travel expert Jerry Morrison of Encinitas notes that the San Diego occupancy rate and average daily room rate still lag comparable 2007 levels. But San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Orange County have done much better recovering.

In 2011, the San Diego economy grew by 2.1 percent adjusted for inflation. This year, it will grow by 1.7 percent. Next year? Even lower — 1.5 percent, says Cunningham. That would be worse than California’s 1.6 percent and the nation’s 2 percent. Cox thinks San Diego’s inflation-adjusted growth could be 2 to 2.5 percent, but the gain would largely be coming from productivity, or output per worker hour.

So you may be told to do more work for the same amount of pay — or less.

Manchester restaurant

continued from page 3

ward to contributing to La Jolla’s culinary scene. “Putting a new restaurant there will be great. It’s such a lively area. I’m looking forward to joining the dining scene in La Jolla. Between Eddie V’s, the Herringbone, there is an amazing culinary movement in La Jolla. I’m glad to say that we are going to join that group.”

And as for the noise and the impacts to the quality of life for Hyman and her neighbors, Voss assures the residents that there will be no live band or DJ playing loud music late into the night.

“There will be a piano playing live at the back of the restaurant. There will not be any live bands, at least not that I am aware of.”

Amaya at La Jolla is expected to open in February 2013.

CITY LIGHTS

NEWS TICKER

continued from page 2

and told employees he had a gun and a bomb strapped to his body. The teller discreetly added a small GPS tracking device to the undisclosed amount of cash she handed the suspect, who then fled on foot.

Less than an hour after the robbery took place, FBI agents and SDPD tracked the money to a nearby residence in Imperial Beach. A perimeter was established around the home on California Street at Grove Avenue where the suspect was hiding, and shortly after 5:15 p.m. took a man matching witnesses’ descriptions into custody. An SDPD officer confirmed, “We got the guy we were looking for.”

Witness Rhonda Smith, who was in the credit union to open a savings account with her son, said, “I was sitting right where I could see everything and didn’t see a thing. It wasn’t until a bank employee announced that we were on lockdown that we knew something had happened. Afterwards, my son asked if we were still open and I told him, ‘Maybe another time.’”

Peter Salisbury, December 18

Happy Holiday Bowl, Bridgepoint!

The Street lists “5 Strangest College Bowl Sponsors”
San Diego/Beyond SD — Wall Street publication The Street recently looked at the five strangest college-bowl sponsors. One is San Diego’s highly controversial Bridgepoint Education, sponsor of the Holiday Bowl.

The publication notes that the contestants, Baylor and UCLA, are “actual universities. They have campuses, buildings, accredited faculty, and a student body that matriculates, graduates, and becomes a proud alumni base.” Then there’s Bridgepoint, which the publication calls “a diploma mill” — although it points out that more than 60 per-
Don’t mess with Jesus?
City council to appeal $1.1 million religious school verdict
North Park — The San Diego City Council has quietly voted to appeal a federal jury’s $1.1 million verdict in favor of North Park’s Academy of Our Lady of Peace, virtually guaranteeing that the long-running controversy will remain on the front burner at city hall for the foreseeable future.

According to a closed-session report from the meeting of December 4, the council voted 9-0 on a motion by First District councilwoman Sherri Lightner to authorize the city attorney to pursue the city’s battle against the verdict, which held that the city violated the Catholic all-girl high school’s religious rights when it refused to grant permits for expansion.

As Dorian Hargrove reported here in April of last year, the school’s lobbyist Paul Robinson had warned the council that his client would move ahead with its federal court case charging the city with violating the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act unless a settlement was reached. The council deadlocked on the matter.

In its October verdict, the jury said the city’s denial of the development permits was a “substantial burden” on the school’s right to religious expression.

The Oregon Street school is seeking to build new classrooms, a media center, and a parking garage, but has run into fierce opposition from neighbors and others concerned about overcrowded streets and demolition of historic houses.

City attorney Jan Goldsmith appears to be up against a formidable and potentially costly legal foe in the academy’s attorney, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan-based Daniel Dalton, a specialist in religious-land-use law who has prevailed in dozens of cases on behalf of churches and other religious institutions around the country, according to his website.

Matt Potter, December 18

Papa makes his own rules
Manchester sued by shareholders over sale of NextWave Wireless
San Diego — Douglas “Papa Doug” Manchester has become infamous for ignoring the rules. Whether they be violating FCC rules by installing unlicensed cell-phone towers at the Grand Del Mar, building a vintage auto museum inside the headquarters of the U-T San Diego without permission from the City of San Diego, or by racking up permit violations — one for building an illegal helistop at his resort — Manchester has proved that no rule is too big or small to break.

Now comes another case where Doug Manchester has allegedly ignored the law — or in this case, the financial interests of stockholders who invested in NextWave Wireless.

On September 5, 2012, Manchester and other NextWave board members were named in a class-action lawsuit, filed by the company’s shareholders after Manchester and company sold the wireless service to communications giant AT&T.

NextWave’s board of directors was accused of breaching their fiduciary duty to the shareholders by selling common shares at a discounted rate while selling their own for a much higher price.

In the deal, AT&T acquired the estimated 25 million common shares of NextWave at the low price of $1.00 per share, including a stipulation that may have added an additional 95 cents in interest.

“Even if NextWave shareholders were to receive the entire $1.95 consideration, which appears unlikely, the proposed consideration is inadequate,” states the lawsuit. “According to Yahoo! Finance, the median price target for [NextWave] is $10.00 per share — far above the proposed consideration.”

A status conference on the case will be held at the Superior Court downtown on March 1, 2013.

Dorian Hargrove, December 17

Everlasting money machine
Supervisor Cox starts 2016 fundraising, less than seven months after winning re-election bid
Chula Vista — As noted here back in February of this year, GOP county supervisor Greg Cox has long proved to be a dedicated fundraiser for himself, even if his electoral competition is virtually nonexistent.

By this time last year, Cox had squirreled away $343,939.

In June, Cox easily bested his token reelection opponent and was honored as a member of the Lung Association’s “Clean Air Circle,” after a host of local special interests, including Solar Turbines, the Sycuan casino tribe, and the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, a public agency, contributed $5000 each to the charity on his behalf.

Then, last Thursday, Cox made it official, filing a statement of his intention to run again for reelection in 2016, along with setting up a new campaign committee, “Friends of Greg Cox for Supervisor 2016.”

So-called eternal political fundraising campaigns such as Cox’s are legal, but critics say that they can encourage corruption by offering special interests year-around opportunities to curry favor with elected officials by employing sizable cash contributions.

Such fundraising practices include competitors’ coupons for equivalent services.

We consider competitors’ coupons for equivalent services.

*New patients only, with this ad. Expires 01/09/13.
CITY LIGHTS

NEWS TICKER

aren't confined to Republicans; one of this year's biggest Democratic examples has been San Diego City Councilman Todd Gloria, who this fall lavished his extra cash—raised from an array of special interests—on his political friends and allies.

Matt Potter, December 17

Rapist sought in Baja

California man convicted after fleeing believed to be hiding in the Tijuana area

Baja — A Northern California man convicted on rape charges despite recently disappearing is being sought in Baja California after his mother’s vehicle was recorded crossing into Mexico on Wednesday, December 12.

Spencer Scarber, the 20-year-old convicted rapist from Squaw Valley, California, was convicted last Friday of raping and robbing a 35-year-old Squaw Valley woman.

Scarber is facing a 112-year sentence and is awaiting another trial regarding raping a minor while he was free on bail from the initial case.

According to state prosecutor Leanne Le Mon, federal border crossing records show Spencer’s mother, Gail Scarber, crossing into Mexico at San Ysidro around 3:24 a.m. The records also show that Gail and Spencer’s sister crossed back into the U.S. on foot at 4:44 a.m.

Spencer Scarber is 5’9” and weighs 155 pounds. He is believed to be in the Tijuana area or to have traveled further south toward Ensenada. Anyone with information is asked to call the Fresno County Sheriff’s Office at 559-488-3111.

K. Mennem, December 17

Hikers rescued via helicopter

Pair was ill-equipped for weather, conditions

Lakeside — Santee sheriff’s deputies were called upon to employ a Search and Rescue team along with a department helicopter over the weekend in the rescue of a pair of hikers who became lost on El Cajon Mountain, which actually sits to the northeast of Lakeside near the El Capitan Reservoir.

The hikers said in an emergency phone call that they were “lost, cold, wet, and unprepared” for Friday afternoon’s rain showers.

A first pass with the helicopter determined which side of the mountain the pair was located on, but weather conditions prevented visual contact. At this point the Search and Rescue team was deployed. Once the rain cleared, the helicopter was able to spot the two in a largely inaccessible ravine, and the hikers were airlifted to safety.

The female, shaking uncontrollably, was transported to Grossmont Hospital due to weather exposure.

Dave Rice, December 17

MORE CHANCES TO WIN!

sdreader.com/contests

Win New Year’s Dinner at Solare!

Enter to win a dinner for two at Solare on New Year’s Eve!

Enter by Friday, December 28 at 1PM

Win a Spa Package for Two!

Enter to win a Paradise Spa Package for two at A Touch of Clover.

Enter by Thursday, January 3 at 1PM

Win a Pair of Ugg Boots!

Enter to win a pair of Ugg boots from Birkenstock of San Diego.

Enter by Tuesday, January 8 at 1PM

LETTERS

continued from page 4

A Universal Bay?

RE: “Bay Dreams,” November 29 cover story

San Diego Bay can’t be everything to everyone. It’s already mostly committed to the U.S. Navy and commercial interests. Furthermore, there are just too many governmental entities asking for a piece of the pie. In my opinion, the Port District has essentially done no meaningful coordination of these interests and done no worthwhile planning.

A Manchester-style plan for downtown’s waterfront — a football stadium, sports arena, and park where the Tenth Avenue Marine Terminal now sits — do not belong along the bay. If the bay “quacks like a duck,” I’m sure you know the rest.

Why do so many persons want to remake the bay for everyone? A universal bay? I doubt it. How about cries to “do something?” I don’t like to be a defeatist and rain on your parade but, in my opinion, it’s too late. Look at what the Port has permitted to happen over the past years. There is a wall of large buildings around the edge of the bay and more to come, at least on the San Diego side. A great opportunity to make something of the bay edge has been ignored by land developers, investors, greedy builders, and the stupid Port District. It’s gone; it’s too late, folks. And a stadium, sports arena, and park (big or little)? Where? Access? More walling off the bay? These large users of large pieces of land and generators of traffic jams, not to mention many other issues, should be located where there is sufficient space and relatively easy access.

Not downtown.

It’s a joke to start planning now! You missed your opportunity, San Diego. Perhaps Chula Vista and the other cities around the bay can do better. Let’s hope so.

When the U-T starts planning for the bay we’re all in trouble. Doug Manchester has nothing else on his mind other than to develop the bay and make direct or indirect money. That’s his track record. Don’t be fooled by his interest to do something big for San Diego. How about doing something big for Papa Doug?

As far as the “unsightly industrial property” is concerned, I say leave it and let the normal process of change take place. Let’s call it “evolution planning.” Probably just as good as people mucking around with maps and such.

There is some truth in the opinion that the bay should be for marine use, especially when one looks into the future. The edge of the bay may not change in the next 50 years, but if it does, it couldn’t be much worse than what’s happened so far. An interesting approach, keep it a working waterfront!

As for the Navy property, Papa Doug has had a long-term strong connection to that property and the U.S. Navy. He’s got plans just like he had plans when he bought the U-T and North County Times. Beware San Diegans, I say.

There is too much greed in this city and in the power structure. And the shame of it all is that once a building is built, it’s probably there for at least a hundred years or more. Architect Moran has some interesting ideas, but it’s too late and it won’t happen. There is the power structure and then there is everyone else. Who has the upper hand? If this land is so valuable then why aren’t the decision-makers setting it aside for future generations?

Every few years one or more people bring up things that could be done to enhance the waterfront of the bay. Max Schmidt did it 40 years ago. He railed against walling off the bay. Did it do any good? No. I guess there was too much money to be made. Take a great environmental opportunity, the bay, and screw everything up just to make money.

As for Rob Quigley and the library, I made up my mind long ago that a main downtown library didn’t make sense. Sure, it’s a great monument to our political leaders. Most people who live outside Centre City will not commute to use it. So, does it make sense to spend a huge amount of money on a main library? Or should that money have been used in smaller, outlying, community-based libraries? Of course, that’s not Rob’s problem. He moves on making a commission and having his name bandied about in architectural publications. Good on you, Rob. Rob says, “If the Port reneges on the commitment to go forward with our [winning design], the city will never touch the water.” I think this says it all: the Port is in control. The governing body, in this case the Port District, is in a quandary. It doesn’t know what to do. So, it will probably look to Manchester and others who might make a buck, and that’s the direction that will be taken.

Al Mercer via email

DIARY OF A DIVA

continued from page 8

ment on his face was a millstone that ground my insides into guilt-infused dust. But the next year, it wasn’t so bad. And the year after that (last year), though my family continued to express their desire for my participation, they didn’t push as hard. They are becoming okay with my veering from one of their traditions to create my own. And they still love me. Better still, they love me for me. I have found sincerity in “no,” and I have found serenity in sincerity.
Thursday | 27
VAMP BEST OF 2012
So Say We All dedicates this December storytelling and live literature performance showcase to celebrating their favorite performers of 2012: Jessica Ruane, April Ventura, Ryan Bradford, Pat Johnson, Justin Hudnall, Holland Holzer, Laura Condi, Brian Simpson, Dallas McLaughlin, Rory Kelly. Dance party to follow, featuring DJ Ill Spectre. Ages 21+. $0–$5.

WHEN: 8:30 to 11:00 p.m.
WHERE: Whistle Stop Bar, 2236 Fern Street, South Park. 619-284-6784

Saturday | 29
JOURNEY THROUGH THE CITY
Visitors of all ages can invent their own city and explore an imaginary urban environment with others during this guided workshop. Working with more than 1000 pieces of various materials, visitors will be able to manipulate and transform their visionary models of urban landscapes. The workshop’s theme is integration: How would you design buildings and roads around a river?

WHEN: 1:00 to 2:30 p.m or 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.
WHERE: San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado, Balboa Park

Sunday | 30
LUMINOUS PAINTING IN OIL
Spend the day painting. Visiting artist Cynda Valle guides participants in the exploration of both the notion of chiaroscuro (the notion that to achieve luminosity, the painted light must also include shadow), as practiced by classical painters, and the use of broken color, as practiced by the impressionists. Each student will produce a painting using the methods and materials discussed. Materials list provided upon registration. $122–$140.

WHEN: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
WHERE: Bravo School of Art, 2690 Decatur Road, Studio 206, Point Loma. 619-223-0058; Bravoschoolofart.com

Monday | 31
UPTOWN GET-DOWN

WHEN: 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
WHERE: Flagship San Diego Harbor Excursion, 990 North Harbor Drive, Downtown. 619-522-6155; flagshipsd.com

Wednesday | 2
CABARET DANCES
San Diego Dance Theater presents “Cabaret Dances: The Water Lilies (Nymphéas),” an impressionistic dance based on Monet’s water lily paintings, permeated by the artistic energy of creating and performed with live music. Free.

WHEN: 8:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.
WHERE: Queen Bee’s Art and Cultural Center, 3925 Ohio Street, North Park. 619-255-5147; queenbeessd.com

Tuesday | 1
BRUNCH CRUISE
Keep the celebration going with bottomless champagne and mimosas, buffet, and live entertainment on San Diego Harbor. Omelet station, seafood station, carved top sirloin, turkey breast, oven-roasted potatoes, bacon, sausage, sliced ham, and more. Just be sure to leave room for the pancakes, Belgian waffles, fresh fruit, assorted pastries, and a chocolate fountain. $37.50–$59.50.

WHEN: 4:00 and 7:00 p.m.
WHERE: California Center for the Arts, 340 North Escondido Boulevard, Escondido. 760-839-4186; artcenter.org/performances/
Alaska’s Spectacular Turnagain Arm
By Derek Ray

It takes little time after heading south from Anchorage to be exposed to some of the most stunning scenery Alaska has to offer. The Seward Highway, connecting Anchorage with the Kenai Peninsula, has been described as one of the great drives in the world, one of only 15 drives in America designated an “All American Road.”

The two-lane highway snakes along the Turnagain Arm for 125 miles with magnificent vistas of Cook Inlet (named after Captain Cook, who looked for the Northwest Passage here) and the snow-capped Chugach Mountains in the distance. I’d compare the quality of the scenery to that along Highway 1 in Big Sur; others have made the comparison to Amalfi Drive in southern Italy.

There are many stopping points along the way, and it’s hard to resist pulling over every few hundred yards to admire a scene and snap a few pictures. Along with the spectacular views, you might spot Dall sheep on the rocky slopes, bald eagles along the mud flats, or beluga whales in the water. Some of my favorite points along the way are Potter Marsh, a popular spot for bird-watching; Beluga Point, where you might spot a whale (I didn’t); and Bird Point, with its observation platforms providing a sweeping view of the Cook Inlet and surrounding Chugach Mountains. Bird Creek is the spot to stop for salmon-fishing.

The Potter Section House, just south of Potter Marsh, features a small railroad museum and the Chugach State Park headquarters. Across the street, you can find parking for the Potter Creek Trailhead, which provides opportunity for a nine-mile hike with a good chance of spotting wildlife.

For a more panoramic view of the surrounding area, take the turnoff to Girdwood, about 40 miles south of Anchorage, and head to the five-star Alyeska Resort. Hop the ski tram up Mount Alyeska and enjoy a spectacular view of the surrounding area. There are nature trails for hicking and restaurants with knockout views.

Just past the Girdwood turnoff, take time to visit the nonprofit Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center. This is Alaska’s version of the San Diego Wild Animal Park, where native wildlife have a more open setting than they would in a zoo. Bears, caribou, moose, musk ox, bison, and bald eagles can all be seen here.

A few hundred yards further south, take the turnoff to Portage Glacier. The Begich Boggs Visitor Center is a worthwhile stop and provides in-depth information on the area. The center overlooks beautiful Portage Lake. I spotted ice floating in the lake, but it is no longer possible to see Portage Glacier from there. The center once sat at the foot of the glacier, but due to climate change, getting to the glacier now necessitates a scenic half-mile walk or a boat cruise.

The Seward Highway is the link between Anchorage and the Kenai Peninsula, offering a wealth of outdoor opportunities. Whether you’re looking for hiking, bird-watching, or just enjoying the stunning scenery, the Seward Highway has it all.

continued on page 46

Gather No Moss
TRAVEL STORIES AND TIPS FROM OUR READERS

Roadside scenery from Turnagain Arm, looking out at the Cook Inlet and Chugach Mountains to the north

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continued on page 46

Other Adventures

Potter Marsh

cwITHERSmedia: A November sunset along the Na Pali Coast in Kauai, Hawaii

mwilliamsinsd: Hiking around Mt. San Jacinto, near Idyllwild

atthisvolume_x: Millennium Bridge at Newcastle, England
ROAM-O-RAMA
San Diego Outdoors with the Canyoneers

BUENA VISTA PARK – ARROYO VISTA TRAIL

An urban park opens to a natural, semi-wild area with a creek and a dense riparian forest.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 40 miles. Allow 45 minutes driving time. Take the I-15 north to Escondido, then merge onto westbound SR-78. Exit SR-78 at Sycamore, go south for two blocks, then make a right on Shadowridge Drive. Continue for about 2 miles to Antigua Drive, then make a left into Buena Vista Park. Parking near the trailhead isn’t a problem, but the nearest facilities are on the other side of Shadowridge Drive in the main part of the park. There are no facilities or potable water on the trail.

Hiking length: 2.5 miles out and back. Difficulty: Easy with little elevation gain or loss. It is a good place for a morning walk, a quick run, or a short hike. Good also for families with children. There is much here children will find interesting. The best time to go is from October through May.

Buena Vista Park is a typical urban park, with manicured grass, ball fields, man-made ponds, and picnic tables. The Arroyo Vista Trail leads from the south end of the manicured park into a semi-wild natural area along Agua Hedionda Creek and passes near or through a dense riparian forest consisting of coast live oaks, arroyo willows, and sycamores, with an occasional toyon or sugar bush.

In places the forest is heavily infested with non-native plants, particularly eucalyptus and fan palms. It isn’t a virgin forest. Despite this, it is a dense, overarching forest dominated by huge, beautiful oaks and sycamores that provide welcome shade for tired hikers on hot days. There is some water in Hedionda Creek year around, and the creek also flows through a marshy area. As a result, it is a haven for birds — over 80 species of birds, both year-round residents and migratory visitors can be seen.

Most of the surrounding hillsides are covered with typical inland sage-scrub vegetation, dominated by California sagebrush, black sage, and buckwheat. These shrubs react to summer drought by losing most of their leaves. However, once the winter rains appear, they come to life, producing new leaves and flowers. If sufficient rain falls, a large assortment of annual flowering plants appears on the hillsides as well.

Walk to the south end of the parking area and cross the pond dam on the paved road. The trailhead for the Arroyo Vista Trail is signed and begins on the left at the end of the road.

The trail is obvious and easily followed with very little elevation gain or loss. The only drawback is that mountain bikers and cross-country runners make extensive use of the park and this trail. As a result, the trail is eroded in places, and there are many unofficial trails leading from the main trail. However, you cannot get lost.

Canyoneers are San Diego Natural History Museum volunteers trained to lead interpretive nature walks that teach appreciation for the great outdoors. For a schedule of free public hikes, refer to the San Diego Natural History Museum website.

Find more Roam-O-Rama columns online at SDReader.com/roam
“Margaret Noble: 44th and Landis” As part of Museum of Contemporary Art’s ongoing “Cerca” series, which highlights the work of regional artists, Noble’s mixed-media installation and personal contemporary charts a psychological path through the City Heights neighborhood, where the artist grew up. Piece “takes the form of an intricate sculptural environment made up of hundreds of cut paper dolls and other forms.” The installation — on view through Sunday, January 20 — also incorporates an experiential soundtrack emanating from 14 handheld paper speakers. “The Very Large Array: San Diego/Tijuana Artists in the MCA Collection” continues through Sunday, June 1, 2014. Featuring more than 80 artists and representing five decades of collecting, the group show of museum acquisitions “highlights many of the region’s most beloved and accomplished artists.” Many of the two-dimensional works will be displayed in a dense, salon-style hanging covering the walls. A separate white cube space designed for the exhibition occupies the center of the room, presenting focused selections of works inside the cube, which will change seasonally. Thematic installations will rotate inside the cube every three to four months. Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown, 1100 and 1001 Kettner Boulevard. (DOWN-TOWN SAN DIEGO)

“Nature, Tradition, and Innovation” Explore “evolution of contemporary Japanese ceramics through the work of many artists and a variety of forms, from tea bowls and noodle cups to stunning vases and robust platters.” These organic objects “and their clear connection to nature will be enhanced with large-scale photographs of Japanese landscapes and natural elements.” Closes Sunday, January 6.

“True Blue: Indigo, Turquoise, Cobalt, and Lapis Lazuli” Celebrates these four natural materials and their combination with human emotion, technical skill, and the spark of creativity. Exhibition of objects from Mingei’s permanent collection, featuring a broad variety of media from many different cultures, continues through Sunday, February 17. Thursdays, 10am; Fridays, 10am; Saturdays, 10am; Sundays, 10am; free. $7. Mingei International Museum, 1439 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

“Strange Beauty” Explore the world of Ruud van Empel in the artist’s first solo exhibition in an American museum. The artist “builds vibrant photomontages of fascinatingly fabricated realities.” View more than 40 of van Empel’s digitally enhanced pieces through Saturday, February 3. Van Empel constructs his works through staged photography, digital enhancement, and collage.

Explore the power of photography to communicate important ideas about the environment and sustainability in “Photo|Synthesis: 7th Annual Youth Exhibition,” a juried selection of artwork showcasing creativity and artistic expression of SD’s youth. Closes Sunday, January 27.

“Soapbox! The Audience Speaks” is the museum’s “first crowd-sourced exhibition that uses engaging new technology and interactive processes to allow visitors the opportunity to rate images both online and in the gallery.” Visitors selected pieces from a random selection of 120 images from themuseum’s permanent collection. Through Sunday, September 22, 2013. Museum of Photographic Arts, 1469 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Art Uncorked — Sparrow Sky Recap! Explore “Sparrow Sky” while sipping wine or cocktails. Supplies (canvas, paints, brushes, apron) included. No experience necessary. 619-255-7885. Save $20 with promo code 9KBOT12. Thursday, December 27, 6pm; $25-$45. 21 and up. 98 Bottles, 2400 Kettner Boulevard. (LITTLE ITALY)

Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809–1892) was the son of a country clergyman and a clergyman’s daughter. The family was relatively well off until they invested, after his father’s death, in a business enterprise that failed and swallowed up most of their savings. When he was 17, Alfred and two of his older brothers published a collection of their verse, and three years later he was awarded the Chancellor’s Gold Medal at Cambridge for one of his poems. The following year, 1830, saw the publication of his first full collection, Poems Chiefly Lyrical. In 1850, already England’s most popular living poet, he was appointed Poet Laureate, a position he held until his death in 1892. The year he was appointed Poet Laureate, Tennyson published “Ring Out, Wild Bells,” which is part of his long poem “In Memoriam,” Tennyson’s elegy for the dearest friend of his youth, Arthur Henry Hallam, who had been engaged to Alfred’s sister until his untimely death at the age of 22. In a Swedish translation, “Ring Out, Wild Bells” is recited annually at the national New Year’s Eve celebration in Stockholm, a tradition that began in 1897, five years after the poet’s death.

Finding poetry online at SDRreader.com/poetry

Alaska continued from page 44

Peninsula, site of Kenai Fjords National Park. The town of Seward is a worthwhile destination for glacier-watching and cruises to view sea wildlife. The train ride from Anchorage to Seward follows essentially the same route as the highway, but without the worthwhile stops and detours. Even though driving this route straight through to Girdwood takes only 45 minutes, and to Seward only about 2 to 3 hours, I recommend that you allow a full day for the trip. You will definitely want to linger and make a few stops and turnoffs along the way. Keep your headlights on and be wary of traffic coming in and out of the observation points. It’s a two-lane highway, and there have been numerous accidents. For some folks it’s hard to keep your eyes on the road with so much gorgeous scenery.

Win $25 for your travel tips or a pair of movie passes for the best travel photo of the week. Go to SDRreader.com/travel for more information.
RESORT AMENITIES
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$159 2 nights in a one bedroom suite

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Scenic views of the ocean, downtown, the mountains & more!

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Other conditions may apply.
Must be 18 years of age and weigh less than 230 pounds.

Bring this ad for a FREE VIDEO of your skydive on Sunday!
Expires 1/06/13
San Diego Reader: What is your favorite subject on which to preach?

Pastor Aaron Boehm: I guess it never gets old focusing on the simple truth of Scripture — that Jesus is the one who saves us. To use a Bible passage, II Corinthians 5:21, “God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” So, this notion that in God’s great exchange His grace is all about taking our sin and placing it on Jesus and in return giving us Jesus’ perfection and credit- ing those who believe in Him. Scripture is chock full of the beautiful pictures God uses to describe and show that grace.

SDF: Why did you become a minister?

AB: When people ask that question, I usually tell them it’s because I’m extremely selfish. I knew that in becoming a pastor I would be sharing in part of the reward of seeing how the Gospel changes people’s lives and know I got to be part of it because I shared that simple message of the Gospel.

SDF: Why Lutheran?

AB: My dad was a principal in a Lutheran school and I was born and baptized into the Lutheran faith, yet, at the same time, in our training, we thoroughly take an honest look at every religion, denomination, Christian or otherwise. What has always struck me about the Lutheran faith, compared to all others, is the emphasis on Scripture. You don’t have religious leaders or groups or organizations in the church saying this is what you should believe or do, but everything goes back to what the Bible says — and that’s why we believe it.

SDF: What is the mission of your church?

AB: We have been working since I’ve been here with the idea of seeking the lost and serving the found. It strikes a balance for those who by God’s grace have been brought to know Him and strive to serve God by serving others. A part of that service is seeking those who don’t know Him.

SDF: Where do you go when you die?

AB: It’s pretty straightforward, as God’s word is — I have the assurance that I’ll be in heaven solely based on what Christ has done for me, having paid for my sins and God met’s demands of perfection for me. He holds that same promise out for everyone who believes in Him, though even believing in Him only happens through God’s grace. That is how He leads us to believe in Him. The opposite — or alternative — is that anyone who sadly would reject that message doesn’t have that hope of eternal life. Scripture speaks of hell for anyone that would reject everything that Jesus has done. Obviously, just like our Lord God, we don’t want to see anyone in hell — and that’s another impetus for reaching out and seeking the lost.

SDF: What do you wish as God’s blessing for the word on these 12 days of Christmas?

AB: I hope that people will at least have the opportunity this year to hear the age-old message of what Christmas is all about — that God wrapped up His Son and gave the world the greatest gift it would ever know.

— Joseph O’Brien

Find more Sheep and Goats columns at SDRReader.com/worship/
**COMEDY**

“Coming Up” Comedy showcase headlined by Erik Knowles. Thursday, December 27, 9:45pm; free; $10, 21 and up. Mad House Comedy Club, 502 Horton Plaza. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**The Nerds Of Comedy** An event to show that a nerd’s life is not just taken over by video games, comic books, or Japanese school girls fighting in giant robots. Headlined by Jon Allen from DragonBall Z. Sunday, December 30, 8pm; $10, 21 and up. Mad House Comedy Club, 502 Horton Plaza. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**New Year’s Eve with Bobby Lee** Celebrate new year with Bobby Lee, from MadTV and Chelsea Lately. Monday, December 31, 7pm and 10pm. The American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**FOOD & DRINK**

**Bubbles and Cheese** Prepare to ring in the new year with bubbles and fine and sample cheeses. Sample cheeses as well as “simple and elegant cheese treats, perfect for any holi-day party.” 858-847-9616. Thursday, December 27, 6pm; $50. 21 and up. Venissimo Cheese Del Mar, 2650 Via de la Valle, #C140. (DEL MAR)

**Full Moon Dinner Cruise** The last full moon of 2012 is Friday, December 28. Full moon dinner cruise builds upon Hornblower’s Sunset Dinner Cruise. Boarding glass of champagne, three-course dinner, and dancing against the lights of the San Diego skyline. What you get: three-hour cruise aboard a comfortable yacht on San Diego Bay, boarding glass of champagne or sparkling cider, three-course dinner, DJ entertainer for music requests and dancing, views that change with the courses. Reservations: 619-686-8715 Friday, December 28, 6:30pm; $73. Hornblower Cruises, 970 North Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Top 5 Reds of 2012** 10-course wine-pairing menu. Thursday, December 27, 5pm; Friday, December 28, 5pm; Saturday, December 29, 4:30pm; Wine Vault Bistro, 3731-A India Street. (Missions Hills)

**Zumba Glow Party** Wear white to this party with multiple instructors. Ditto the workout. 858-449-5371. Saturday, December 29, 8pm; $8. ZFitness Classes and Apparel, 6635 P flankers Dr., Suite G. (MIRA MESA)

**OUTDOORS**

**Tidepooling Adventures at False Point** Learn about ocean critters when Birch Aquarium at Scripps hosts tidepooling in a local tidepool led by aquarium naturalist. Required reservations: 858-534-7336. Thursday, December 27, 2pm; $12-$15. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

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Holiday of Lights
More than 400 lighted, holiday-themed displays for viewing from visitors’ cars. Admission: $15 per vehicle (up to five people), $20 per vehicle with six or more people, $50 per bus. 858-793-5555. Thursdays, 5:30pm; Fridays, 5:30pm; Saturdays, 5:30pm; Sundays, 5:30pm; through January 1, Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar.

Holly Jolly Holiday Trolley
At the top of Date St., San Diego with candy canes and holiday music. Take a tour! (skate rentals are included in the price). Thursdays through Sundays, 11am. 2pm, and 6pm; through Saturday, January 5, 815-825. Hotel del Coronado, 1500 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

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"Enough Is Enough" It’s resolution time! Share stories “of drawing a line and moving on” during Long Story Short Story Slam, in conjunction with So Say We All. All are invited to tell a five-minute story without notes. Sunday, December 30, 7:30pm; free-$5. Space 4 Art, 325 15th Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

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So Say We All SD Wednesday Story Slam
Invited to tell a five-minute story during Long Story Short Story Slam, in conjunction with So Say We All. All are invited to tell a five-minute story without notes. Sunday, December 30, 7:30pm; free-$5. Space 4 Art, 325 15th Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

"We the People" Story Slam
A line and moving on" during Long Story Short Story Slam, in conjunction with So Say We All. All are invited to tell a five-minute story without notes. Sunday, December 30, 7:30pm; free-$5. Space 4 Art, 325 15th Street. (EAST VILLAGE)
Happy New Beer

There were more new brewery openings than there were months in 2012, and the field is as varied as it is extensive, ranging from veteran brewers looking to challenge the big boys to guys with stock pots going pro while also keeping things homebrew-esque.

In gauging the best of the lot, I judged none of these breweries by the scale of their business or the size of their aspirations, but by the way they utilize their operations to manufacture quality product. The following is my assessment of the 15 brewing companies that opened this past year, as well as some that opened very late in 2011 but were too new to be judged at that point.

Selecting the king of the mountain for this list hasn’t been easy, but far and away, the finest operation to debut this year — over the past few, for that matter — is Societe Brewing Company (8262 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard). Keamy Mesa’s first brewery was born from the ashes of a disastrous career choice: brewer Travis Smith had moved to San Diego to head the fermentation sciences at La Jolla Brewhouse, only to find an unworkable situation (as did his predecessor, and multiple brewers since).

Thankfully, Smith, a talented craftsman who trained under craft-brewing royalty (Vinnie Cilurzo of Russian River Brewing Company in Santa Rosa and Patrick Rue of Placentia’s Bruery), stuck around, teaming with business partner and brew bud Doug Constantiner, another vet of the Bruery’s brewhouse, to open Societe. The result is a company with tons of knowledge behind it, and, as a result, faith and financial backing, as well.

Smarts and resources allowed them to put out great beer from day one via two product lines: hoppy beers and Belgian-inspired ales. The former includes India pale ales that go by the names the Dandy, the Apprentice (named after Smith, who was Cilurzo’s understudy), and the Pupil (named after Constantiner, who considers himself Smith’s student). The latter has become a local favorite in a town awash with IPAs, exhibiting crispness and juicy citrus flavor brought on courtesy of Nelson hops.

On the Belgian front, Smith and Constantiner are bringing attention to lesser-seen styles such as the singel (the Harlot) and amber ale (the Debutante), and cramming in a non-Belgo brew, a chocolaty imperial stout dubbed the Butcher that’s as popular as it is strong. Fans of the company are exhibiting brand loyalty, and that should only rise in 2014, when they unleash a third line of sour beers extracted from a stock of over 100 used wine barrels procured from Napa’s stag’s Leap winery.

The first runner-up on my list is also making a big name for itself by bringing on seldom-explored beer styles. That operation is the eastemmost East Village outpost Monkey Paw Pub & Brewery (805 16th Street). Owned by Scot Blair (the emperor of a beery empire that includes Hamilton’s Tavern, Small Bar, and Eleven), it’s a hit for the same reason Societe is — experience. Blair’s no brewer, but he knows how to make craft-beer businesses appealing and, therefore, successful. Case in point: his hiring of Derek Freese as Monkey Paw’s brewer.

A longtime standout in San Diego’s stout homebrewing subculture, Freese was able to make a quick and successful leap to the pro ranks with beers such as Sweet Georgia Brown English-style brown ale and an extra pale ale called Pineapple X-Press. Then there are the delicious oddities: an oatmeal-bolstered pale ale; a smoky rauchbier infused brown ale and Straw Horse Wheat should not be overlooked. Nor should new additions to the Latitude 33° family such as oatmeal-coffee stout Breakfast with Wilford and a series of special IPAs built off their house staple, Camel Corps IPA — Double Hump IPA and Straw Horse fresh-hop IPA — which are doing a great job of getting the company’s name out in a positive way.

Other promising new additions to the scene include Vista’s Belching Beaver Brewery (thankfully, the company’s beer is much better than its name), Escondido’s Offbeat Brewing Company (which should do well, provided they can make enough beer — something that’s proven a bit of a problem early on), and the brew house operating out of the back of Pacific Beach’s California Kebab & Beer Garden, Amplified Ale Works (where Alpine and Ballast Point Brewing & Spirits alum Cy Henley is soaring early). Like Monkey Paw last year, these businesses will need to be monitored, but they have a head start in the race to make 2013’s best new breweries list.

Societe Brewing Company’s Doug Constantiner shows a customer around the company’s newly installed barrel house.

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Busy with the Spoon

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Cauldron of Flavor

The name Tofu House is mildly misleading, as this Korean restaurant on Convoy in Kearny Mesa is not fit for vegetarians. Though extra-silken tofu can be found in each boiling pot, most selections come with some kind of meat, and most all of the broth (save for one or two vegetarian options) is meat-based. And the more ingredients thrown into one of these personal spicy brews, the greater depths of flavor it will offer.

The menu features over 30 variations of sun-dubu jigae, or spicy, soft tofu stew, and that’s not including the countless others, as you can request modifications to any mixture, or create one from scratch by ordering the “As You Wish” option.

Upon sitting, your server will deliver a set of four banchan, or side dishes: spicy kimchi, spicy cucumbers, pickled daikon radish, and sesame-flavored tofu with onions and carrots.

On the table is a basket of eggs — this is important, as it is customary to crack one egg into the pot that is served with still-boiling broth. Many diners mix the egg into the simmering liquid, while waiting for the broth to reach a non-molten state, I’ll begin by spooning a gyoza onto my rice and slowly biting away at it, being sure to blow on every spicy bite before it goes into my mouth.

Tofu House is one of my favorite lunch spots. I can be found here several times a month, enjoying a boiling cauldron of super-spicy flavorful goodness.

by Barbara

FEAST!

Point Loma’s Wine Pub bucks the trend of giving wine bars cutestie names. The space, however, is quite precious with its modern accents and vaguely nautical trim that seems appropriate to the neighborhood. The entire dining area is one sweeping corner that made me feel like I was on the deck of a large yacht or elseways out to sea. Still, it was cozy inside and the small tables and short bar all appealed to my wish for a quiet glass of wine and a snack.

The wine list wasn’t long by any stretch, but didn’t need to be since one can only drink so much wine. It was heavy on the reds and affordable, having many glasses in the $6–$9 bracket. Wine Pub does get major points for serving my glass of oaked Chardonnay at a good temperature. At non-snoopy places, I’ve often served these freezing cold glasses of white wine straight from a refrigerator. Even with bubbly wine that’s too cold, and a fuller-bodied white really lives up to itself at a slightly warmer temperature. It’s nice, not having to wait for the wine to warm up in the glass before it tastes right!

Food-wise, Wine Pub offers a broader range of plates and plates than I’d expected. They had a few full-sized entrées (the $12–$15), panini ($11–$13), and some soups/salads/small plates in the $5–$12 range. The selection was fairly pedestrian, with nothing to challenge the palate, the majority of the plates being “safe” choices. Shrimp cocktail was slightly overcooked, though far from offensive, and the sweet, spicy cocktail sauce had a huge kick of horseradish and chili.

I could see the likeable, albeit unadventurous, menu working well in first-date situations or other scenarios (perhaps entertaining conservative family members?) where showing prudence could be called for. Still, Wine Pub’s strength is definitely in its cute decor and easy wine list, selections from which are available retail if guests so desire. During summer, the patio could be a big draw, but wine Pub does get major points for serving my glass before it tastes right!

I like to begin by chopsticks (that’s right, I made a verb) some chili oil onto my plate and start talking about why this is my current favorite dim sum joint, I’ll admit that I have yet to try China Max, though I’m not sure it would feel like dim sum without the carts.

The best time to go to Emerald is 11 a.m. on a Saturday — that’s when you still get the best selection of the early serving options (many of which disappear after a while) and the items that take longer to prepare (such as the dry, stir-fried noodles), which are just starting to come out of the kitchen. Also, Saturday is not nearly as crowded as Sunday, so you won’t have to wait long, if at all, for a table.

The fun starts the moment you sit. A server in a vest (remember this, as it’s only the vests who can get you refills on beverages and bring your check when you’re finished) delivers a hot pot of jasmine tea and the standard dim sum condiments: chili oil and hot mustard. The soy sauce will already be on the table.

I like to begin with cutting to make things more sharable or easier to manage with those slippery, oversized plastic chopsticks.
Seafood | Sushi Bar | Dim Sum
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53

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$5 Midnight’s Margaritas

Miyagi: Sauza Gold tequila mixed with house made yuzu sour, fresh lime juice & triple sec. Traditional (Yuzu), Mango, Strawberry & Cucumber flavors.

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San Diego Reader December 27, 2012 53
San Diego, always tasty.

inexpensive, and lately at Emer-
for large groups — it’s fast, easy,
shrimp gems, served with a side
prawn, and cilantro inside.

they’re named for their shape.

but not because there’s any
of sugar cane.

the outside and savory on the

These were pork.

liked) the

har gow,

Of course, anything shrimp —

meat for

8

Beef ribs excluded.

8

8

8

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Snail Pizza? Si!

I’m here, nine at night, sitting in a converted warehouse. Okay, not really converted. The big ol’ timbers and slap-dash panels of corrugated iron look like they haven’t been updated since they were tacked together maybe 100
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San Diego Reader December 27, 2012
years ago. ‘Course, that’s the charm.

This is El Taller, “The Workshop” (Avenida Rio Yauqui #2969-B, off Boulevard Aguacaliene, Tijuana, 011-52-664-686-3383). See it’s subtitled “Baja Med Cocina.”

I’ve been curious about this TJ phenom, “Baja Med.” Seems like it’s locovore, seasonal. Pick what you find and cook it. Give it the olive oil “Mediterranean” treatment, and, voila!

Two chefs I’ve heard of, Javier Plascencia and Miguel Angel Guerrero, have led the charge on this.

Tonight, under a clear moon, when I walk in, Armando, at the bar, says this is Guerrero’s place.

The idea must be working. Place is buzzing. Cooks are constantly ramming pies into the pizza oven.

“It’s olive-wood-fired,” says Armando. I check the menu. Hey, hey. We’re not in Kansas anymore Toto. Pizzas loaded with mole…and, snails?

(With abalone chorizo, lamb.

But, talk about having a conversion on the road to Damascus: when my pizza comes, green arugula, red peppers, sautéed onions, mozzarella cheese, snails and all, I do what Victor the waiter suggests: squeeze lime juice all over it and dip each wedge in a ruddy black sauce, a mix of the arbol pepper, toasted peanuts, and olive oil.

And the result is...?

No words describe. Okay, one word: beautiful. Two more: darkly rich. Okay, four more: totally rico-sauve deelish.

I mean, pizza’s not supposed to be...guess I can say, so complex, satisfying. If this is locovore eating, I’m loco enough. I’m in.

To the local snails who gave their lives for this: thanks.

There’s more to this place. Whole story in an upcoming “Tin Fork.” by Ed Bedford

**Million-dollar java**

Condominiums in the lofts at Moonlight Beach (intersection of the Coast Highway and Encinitas Boulevard) were are being offered for well in excess of a million dollars, or so I heard from a friend up in North County as we hit the Lofty Coffee Company for a cup of java. I’d seen the coffee shop in the corner of the building before, but I had passed it off as a dolled-up Starbucks for the nouveau riche who might settle in the gorgeous condos. One look inside Lofty proved otherwise. The sharp design of the interior is almost Art Nouveau for the 21st Century and the steampunk-styled cold brew coffee device at the counter would give any mad scientist a terminal case of alembic envy.

I got a warm greeting from the staff and a brief, enthusiastic endorsement of the organic, handmade refreshments on offer. The chipper girl behind the counter claimed that all the syrups, infusions, flavorings, and other tricks of the barista trade were crafted with love and care by people who know what’s best for me. Pretty lofty claims (you see what I did there?!), but I was in a mood to believe as the staff attitude rang truthful to my ears.

My reward? Exceptional coffee. A decaf americano (hard to make agreeable) was better than the full-strength brew at most indie coffee shops. Delicate flavors and aromas, perhaps the hallmark of the house-made vanilla syrup, infused a vanilla latte. Best of all, Lofty keeps prices in line with the competition, so all the coffee drinks cost between $2 and $4. Compelling pastries distracted my attention from a glass display case by the counter, but I saved them for next time because I had a Nutella sandwich with me already.

Yeah, that’s right, I carry around Nutella sandwiches.

The patio along the 101 got loads of late-morning sunlight and, as my friend and I prepared to go, one of the workers stuck her head out the door and bid us have a great day.

There are people and businesses who fake friendly while they chuck out buzzwords left and right, and there are people who give a crap and back it up with quality products. Lofty Coffee follows the latter example.

Lofty Coffee Company, 90 North Coast Highway.

—by Ian Pike

**Gumbo with the Wizard of Oz**

So, guess what? I did come back (see “The Sixth Avenue handwarmer”).

I’m here at the Sixth Avenue Bistro (1165 6th Avenue, downtown, 619-239-4194). Same stool, same bar, but this time next to Shane and Karen on the left, and Dale on the right.

Kimmy the bartender and Jack the owner are here, too, but running round serving half the audience from the San Diego Symphony concert up the road. Must be half-time.

Bottom line: I get the gumbo! It’s just so right for a night like tonight: wet, windy, chilly.

First, I ask for a beer and get a Stone IPA ($5.50). And then go for the gumbo. Sounds so good on the menu: “Sausage and shrimp gumbo, savory stew with Andouille sausage, shrimp, and filé, garnished with fluffy rice, $12.95, half-portion, $7.95.”

“Go the whole hog,” says Dale, who sees me counting my greenbacks. He spent 25 years managing food and beverages (you see what I did there?!), but I was in a mood to believe as the staff attitude ring truthful to my ears.

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Lofty Coffee Company, 90 North Coast Highway.

—by Ian Pike

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Closed New Year’s Day

**Mehburgers**

As I’ve said before, I like it when old houses get turned into restaurants. The whole “We’re eating in the living room!” aesthetic lends an Old World feel to the dining experience that comforts me. La Jolla’s Public House, at the very least, gets that aspect right.

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The two-story red house is way too small to be a restaurant in and of itself, so there’s a large, heated patio that’s also home to the bar. I prefer the inside tables, however, where the homely feel is at its strongest.

While the list of bottled beers impresses with its global selection, the high price of entry discourages overzealous forays. Looking at 15-, 20-, even 30-dollar bottles of beer has me questioning price markups and casting my eyes toward the drafts, which satisfy for a more reasonable $5–$8. Still, if I were feeling spendy it could be fun to pick a random bottle from a random part of the world and explore via drinking.

One rad advantage of the Public House is that it’s licensed to sell bottled beers to go! Found a good brew? Bring one home!

Boastful signage alleges that the Public House’s burgers are “locally world famous,” which I’ll consent is kind of cutesy, in a snarky way. Offering a rabbit burger ($14.50) as a special was a bold move, since rabbit is such lean meat that it would be hard to make a succulent burger out of it. I had to try it, natch, and it wasn’t particularly inspiring. Dousing the whole thing in politically incorrect A-1 knockoff sauce salvaged the experience, but only just.

The fries on the side were nice and crispy, but so salty they made the already super-salty burger seem bland by comparison. The rest of the burgers on the menu seemed overdone or overly pedestrian, and I found the pale, wholesome-ish bun to be a fence-sitting compromise between buttery hedonism and seedy, grainy hippie-ness with the disadvantages of both.

A Cajun shrimp salad ($12, and more salad than shrimp) was likewise salted like bacalao and dressed to kill (via oil and sodium). It neither failed nor won, choosing instead to shuffle its way into mediocrity. At least the shrimp were not overcooked.

Faced with all that fun beer, “meh” aptly describes the food and service, which began over-attentively and faded into forgetful. It’s a nice idea executed poorly. I’ll be curious to try the fare at the Encinitas Ale House, the North County sister restaurant, and see if it compares favorably.

Public House, 830 Kline Street.

by Ian Pike
Kiwi invasion!
Something great is happening to that rambling old house across from the Firehouse Museum at Cedar and Columbia in Little Italy.

It’s already well-known. Dede Alpert had her offices here. Lori Saldana had her offices here, too. It’s the kind of house your grandma might live in.

And, soon enough, Grandma might want to pay a visit. Because now it’s gonna be the Queenstown Porch and Grill, in O.B. who started Bare Back Grill in jump town.

It’s being put up by the guys at the famous South Island ski (1557 Columbia, at Cedar), and it’s gonna replace by some five-story wood, no questions asked, because now it’s gonna be the Queenstown Porch and Grill, in O.B.

We went to an early showing, so we were out at around 8 p.m., at which point Davanti (one of a handful of restaurants side-by-side) was packed. I left my name with the hostess and we nabbed three (the only ones left open) seats at the bar to get a drink while we waited for a table.

Long communal tables throughout the space added to the cozy, friendly feel of the restaurant. We so enjoyed the bartender’s knowledgeable and helpful explanations and recommendations in response to our menu inquiries that when a table did become available, we gave it up to stay and eat at the bar.

I was in one of those super annoying, indecisive moods. I had no idea what I felt like for dinner, so our server behind the bar had a tough time tailoring his recommendations — but that didn’t stop him from trying. In the end, it was his suggestions over the other dishes that turned out to be our favorite.

The first dish to come out was a warm salad with a well-balanced and mouth-pleasing mixture of textures and flavors: sweet roasted squash, chewy farro, tangy smooth goat cheese, crunchy hazelnuts, all topped with peppery cool watercress.

Next was a take on the traditional “toad in the hole” dish: two eggs baked into toast, but I’d never had it in bread so tall, soft, and tasty. Melted over the bread was fontina, and beneath it, cuts of cooked asparagus. On the menu, it’s called “truffle egg toast,” but I asked for the truffle oil on the side. Though Leslee enjoyed dipping nearly everything into the oil, I couldn’t help but wonder how long I had to wait for the truffle trend to subside. The only thing I wanted to add to the rich egg yolk and soft bread, the funky nut flavor of fontina, and the lightly bitter freshness of the asparagus, was a pinch of salt.

We had to order the Cacio e Pepe (spaghetti, pecorino cheese, and black pepper) because it was a dish of this title and ingredients that had surprised and delighted us a few years ago at Lupa, one of Mario Batali’s restaurants in New York City. We were happy the portion was small, because the sauce on this was a little too thick and a bit too rich for much enjoyment after a few bites. David was disappointed, as Lupa’s version had been as light as it was flavor-packed, despite the few and simple seasonings used.

The next dish to arrive was the prosciutto pizza, with mozzarella, fontina, and arugula. Again, I enjoyed the contrast of a peppery cool green atop the thinner savory flavors (a good balance to the salt of the prosciutto), but the thin crispy crust paled in comparison to those of many local pizza purveyors (such as Isola, Pizzeria Bruno, Cucina Urbana, and so on).

Leslee had her heart set on the chicken. She was brilliant: she did what I wanted to add to the rich egg yolk and soft bread, the funky nut flavor of fontina, and the lightly bitter freshness of the asparagus, was a pinch of salt.

We decided that when a movie next pulls us north to the luxury cinema, we’ll dine at Davanti again, but this time we’ll order only from the strongest parts of the menu: small plates, salads, cheese, and meats. And wine, of course. Always wine.

by Barbarella Fokas

Your own personal fisherman

How many times can you say you know the guy who caught your salmon?

I can tell you exactly who got this wild Alaska salmon Carla and I are eating.

It was the “Salmon Slinger,” aka John Ford, the fisherman who hauled him in, off Homer, Alaska, John has his own boat, Providence. He’s out at sea all summer long.

This is what his buddy Matt Baird is telling me, here at the San Diego Farmers’ Market (1735 National Avenue, Barrio Logan, 619-233-3901).

“He’s out there June through August,” Matt says, “fishing away off Homer, Alaska, 12 hours a day.”

Then, John freezes the fish and sends them south. I mean, the guy is out there in Deadliest Catch territory, catching these beautiful world navigators.

Now I hear he has bought a second boat to fish off San Diego.

I like the fact that he sells through his own stall at farmers’ markets and that he is the real thing out there, just like our tuna fishermen. Course they’re part of San Diego’s waterfront legends who you’ll find on the walls of the Waterfront (2044 Kettner Boulevard, 619-232-9656), the bar where all the Portuguese and Italian tunamen hung out, back in the day.

Our salmon? We paid Matt $10.40 for a slab, and it certainly is fresh, moist, tasty, and enough for the two of us.

The Salmon Slinger (“Wild Alaska Fish Market”) stall is at the market in Barrio Logan on Wednesdays and Sundays.

by Ed Bedford
NEW YEAR'S EVE 2013

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DeYoung-Dominguez, talked to the Reader about bald eagles, Christian goths, and ice cream across America: “I’ve never been on tour before... I’d traveled a little bit off, the girl next to me turned and said, ‘Merica...”

“In Cincinnati, we met a woman who is affectionately referred to as ‘Goth Mom Donna.’ She’s active in the Midwest Christian Goth community. We were kinda blown away because we didn’t know much about goths, and even less about Christian goths. She runs a ministry called the Grave Robbers...”

“While in Cincy, we ate at the Grave Robbers...”

“While in Cincy, we ate at the Grave Robbers...”

“In Santa Fe, I didn’t realize we were at 7200 feet elevation. I tried doing my usual morning workout and could not do anything. I thought it was the ice cream that finally had caught up with me, but our host cited the elevation. We hadn’t yet acclimated.” — Chad Deal

In her cups. A commercial photographer named Jessica Crosby sent me a link to a music video she made and posted on YouTube. It’s just her doing an inspired cover version of “Cups” from the film Pitch Perfect. I admit, at first, the performance seemed borderline nerdy. But then Crosby’s earnest delivery began to grow on me. She has a sweet, almost meek way of selling the lyrics, and the cup-hand-clap part lent an eerie "Children of the Corn" vibe. In the end, after a handful of views, the homespun aspects of the performance grew on me to the point that I had to know about the cup thing: how the hell did she do that?

“I taught myself by listening and watching [actress] Anna Kendrick...it’s really easy to copy something you’ve seen someone else do,” says Crosby.

Otherwise, was this a hard thing to perfect? “It took me about three hours to be able to put it all together.”

Most challenging aspect of the whole experience? “First, I had to learn the cup routine, which I taught myself in a simple eight-count pattern. Second came the lyrics, which are in a 4/4 pattern. However, the lyrics are slightly off-beat from the cups, and they’re never where you would instinctively think they should be. So, the first step was putting those two elements together. Then came the hard part — harmony. I wanted to add my own harmonies. I had to reteach myself the entire feel of the song. I changed the key while leaving the original cup rhythm, after which I added harmonies of my own that were unique to my voice and style of singing while honoring the original song.”

Any recommendations on, say, the right type of cup for people who may want to try this at home? “It depends what you are planning to do. When I first was learning the routine, I was using a metal pencil holder. I don’t recommend performing or recording with that. For the recording, I used the same plastic measuring cup that you see in the video, except, when I recorded the track, I stuffed it with paper towels to deaden the plastic echoing noise.”

Plans to do any future cups songs? “Yes. I’ve been studying up on how to create different sounds with different cups and watching all the different things people have done, but I want my next step to be creating my own routine with my own lyrics.” — Dave Good (continued on page 62)
Just Added:

1/8 The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Team In Training 2013 Rock ’n’ Roll Marathon & Half Preview Party • 1/20 Charley Hoffman Foundation Pro-Am Party • 1/22 Lee Coulter and Michael Tiernan • 2/7 Old Man Markley
2/14 The Hives • 3/17 Emancipator – Do Lab Presents

Upcoming Shows:

1/12 Sara Petite Album Release Show w/ Eve Selis and Liz Sanders – Matinee
1/13 Steve Earle
1/15 Tyche
1/16 Simple Project
1/17 Femi Kuti and the Positive Force
1/18 Dead Man’s Party
1/19 Tower of Power
1/23 Beer Fest w/ The Tilt – craft beer tasting
1/24 Nicki Bluhm and the Gramblers
1/25 & 26 Ozomatli
1/27 An Evening w/ Jorma Kaukonen of Hot Tuna – seated show
1/28 Chef Bands feat. Sam the Cooking Guy and Josh Kopeland of Dining Out SD
1/31 The Wood Brothers

2/1 & 2 Tristan Prettyman
2/4 ZZ Ward and Delta Rae
2/6 North Mississippi Allstars
2/9 Tommy Castro & The Painkillers and Paul Thorn
2/9 The Wallers
2/10 Tony S transitions to Highwayman - tribute to Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, more
2/11 Dirty Dozen Brass Band
2/15 Ra Ra Riot
2/16 Steve Poltz’s Annual 50th Birthday Party w/ The Ragburns and Glenn Phillips of Toad the Wet Sprocket
2/17 Blackalicious
2/20 A.R. King
2/22 An Evening with Leftover Salmon
2/24 Reckless Kelly

2/26 The Residents
2/27 Galactic
3/12 Super Diamond
3/13 David Lindley w/ Carrie Rodriguez
3/16 Mickey Hart Band
3/17 Tedd the Wet Sprocket
3/12 Frightened Rabbit
3/18 Josh Ritter
3/21 Kenny Rogers
3/22 Bob Schneider
3/23 Atomic Punks
3/24 An Evening with Gordon Lightfoot
3/29 Who’s Bad
4/1 An Evening with Big Head Todd & the Monsters
4/14 Lucero
4/19 An Evening w/ Queensryche starring Geoff Tate

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private parties. They had a garage to practice in, although sometimes they'd get “this really loud knock on the garage door, and when you open it up, you can see the cop’s motorcycle boots.”

She snuck under the Palace to see Iron Butterfly, with Darryl DeLoach singing and Danny Weis on guitar. She gigged at the Spirit with an early version of the Beat Farmers. She moved to L.A. in 1978 to start over from “ground zero,” but she remembers the formative years. And the motorcycle boots. For information on Flores and her new record “Working Girl’s Guitar,” visit rosieflores.com.
— Andrew Hamlin

Record-release roundup. Americana popsters the Midwinters will drop their sophomore EP All There Is on January 7. Two preview tracks are streaming online and available as free downloads: “Resign” and “Gets You By.” According to singer/guitarist Paul Donovan, “We’ll release it digitally at first, and then later we’ll do a CD-format version with additional songs on it.”

When jazz pianist Danny Green debuts his new album A Thousand Ways Home on January 8 at San Diego City College’s Saville Theatre, the set will be broadcast live on KSDS 88.3. “It’ll be playing material from the CD as well as some new originals,” says Green, whose band will include Tripp Sprague (sax), Justin Grinnell (bass), Julien Cantelm (drums), and Eva Sow (mandolin). “For the past 12 years, I’ve been in love with jazz, Brazilian, and classical music. To me, the title A Thousand Ways Home is about taking various elements from each of these genres and blending them together in my own way.”

A release party for the Til’s debut full-length Howlin’ happens January 23 at the Belly Up. “We’ll be playing an extra-long set with special guests such as Ben Moore (The Styletones) and Ryan Weiss (Family Wagon), both of whom played on the album,” says guitarist Jeff Irwin. “Our set will include all the songs off the album and a few off our next album, plus some covers, like Freddie King’s ‘Going Down’ and ‘It’s A Man’s Man’s World,’ by James Brown.” Heavy Glow is releasing a vinyl seven-inch on January 29 at Soda Bar, featuring two songs planned for their upcoming full-length recorded with Nic Jodoan (Great Northern) and Michael Patterson (Black Rebel Motorcycle Club, Trent Reznor): “Mine All Mine” and “Headhunter.” Also on January 29, Fiction Family, the collaboration between Jon Foreman (Switchfoot) and Sean Watkins (Nickel Creek), will release a new full-length called Fiction Family Reunion, with “Foreman & Friends” playing that evening at downtown House of Blues. Recorded at Switchfoot’s Spot Studio in Carlsbad, guest players include Nickel Creek fiddler Sara Watkins and multi-instrumentalist John Mark Painter. The album’s first single, “Up Against the Wall,” is streaming online.
— Jay Allen Sanford

CONTRIBUTORS
Chad Deal, Dave Good, Dorian Hargrove, Mary Leary, Ken Lighthart, Bari Mendola, Jay Allen Sanford, David Stampone
DREAM MACHINE

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Today’s show is a celebration of the B-Side Players, a band that has been a part of the hometown music scene for years. The group consists of nine members, including lead vocalist Paez, who is known for his all-embracing roots musician and brass player style. Paez sometimes sings songs in Spanish that are said to be about hot-button social issues such as political corruption and racism. The band has been a part of the hometown music scene for years and is known to pack houses wherever they set up. But, always the bridesmaid and never the bride: the B-Side Players have yet to escape the gravitational pull of San Diego and as such survive to this day as a band with a cult following. Why no national love? I suspect the tug of day jobs tempered by the high cost of touring a fairly large band. B-Side’s Facebook page lists nine members on the payroll. At some point, cost should cease to be an issue. To my ears, the Player’s AfroLatin soul mix of funk-rock-jazz and Cumbia is better than the bands they are most often compared to: Ozomatli (yawn), War (ancient history), and Ben Harper (boring). As such, the B-Side Players are a gifted conundrum.

We pause now at year’s end for a visit with some old friends: the B-Side Players. A trusty bunch of local loyalists, the Players have been a part of the hometown music scene for years. Thus far, they have won nine San Diego Music Awards and are known to pack houses wherever they set up. But, always the bridesmaid and never the bride: the B-Side Players have yet to escape the gravitational pull of San Diego and as such survive to this day as a band with a cult following. Why no national love? I suspect the tug of day jobs tempered by the high cost of touring a fairly large band. B-Side’s Facebook page lists nine members on the payroll. At some point, cost should cease to be an issue. To my ears, the Player’s AfroLatin soul mix of funk-rock-jazz and Cumbia is better than the bands they are most often compared to: Ozomatli (yawn), War (ancient history), and Ben Harper (boring). As such, the B-Side Players are a gifted conundrum.

Karlos Paez, the dreadlocked front man of the B-Side Players launched the group in 1994. First a Chula Vista punker, then later reinvented as an all-embracing roots musician and brass player, Paez sometimes sings songs in Spanish that are said to be about hot-button social issues such as political corruption and racism and the manner of issues that undocumented workers deal with. Heavy lifting as far as subject matter goes, but no matter. The B-Side Players are a dance band, and I think that’s always been their draw. Reliable as a diesel engine, the Players are mainly known as a good time group with a message. “We now represent the Brown Majority,” Paez wrote on Concord Record’s home page. “The surfer, suburban stereotype of California is changing fast. It’s not all bleach blondes anymore.” Can I get a Happy New Year? The Aggolites also perform.

B-SIDE PLAYERS: Belly Up, Friday, December 28, 8:30 p.m. $55 advance/$60 door.

Find more Of Note columns online at SDReader.com/NOTE.
Thursday, Dec. 27 7pm
RUBY AND THE RED HOTS
(ROCK & THE BLUES)

Friday, Dec. 28 5pm
TRADEWINDS
(TROPICAL ROCK BAND)

9pm
THE STEELY DAMNED
(STEELY DAN TRIBUTE)

Saturday, Dec. 29 5pm
THE JOHNSON PROJECT
(SMOOTH JAZZ)

9pm
THE MIGHTY UNTOUCHABLES
(DISCO DANCE)

Sunday, Dec. 30 8pm
FATTBURGER
(SMOOTH JAZZ)

Monday, Dec. 31 9pm
POPRX
(80'S)

BETAMAXX
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Reviews from Our Readers

San Diego, 8:30pm — Little Free. Monday
LOUNGEsix: Monday — The Steely Damned. Friday — Humphreys Backstage Music, 8pm, Saturday — House of Blues:
House of Blues: Thursday, 9pm — Zeds Dead. $22-$47.
Fluxx: Friday, 8pm, Saturday, 9pm — Rebellion. $25-$40.
Monday, 9pm — House of Blues New Years Eve 2013 Block Party. $30-$45.
Humphreys Backstage Music Club
Thursday, 7pm — Ruby & the Red Hots.
Friday — The Stoely Damned. $25.
Ivy Nightclub: Monday, 7pm — Ivy NYE. $40-$65.
LOUNGEsix: Monday, 6pm — New Year’s Eve Celebration. $25-$30.
La Costa Coffee Roasting: Saturday, 7pm — Mike Gardner. Free.
Lafayette Hotel & Suites: Monday, 8:30pm — Little Hurricane, Get Back Loretta, Blackout Party, the Creepy Creeps. $25-$229.

EVERYONE’S A CRITIC

The Complete Columbia Albums Collection
Sarah Vaughan
By Mary Leary
I purchased After Hours, one of the four freshly minted CDs in the Complete Columbia Albums box, many years ago, on vinyl. Shouldn’t having the original — the cover of which is minutely replicated as are all the albums in this collection — continue to signify an erudite, retro sensibility? Not necessarily, if you’re in the “the-more-Sarah-Vaughan-the-better” camp. Her idiosyncratic integration of swing, jazz, and blues tones and phrasing infused arrangements that would have been predictably static for many ‘40s–’50s-era vocalists; effectively erasing the lines between blues/jazz/pop. Indeed, Vaughan’s intuitive choices and shiver-inducing tones provided one of the carrots that pulled me further into jazz. This set jumps from Vaughan’s 1949–52 recordings to her bossa nova outing with Milton Nascimento (Brazilian Romance) and a live, 1982 exploration of Gershwin with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Whether or not Vaughan is, for any-one, “easy listening,” her massacring of every note and spontaneously ingenious phrasing provide invaluable vocal coaching. Her artistry, especially on this offering’s standout album, In Hi-Fi, yielded stunning, often definitive versions of standards, including “East of the Sun,” “Ain’t Misbehavin’,” and “Nice Work If You Can Get It.” Completists should be sated by the inclusion of numerous alternate takes.

Patrick Gaslamp Pub: Thursday, 9pm — Missy Andersen. Friday, 9pm — Myron & the Kymyptas. Saturday, 9pm — Johnny Vernazza. Monday, 9pm — Mystique Element of Soul.
Pechanga Resort & Casino: Saturday, 8pm — Air Supply. $35-$45.
Port Pavilion on Broadway Pier: Monday, 8pm — NYE 2013 Concert. $100-$150.
Prospect Bar & Lounge: Monday, 8:30pm — NYE 2013. $25.
Queen Bee’s Art & Cultural Center: Saturday, 8pm — Full Strength Funk Band Dance Party Featuring Unlimited Beer and Vodka Drinks. $15-$35.
Monday, 8pm — Uptown Get Down. $35-$45.
Riveria Supper Club & Turquoise Room: Thursday, 8pm — Adams & Eves. Friday, 8pm — Devil’s Due. Saturday, 8pm — Secret Samurai. Monday, 8pm — New Year’s Eve Party.
Ruby Room: Thursday, 8pm — Pyrate Punx. Monday, 8pm — Gezer, Slaves Against the Machine, Red Not Chili Peppers.
Sheraton Mission Valley: Monday, 9pm — Royal Princesses and Knights. $80.
Soda Bar: Thursday, 8pm — Kera & the Lesbians. Friday, 8pm — The Loons and Sidewalk Scene. Saturday, 9pm — Zongo Junction. $10.
Saturday, 8pm — DJ Mustard, DJ Beatnick, Cali Cam, DJ Dead Serious.
Monday, 8pm — New Year’s Eve with New Mexico, Wild Wild Wets, Bruin.
Soma: Saturday, 6:30pm — Gates, Overboard Farewell, Lightning Starts Fire. $8.
Spin Nightclub: Monday, 10pm — Wobble NYE Ball. $40-$50.
Stage Rock Bar & Grill: Thursday, 8:30pm — Van Roth. Free.
Friday, 10:30pm — The Disco Pimp.
Saturday — Fingebang Tuesday, 10pm — DJ Von Kiss. Wednesday, 7pm — Mark Fisher & Gaslamp Guitars & B3indr.
Tango Del Rey: Friday, 9pm — Afrojazzics, Dornob, Los Bandaritos. $10-$20.
Monday, 8pm — Loco Disco. $20-$40.
Tin Can Ale House: Thursday, 9pm — Lozen and Taco! Friday, 9pm — Down Big, Just Like Jenna, Someday Assassin. $5.
Saturday, 9pm — Black Cassette and Duplicating the Public. Monday, 8pm — Gary Hankins, Mike Pope, Jimmy Ruelas. Free.
Tio Leo’s: Thursday, 9pm — Nathan James & the Rhythm Scratchers. Friday, 9pm — Pleasure.
Upstart Crow Bookshop and Coffee House: Saturday, 7pm — The Pizzer Brothers. Free.
VFW Post #3788:
Friday, 8pm — Cowboy Angels. Saturday, 8pm — Calico Ridge.
Valley View Casino Center: Saturday, 9pm — OMFG! NYE 2013 with Audrey Napoleon, Calvin Harris, and more. $160.

Mike Watt and the return of Hyphenated-Man
By Dryw Keltz
Mike Watt and his loyal Missing-men landed in San Diego for a second time this year to deliver an encore performance of the band’s rock opera Hyphenated-Man. The trio tore into the piece with a tenacity that brought to mind ye olde Minute-men. In fact, Tom Watson’s scratchy guitar-playing and Raul Morales’ manic drumming are about the closest we are likely to get to Double Nickels on the Dime II when they are allowed to stew with Mike Watt’s trademark bass toolin’.

The core set consisted of the rock opera, which was pretty much flawless — no surprise coming from this band. No banter between songs, just firing them off one after another. I was in heaven. Nirvana was truly reached, though, when the band blasted into a cover of Jimi Hendrix’s “Machine Gun” during the encores. A moment that will forever be etched in my mind as perhaps the greatest performance of a song I have ever witnessed in this venue. It was not only face-melting, but an ear-melting, brain-melting, full-on body-melting, humanity-obliterating delivery of the tune.

Concert: Mike Watt and the Missingmen
Date: November 5
Venue: Casbah
Seats: General

Greatest performance of a cover at Casbah — ever.

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

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LITTLE MONSTERS
Friday, December 28
KING FISH
Saturday, December 29
High Plains Drifters (Day 2 - 6pm)
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Sunday NO COVER
THE BROKERS
Monday, December 31
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JAM WITH DOUG ALLEN OF THE MARDELS
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Cash Bar—Food

General Admission $50
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Premier tickets include open bar and free food

21 and up. Doors open at 8pm
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For more info visit: www.lulushandsofhope.org or call Marcus 619-851-8401 • Tony 619-245-7817

Broadway Pier—1000 N. Harbor Dr.
British actor Naveen Andrews once said: “Older women know who they are, and that makes them more beautiful than younger ones. I like to see a face with some character. I want to see lines. I want to see wrinkles.”

Few places are better known for their ripened regulars than the nearly half-century-old Charcoal House in La Mesa. Named for the underwhelming steakhouse in back, the Charcoal House is more notorious for its spacious front-of-the-house bar, which was long ago dubbed “the Wrinkle Room.”

A bit over a year ago, the Wrinkle Room got a facelift with new owners, management, and a renovation. Curious if the place still lived up to its label, I visited on a recent Wednesday to check them out. The atmosphere was like a miniaturized golf course.

It’s somewhere between all these aesthetics that one finds the classic Wrinkle Room patron — croaking out a haphazard rendition of “Summertime” or a lesser-known Sam Cooke number to a backdrop of sequined high heels tapping to the beat. “Club Charcoal” on the dance floor. A couple of over-eager young kits fumbled over Sublime lyrics with cocktails in their hands.

The comprehensive demographics came as no surprise. After all, out front, the Charcoal House’s big, red sign suggests a Chinese restaurant, while arched windows and mirrors inside hint at Mexican origins. The courtyard, meanwhile, looks like a miniature golf course.

Friday and Saturday (10 p.m. to close) features DJ Frog selecting hip-hop and R&B jams with $3 shot specials. There’s plenty of parking in the lot behind the bar, so be sure to bring a case of tallboys to tailgate with the girls before karaoke kicks off (also Thursdays, 8 p.m. to close).

Find more Here’s the Deal columns at Sandiegoreader.com

**Charcoal House Restaurant**

**UPCOMING SHOWS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Artist</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, 8p.m.</td>
<td>Robin Henkel Free</td>
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**Zel’s Del Mar**

**Boar Cross’n:** 390 Grand Ave., Carlsbad, 760-729-2988. January 3 — Inberst (final show).

**Balboa Theatre:** 868 Fourth Ave., Downtown San Diego, 619-570-1100. January 5 — Gregg Allman.


**California Center for the Arts:** Escondido Blvd., Escondido, 760-839-1418. January 5 — The Drinking Cowboy Band.

**Cejca Cafe:** 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-534-2311. January 8 — The Drinking Cowboy Band.

**Coffee Corner, 9608 Carlton Hills Blvd., Santee, 619-235-6204.** January 11, January 12, January 13 — Mendelson’s Violin Concerto.

**Deeply Rooted:** 110 N. Magnolia, El Cajon, 619-873-0211. January 11 — The Drinking Cowboy Band.

**Don’s Kettner Bl., Little Italy, 619-224-3355.** January 2 — Jamar Rogers.

**Firehouse:** 9501 Rosecrans, San Diego, 619-642-0700. January 9 — The Drinking Cowboy Band.

**Flame:** 5726 23rd St., San Diego, 619-325-6800. January 10, January 11, January 12 — Mendelson’s Violin Concerto.

**Flame:** 5720 23rd St., San Diego, 619-546-4642. January 9 — Elektrofile.

**Forgotten City:** 1225 22nd St., San Diego, 619-325-6800. January 10 — The Drinking Cowboy Band.

**Gallegos Pub & Grill, 5046 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach, 619-222-5300.** January 26 — The Drinking Cowboy Band.

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Kon Tiki Ballroom, Catamaran Hotel, 3999 Mission Blvd; January 3 — Songs of the Soul.


La Jolla Farmer’s Market, 7300 Girard Ave. La Jolla, CA 92037: January 6 — Cowboy Jack.


The Loft: 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-534-8497. January 25 — Terry Bozio with Alex Machacek and Jimmy Johnson.


**Set ‘Em Up, Joe!**

**BY JOSEPH O'BRIEN**

**The Imperial House’s Negroni**

In a cocktail shaker with ice, pour:
- 1 oz. Cinzano sweet vermout
- 1 oz. Hendrick’s Gin
- 1 oz. Campari

Shake, pour into an ice-filled rocks glass (or a rocks martini glass if the ladies request it!), garnish with an orange twist.

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**F**

Drinks admit of such variety as the bittersweet Negroni. Switch out the shot of gin for vodka and you have a Negroski, add bourbon instead of gin and you’ve drinking a Boulevardier, order a Negroni with Aperol instead of Campari and you’ll be had a Ramini. But to bartender Mario Martinez’s mind, only two basic versions of the Negroni pass muster — up or on the rocks. Mixing and shaking things up behind the bar at the Imperial House, Martinez says he’ll serve it any way you want, but by default you serves it on the rocks.

“I’ve seen Negroni served in a martini glass, up,” he tells me. “Something about the Negroni, though, when I first started making them, screamed to me, ‘Rocks glass!’” In fact, Martinez’s instincts led him back to the drink’s original style — a highball over a sec- ondary derivative of an earlier classic after the Italian Count Negroni ordered his Americana with a shot of gin in it.

“The ‘martini-ized’ Negroni, as Martinez refers to Negroni served in a martini glass, makes the drink a faddish template for variations. “When I first started learning about it and discovered its richly potent origin before dinner cocktails, I decided to make it in a rocks glass,” he says. “I stuck with it. But I’ll make it up to the ladies because it looks daintier.” Because of its assertive bitterness, Campari tends to hog the conversation in any drink it’s involved in, Martinez observes. So, while the Negroni is a simple 1:1:1 recipe, the margin for error allows for little less than pinpoint accuracy when it comes to the right balance.

“If you mess up the measurements, even by a little, you might as well start all over,” he says. “If you overdo it with Campari, that’s the only flavor you’re going to get.”
Sushi on the Rock:
5-6:30pm: $2 sake, Coors Light; $3 imported drafts.

Til-Two:
3-6pm: Discounted champagne.

Su Casa:
One Free.
$3 Wells & Wines; Buy Any Pizza Get

La Jolla Brew House:
fries, spicy hummus.

La Jolla Bowl House:
Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: $4 beers, wines, lights. $5 boredes wings, fies, spicy hummus.

Beaumont’s:
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SalsaCA.com, salsasd@sbcglobal.net, or
More Information:
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Favors & Champagne Toast • MC Valerie • Light Midnight
Night: $5 mimosas. Sunday, noon-7pm: $3 bloody marys.

MISSON BEACH
Sandbar Sports Grill:
Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 wells, domestic bottles/drafts; $4 premium & import bottles/drafts; $3.50 mahi tacos, discounted nachos, calamari.

MISSON HILLS
The Aero Club: Daily, 2pm-2am: $.50 off beer and wells.
Starlite: Monday-Saturday, 5-7pm: $3 drafts, wells, $1 off other. Sunday, all night: $.50 off wine bottles.

MISSON VALLEY
Randy Jones All American Sports Grill:
Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3.50 selected craft beers, $.5 specialty drinks, $2 off wine by the glass and grazing menu.

NATIONAL CITY
Buster’s Beach House & Longboard Bar: Daily, 2pm-2am: $2.25 Bud drafts; $3.50 mai tai, Long Beach tea, margaritas.

Pier 32 Waterfront Grill:
Friday, 3pm-sunset: $2 domestic beer, $3 import and local beer, $5 house wine, mimosas, bloodymarys.

NESTOR
Baja Oyster Bar: Monday-Thurs-
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The Air Conditioned Lounge: Monday-Friday, 4-8pm: $3 draft, bloody marys, $5 you-call-it; Saturday-Sunday, 11am-7pm: Happy Hour.

OCEANIDE
PCH Sports Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2 domestic, $1 premium, $3 house wines. Saturday, 2-8pm: $2 domestic, $1 premium, $3 house wines. Sunday: 2-8pm: $2 domestic, $1 premium, $3 house wines.

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

OLD TOWN
25Forty Bistro and Bakehouse: Tuesday, 5-5:30pm: Free buffet of pasta, cheese, meat, and salads with purchase of a beverage. Wines starting at $4.

Old Town Mexican Cafe: Monday-Thursdays: $1 off appetizers, cocktails. $1 off drafts. $1 off house wines. $1 off all beer.

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

The Australian Pub: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $4 wells, $2.75 imports. Saturday, 2-8pm: $2.75 domestic, $1.15 premium, $3.95 house wines. Sunday: 2-8pm: $2.75 domestic, $1.15 premium, $3.95 house wines.

Baleen: Monday-Thursday, 5-7pm: 2-oz small bites at bar/lounge. Fri-Sat, 5-6:30pm: 30% off appetizers.

Kelly’s Public House: Monday-Thursday, 3-7pm: $2 domestic drafts, $8 pitchers, $3.50 wells, house wines.

San Diego Bay: Daily, 4-7pm: $1 off all beer, $3 Corona or glass of wine. $1 off all appetizers.

Rancho Bernardo
Bernard’s Restaurant: Monday-Sunday, 4-7pm: $2 domestic, $1.50 imports, $3.50 house wines. Monday-Sunday, 7-9pm: $3.25 house wine.

Carvers Steak & Chop: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $1 off draft beer.

Tony Roma’s: Daily, 4-7pm: $3 drinks. $3 off appetizers.

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

Jimmy’s Famous American Tavern: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $2 off all appetizers, drinks, wells, and select house wine.

Solare Ristorante Lounge: Tuesday-Saturday, 3-6:30pm: $5 Tapas, $3.50 Select Cocktails. Monday-Sunday, 4-7pm: $5 Tapas, $3.50 Select Cocktails.

Powy
Phileas Foggs’ Bar & Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $2 domestic pints/$7.95 pitcher, $3.50 imports/$11.95 pitcher. $2.95 cheese quesadilla, $3.95 chicken wings.

RAMONA
Cherries: Monday, 5-7pm: $1 off drinks. $10 steak. Tuesday, 2-5pm: $1 off drinks. $1 tacos. Wednesday, 2-5pm: $1 off drinks. $5 wings. Thursday, 2-5pm: $1 off drinks.

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Delilah Sports Bar & Grill: Daily, 4-7pm: $1 off all beer, $3 Corona or glass of wine. $1 off all appetizers.

Rancho San Diego
Da Boyz Pizza & Pastas: Monday-Sunday, 2-6pm: $2 off all drinks & menu items (includes holiday/concert nights).

Press Bar Sports Lounge: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $1/2 off all appetizers, drinks, house wine, and wells.

Sunglo’s
Delicius: Daily, 4-6pm: $5 draft beers, house wines, wells.

San Marcos
Back Alley Grill: Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-9pm: $2.50 drafts, $4.50 imports and house wines. $1 Taco Tuesday, 5pm-8pm: $1 off pitcher. Thursdays Thursday.

Cowshed Bar and Grill: Monday-Wednesday, 4-7pm: $3 domestic, $3 domestic, $3 domestic. $3.50-4.50 wells. $3.50-4.50 appetizers.

Dalton’s Road House: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $1 off house wines, $5 margaritas. $1/2 off appetizers. $3/4 off, fries, potato skins, buffalo wings.


Santa Ysabel

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

Scripps Ranch
Stone Flats: Daily, 3-7pm, 7-9pm: $1 Bud/Bud Light. 1/2 off all beer/wine.

Serra Mesa
Channel 1 Sports Bar and Grill: Monday-Sunday, 52-cent mind erasers, kamikazes. $3.50 mimosas, bloody marys.

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

Solana Beach
Chief’s Burgers and Brew: Tuesday-Friday, 3-6pm: $2.50 microbrew. 1/2 off appetizers.

The Fish Market: Monday-Friday, 3-6:30pm: $3.50 wells, $3.95 drafts, domestic bottles, house wine. $3.95 oysters, $4.25 smoked trout quesadillas, $4.95 mahi mahi sliders. Saturdays, $4.50 well cocktails. $4.95 mahi mahi sliders.

The Saddle Bar: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $1 off drinks and drafts.

Sorrento Valley
All Baba’s Cave: Daily, 2-6pm: $1 off all drinks. $10 hookahs, $5 refills.

Karl Strauss Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: $4 beers, wells, wines, flights. $5 boneless wings, fries, spicy hummus.

South Park
Hampton’s Tavern: Daily, 5-8pm: $1 local draughts and drinks.

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

Whistle Stop Bar: Monday-Friday, 5-8pm: $1 off all cocktails, pins.

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

Fannie’s Nightclub: Daily, 4-6pm: $0.50 off all drinks.

Tierrasanta
JP’s Pub: Monday-Friday, 4-30pm-6:30pm: $2.50 domestic, $3.25 for house wine.

UCSD
Porter’s Pub at UCSD: Daily, 11am-7pm: $4 rum punch 7pm $1 all beer.

University City
Apollonia Greek Bistro: Daily, 3-6:30pm: $3 ouzo aperitif, $2 bottled beers, $3 wine by the glass.

Cozymel’s Mexican Grill: Monday-Saturday, 4pm-8pm: $2.25 Coors Light Draft; $3.25 Dos Equis Draft; discounted appetizers. (All day Sunday)

Donovan’s Steak and Chop House: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3.50 mimosas (complementary steak sandwiches and burritos 4-6pm).

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

University Heights
Baboo’s Bar and Grille: Daily, 4-8pm: $2 domestic, $3.95 wells, drafts, wine.

Cheers: Monday-Friday, 11am-7pm: $2.50 domestic bottles. $3 single wells. $3.50 domestic drafts.

Small Bar: Daily, 5-8pm: $1 off local draughts and drinks.

Valley Center
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Jumping Bean Cafe & Mexi-cale Grill: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $2 domestic, $2.75 margaritas, $3 wells, microbrews, $4 Leaping Horse. 3-6pm: $1.50 chicken or carnitas street tacos.

Vista Entertainment Center: Monday-Friday, 11am-6pm: $2 domestic and $3 premium drafts, $3 wells.
Different kind of risk
It’s a measure of San Diego theater’s growth that they were so well received.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW. The world’s most anticipated drama — its end — came and didn’t. Advocates of the apocalypse are probably scrambling for a new Day of Doom so they won’t have to face their problems.

This year had two of the most anticipated musicals in recent memory, both about Japanese Americans. Allegiance, at the Old Globe, told the saga of relocation in World War II; in Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots, at La Jolla Playhouse, a woman waged war on cancer cells, literally. Both had megatalented casts (Lee Salonga and George Takei for Allegiance; Paul Nolan and Tom Hewitt, in a minor role, for Yoshimi), and Yoshimi had some of the most dazzling effects ever seen on a local stage: a 14-foot avatar, smoky-pink robots that could appear and vanish, even fly. After a while, Robert Brill’s extraordinary high-tech set seemed capable of anything.

But each was incomplete. Take away the cast for Allegiance and the pyrotechnics for Yoshimi and what remains needs much more work, the scores included.

Two musicals that didn’t: Cygnet’s Parade and the Old Globe’s Scottsboro Boys combined all the elements: savoy direction (Sean Murray and Susan Stroman), inventive choreography (David Brannen and Stroman), talent to the nth degree, and individual standouts (Sandy Campbell’s arc in Parade, from ostrich-passivity to forthright assertion, made it impossible to imagine anyone else in the role).

The shows might be a marker as well. They portray unpromising subjects for a musical: brutal American racism and anti-Semitism. It’s a measure of San Diego theater’s growth that they were so well received. Fifteen, maybe even ten years ago, they might have been too iffy.

From afar, ten-minute plays staged in cars sounded, if not nonsensical, then at least strange. Two actors in the front seat, two audience members in back? Yes. And La Jolla Playhouse’s The Car Plays became such a hit they’re bringing it back next year. I hope they bring back — the hilarious one in which the actors sat in back and expected the two citizens in front to perform the play!

Mo’olelo Performing Arts’ Kita y Fernanda and Ion Theatre’s The Little Flower of East Orange dared a different kind of risk: they found striking new ways to put a theme into the audience’s heads. The Band’s version of the Holland-Dozier-Holland classic “Don’t You Do It,” the late, lamented Levon Helm sings the line: “If my heart was made of glass/Well then you’d surely see/how much heartache and misery, girl, you been causing me.” In the rarest kind of acting, there are no tricks or techniques. Nothing blocks the way. You see straight into the heart.

Two years ago, Lois Markle gave such a performance in August: Osage County, as a crotchety survivor. Jeffrey Jones gave one as Danny in Little Flower. Danny’s ten kinds of catastrophe. He begins in handcuffs after a bar fight, and — as the playwright said in an interview — is “very angry and sad and inconsolable and alone.” He negotiates, not always successfully, an emotional minefield and somehow emerges with a smidge of grace. Critic-speak would say, “Jeffrey Jones was Danny. Every feeling, every hurt shown through.” Okay, but he really was Danny’s heart of glass.

Catalina Maynard, in Little Flower but especially as the lead in Ion’s Julia, as a sinking ship wanting to take collateral damage along, also had that rare, see-into transparency. As did Mark Christopher Lawrence in Ion’s Top Dog/Underdog and Moxie’s fast-rate A Raisin in the Sun — most of all in that extraordinary moment when, after demanding this and that, his character flat loses it. He drops to his knees and pray-pleads for help. That move alone, so astonishing, unexpected, and completely true, called for a battlefield promotion, a Heart of Glass Award, on the spot.

I’m not just a fan of Homer’s Iliad, I’ve had the honor to teach it many times. And I went to La Jolla Playhouse’s An Iliad, in which one actor performs the 24-book epic by himself, with dread. And I was blown away by Henry Woronicz’s performance as the Poet. He could be Homer or a time-traveler. Either way, the telling takes a toll and conjures up the Poet’s own rage and “enough pain to break the spirit” as he paints the Trojan War in words.

Using Robert Fagel’s excellent translation helped a heap, as did Mark Bennett’s “sounscapes,” performed by Brian Ellingsen, which made an amplified double bass sound like an entire orchestra. One of the most amazing features: it didn’t take long to adjust to the speaker and the sounds weaving through his words. Director Lisa Peterson kept the story focused so clearly that externals fell away. We weren’t in the Mandell Weiss Forum. We were huddled around a campfire, somewhere in time, listening to an ancient, tormented man tell a tormented tale as sparks crackled and rose into the night.

continued on page 80

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.

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THE OLD GLOBE

San Diego Reader, December 27, 2012 73
Let the gags begin

A nonstop joke machine (Billy Crystal) and his equally overbearing wife (Bette Midler) are forced to spend time with their work-obsessed daughter (Marisa Tomei), son-in-law (Tom Everett Scott), and a trio of estranged grandchildren, all of whom have Dr. Kevorkian on speed-dial. The setup seemed idiot-proof: stick a pair of technologically inept oldsters in a voice-controlled prototypical “Smart House” (it’s a Type-A A-frame), and watch the gags begin. Frank Tashlin did it without breaking a sweat, but all Andy Frickman (She’s the Man, You Again) does is break wind. Freaking Frickman quite literally places his camera (audience?) in a toilet. Is this man not embarrassed to take credit for what little direction there is? And how far the mighty have fallen: Crystal, the self-appointed corporate spokesperson for American comedy, is reduced to vomiting on a child for laughs. Later, like the snake charmer using his voice as a laxative, gramps sits on the bowl — with his red-headed (?) grandson parked on his lap — singing, “Come out, come out, Mr. Doody.”

By the time it’s over, Billy and Bette have the kids buzzing on sugar, watching Saw films, and playing with guns. The tykes would have stood a better shot at life had they been raised by wild dingos.

Bonus: when was the last time you laughed at a score? The pathos-laden scenes between Billy and his stuttering grandson — backed by composer Marc Shaiman’s weepy-strings — are more amusing than any of the intentional jokes. It’s not fun, it’s not funny, and the fact that this thing is bankrolled by the family-friendly folks at Walden Media makes it even moreso. A mother lode of awful, destined to delight even the most jaded bad-film connoisseurs among us. As for the four-star rating, it’s there to punish those who only look at the numbers without reading the review.

— Scott Marks

WHEN IN DOUBT, STOOGES!

When in Hollywood (as was the case during the recent Thanksgiving holiday), I feel it my duty to take in at least one 35mm revival. Sure, there were crowd-pleasing, oft-revived staples such as The Wizard of Oz, Singin’ in the Rain, and Gone with the Wind.

An examination of the LA Weekly uncovered a mention of the 15th annual Three Stooges big-screen festival playing at the Alex Theatre in Glendale. I was on it faster than one can say “Ticonderoga.” It wasn’t the first time that I had seen the boys projected on a screen. The shorts were originally designed for theatrical distribution, but like so many devotees of my generation, my first exposure to the Stooges was on television. Once the shorts hit the small screen in the early ’60s, it was
virtually impossible to see a Stooge two-reeler play before a theatrical feature.

My first nontelevised exposure to the shorts came through a cartel of collectors who, combined, owned 16mm prints of approximately half the Stooge oeuvre. Many a night was spent in friends’ basements book- ing private marathons, threading print after print onto 16mm Kodak Pageant or Bell & Howell (never an auto-load) projectors.

One of my earliest (and most memorable) exposures to the boys in 35mm was part of a compilation of Columbia shorts called The Three Stooges Follies, which was released to theaters in November of 1974. The festival held its Chicago premiere at, of all places, the majestic Granada Theatre, for two consecutive Friday and Saturday midnight screenings. The Stooges, projected on the Granada’s five-story screen, made for a memory devoutly cherished.

The gathering of about 400 was unruly from the outset. There was so much pot smoke in the 3500-seat auditorium that the place smelled like a five-alarm fire in Tijuana. The crowd also made one thing clear: all Curly, only Curly! I thought it wise to keep my pro-Shemp sentiments to myself.

The houselights dimmed, the curtains parted, and the crowd went wild. But of the three Stooges shorts screened, only one, You Natzy Spy, was on the condemned list. The other two were Yes, We Have No Bonanza, a western parody that further hammers home the point that Jewish comedians and the Old West don’t mix, and the crowd-pleasing Violent is the Word for Curly, a Stooges musical that features the excruciating “Swingin’ the Alphabet” — “2-A bay, B-E bee, B-I licky bye…”

The crowd was not amused. There was also a Columbia two-reeler featuring Buster Keaton. My introduction to Keaton arrived relatively late in my cinematic upbringing. It would be another six years before a 35mm retrospective awakened me to the single greatest comedic force ever to hit cinema. There is Buster Keaton, and there is every other actor that is seemingly at odds with the narrative, if you can call it that, renders the affair, if you can call it that, even more incomprehensible than anything on display in Cloud Atlas.

The presentation was flawless. Every grain on the giant screen was in pinpoint focus. The most thrilling part of the evening was the theater’s functioning curtains that opened and closed before and after each short.

— Scott Marks

**MOVIE LISTINGS**

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

**Any Day Now** — West Hollywood, 1979. A carefree female impersonator (Alan Cumming) and a closeted D.A. (Garret Dillahunt) engage in a one-night stand, and in no time they’re a couple immersed in a custody battle to adopt a 14-year-old (Isaac Levy) with Down Syndrome. (The boy’s mother is serving time for drug possession.) One can only blame a paltry budget and 23-day shooting schedule for so much. Director and cowriter Travis Fine had all the material resources needed to make a solid low-budget film. But, Saddled with an unsteady Brooklyn accent and asked to spew dialog steeped in goo (“Don’t ever call my boy a retard!”), even the most talented (and by rating are available online at SanDiegoReader.com).

**California Solo** — A fine performance — and a good character — in search of a story. Silken-mann Robert Carlyle plays an aging former rocker, haunted by the death of his brother (his old band’s front-man) and living in self-imposed exile on a farm in California. It’s a tolerable, static, hidden sort of life, the kind that just begs for some misstep to start the machinery that will bring everything to light and force a reckoning. The trouble is, the machinery takes over: our man is moved rather than moving, and the reckoning feels more like a shift in circumstance than any kind of victory. Still, despite a couple of flat attempts at pathos, the feeling is right: the crushing weight of the moundane on a man who drifted with greatness in the past and who must now make peace with the present. If you don’t burn out, you fade away. 2012. — M.L.

**Django Unchained** — Quentin Tarantino fails to do for slave owners what he did for Nazis in this, his long-awaited western (southern?) follow-up to the epic war comedy Inglourious Basters. Oscar-winner Christoph Waltz returns to the Tarantino fold as Dr. King, a German dentist-cum-bounty hunter bent on the trail of a pair of nefarious outlaws. Once again, the convincingly charismatic Waltz is well mannered to the point of achieving a near–Oliver Hardy sense of nirvana. He also offers a crash course in mentorship to uppy slave Jamie Foxx, eager to save his wife from ruthless plantation lord, Leonardo DiCaprio. For its first third, Django Unchained plays like an agreeable cross between Blazing Saddles and Mandragons. (There is a hilarious bit about proper eye-hole placement in KKK cowls.) Once they reach Lee’s Candyland, however, the film becomes tacky and self-indulgent, and the third act is little more than an excuse for bloodletting. Still, politically speaking, there’s more truth told here about money and its ability to buy misrecognition than anything on display in Lincoln. Worth seeing, but not a good enough romp to justify its 165-minute running time. With Kerry Washington, Don Johnson, Franco Nero, and Samuel L. Jackson as the spitting image of cotton-hared Woody Strode in Ford’s The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance. — S.M.

**End of Watch** — David Ayer, the screen- writer behind Training Day and Dark Blue, sets out to make his Life and Times of a Police Officer in South Central, complete with opening manifesto in voiceover (“If you cut me, I bleed.”) But he winds up with Cops for the younger generation. (Cops Jr! Cops! Meaning, Cops with a white protagonist (fake Groucho) who’s smart enough to go to law school but chooses not to, narcissistic enough to be forever filming himself as he goes about his job, and hipster enough to ask, “What does being a hero feel like?”) after he saves some kids from a burning house. And a Latino partner (Michael Pena) who’s ironic enough to be forever joking about the more outlandish aspects of his heritage (a neverending parade of quinceneritas) even as he affirms their worth. Plus a jokey frat-boy spirit between the two of them that is seemingly at odds with the horrors they confront in the line of duty. (Bros gotta cope, bro.) The story is vaguely episodic: loose ends abound, themes are introduced and forgotten, characters step to the fore and then fade away — just like real life! Eventually, however, the horrors begin to catch up to our heroes, as they keep crossing paths with a Sinaloa cartel cell in their newly assigned neighborhood. When the Jitterman ever managed to hold a single shot for more than five seconds, the various dramas might be enough to make you feel something. As it is, it’s, in-car banter between calls is the best thing going here. — M.L.

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*San Diego Reader, December 27, 2012* 75

**From Guis Van Sant, director of “Good Will Hunting” & “Milk”**

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Flight — What is Flight? Is it a tough-minded look into the dangers of making heroes out of men who do amazing things? Ben Stiller as Captain Duval, an airline pilot who pulls off a miracle landing in a malfunctioning plane, but oh dear, it turns out he was drunk and high while he did it. Or is it a searing attack on the inhuman world of corporate legal maneuvering, where certain lives count less than others and the man thing is to pass the buck? (Don Cheadle almost steals the show from the paunchy Washington as the oily Chicago lawyer hired to defend him during the ensuing investigation.) Or is it a raised-stakes addiction movie? (Washington has a shatted family, drinks like a fish, and hooks up with a recovery-minded heroin addict.) Surprise, it’s none of the above! This here is a religious picture, you get your first tip when Washington’s co-pilot cries out to God in a moment of panic, and Denzel coolly replies, “He can’t help you here.” God is a little like Chekov’s gun that way — you can’t introduce Him at the outset, and that’s why God is not shown up by the end. Director Robert Zemeckis does his best to hide the providential machinery, though — we are left to infer that what are, in fact, God’s attempts to get “act of God” added to the list of accident causes is a thoroughly cynical move, that a prophet who proclaims God in hand is everything in a cancer patient suffering from “chemo-head,” and that a husband who does the same is backed by a wife bleating out “Bless me.” And that a husband who does the same replies, “He can’t help you here.” God is a none of the above! This here is a reli-gious film, a true scientific mystery, and hundreds of millions of real butterflies. Featuring breathtaking cinematography, it has never been. In the Spring of 1939, Franklin D. Roosevelt -— “The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey” — More of the same from director Peter Jackson, here pulling a proper Lucas — turning out a procedural on the art of making a masterpiece, Sacha Gervasi (Anvil: The Story of Anvil) gives us a wonderful portrait of the man who directed the style of an episode of Hitchcock Presents. (It’s ostensibly about the production of the most influential horror film ever made, but Anthony Perkins — who famously played Norman Bates was based, as a character whom Norman Bates was based, as a character whom Norman Bates was based, as a character whom Norman Bates was based, as a character whom Norman Bates was based, as a character whom Norman Bates was based, as a character whom Norman Bates was based, as — Francois Cluzet’s — “A Tom Cruise Pro-duction” — it’s the first thing you see on the screen, and it’s all there is to know. Production” — it’s the first thing you see on the screen, and it’s all there is to know.

Hitchcock — Instead of following author Stephen Rebello’s fine Alfred Hitchcock and the Making of Psycho by turning out a procedural on the art of making a masterpiece, Sacha Gervasi (Anvil: The Story of Anvil) gives us a wonderful portrait of the man who directed the style of an episode of Hitchcock Presents. (It’s ostensibly about the production of the most influential horror film ever made, but Anthony Perkins — who famously played Norman Bates was based, as a character whom Norman Bates was based, as a character whom Norman Bates was based, as a character whom Norman Bates was based, as a character whom Norman Bates was based, as — Francois Cluzet’s — “A Tom Cruise Pro-duction” — it’s the first thing you see on the screen, and it’s all there is to know. Production” — it’s the first thing you see on the screen, and it’s all there is to know.

The Good Earth — The iconic monarch butterfly is a true marvel of nature. It weighs less than a penny, yet it makes one of the longest migrations on Earth across a continent, with pinpoint navigational accuracy, to a secluded place it’s never been. In the Spring of 1939, Franklin D. Roosevelt -— “The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey” — More of the same from director Peter Jackson, here pulling a proper Lucas — turning out a procedural on the art of making a masterpiece, Sacha Gervasi (Anvil: The Story of Anvil) gives us a wonderful portrait of the man who directed the style of an episode of Hitchcock Presents. (It’s ostensibly about the production of the most influential horror film ever made, but Anthony Perkins — who famously played Norman Bates was based, as a character whom Norman Bates was based, as a character whom Norman Bates was based, as a character whom Norman Bates was based, as a character whom Norman Bates was based, as — Francois Cluzet’s — “A Tom Cruise Pro-duction” — it’s the first thing you see on the screen, and it’s all there is to know. Production” — it’s the first thing you see on the screen, and it’s all there is to know.

The Guilt Trip — Babs dearest. Barb Streisand could write her own first-class ticket on any project in Tinseltown, but instead chooses to ride shotgun for Seth Rogen in this terminally cute justifica-tion for matricide. Rogen — an uptight body hobbit, and Andy Serkis’s Gollum — is parked naked on the bowl dropping a timed to hit the floor with an ejaculatory and a can of slow-motion soda that’s not my mommy, bitch,” a giant chicken Handler’s career — she plays Wren and a pair of CG cats that’s allergic to an invading dragon. Again, Jackson man-ages the creation of a believable fantasy world through well-pitched performances (Martin Freeman makes a fine home-body hobbit, and Andy Serkis’s Gollum gets to mix comedy with his menacing pathos), resonant themes (the dwarfs are seeking to regain their homeland after a diaspora), and really fine costumes. And again, he indulges his taste for overlong action set pieces, which means that a plot that should have been a fine gothic epic confined on a slow ship in order to tell his tale. Perversity as it serves, the film was shot in ‘Scope, a ratio Hitch despised and never used. Gervasi’s talent did wonders when he came to revitalizing the careers of a pair of bird-brained heavy metal singers. Ludwig: the special effects are for the big boys, or not at all. Better yet, re-release all of Hitch’s 54 films and let his artistry speak for itself. With Scarlett Johansson, Toni Colette, Michael Stuhlbarg, and the beautifully blank Jessica Biel perfectly cast in the Vera Miles role. 2012. — S.M.

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Jour-ney — More of the same from director Peter Jackson, here pulling a proper Lucas — turning out a procedural on the art of making a masterpiece, Sacha Gervasi (Anvil: The Story of Anvil) gives us a wonderful portrait of the man who directed the style of an episode of Hitchcock Presents. (It’s ostensibly about the production of the most influential horror film ever made, but Anthony Perkins — who famously played Norman Bates was based, as a character whom Norman Bates was based, as a character whom Norman Bates was based, as a character whom Norman Bates was based, as a character whom Norman Bates was based, as — Francois Cluzet’s — “A Tom Cruise Pro-duction” — it’s the first thing you see on the screen, and it’s all there is to know. Production” — it’s the first thing you see on the screen, and it’s all there is to know.

The Intouchables — Francois Cluzet’s resemblance to Dustin Hoffman continues, so does his subtle talent. As a rich, French quadrupleleg, he is all sharp, suave nuances as a friendly new caregiver (Omar Sy) injects his limited existence with fun and warmth. Sy overplays dudeness, but the two are amusing and touching together, and the story of their friendship is not too sappy. There is a priceless moustache joke near the end. 2012. — D.E.

Jack Reacher — “A Tom Cruise Pro-duction” — it’s the first thing you see on the screen, and it’s all there is to know.
Here, he plays Jack Reacher, an invincible, invisible genius who appears out of the mists of clitch to investigate a rogue sniper’s shooting spree. (The opening scene, which a rely scope follows first one pedestrian and then another and then another, is both chilling and promising, as is the dialogue-free setup of a scene that follows. Then, suddenly, we’re deep in TV procedural territory.) Reacher teams up with the sniper’s lawyer (Rosamund Pike) who, it turns out, is desperate to pull the trigger out to beat her dad the death penalty DA, but whose real job is to have boobs and listen, open-mouthed with both desire and entertaining, as her hero tells her what’s what. The only parts that aren’t a formula are just — most notably, a Stooges-style attack on Reacher’s life by a dumbass clown. You might find some joy in Robert Duval as a crazily gun-range owner, or in Cruise’s gradual demolition of a beautiful muscle car dur-

ing a drive-out chase scene. And there are a couple of jokes. But not much else. 2012. — M.L.

**Killing Them Softly** — In order to hammer home its point about Ameri-
can finance and the machinations of some truly unpleasant urban lowlifes, *Killing Them Softly* asks the audience to believe that the patrons of an illegal high-stakes card game would be brought in by a way of background ambiance, a televised speech from President Bush. Also, that a couple of thugs sent to beat a man half to death would warm up for the occasion by listen-
ing to a speech on Federal intervention in the marketplace. Also, also, also. The audience — if it hasn’t been lulled to sleep by the endless gentle lapping of conversation and a dialogue so flat it requires jolts of electric, effects-heavy violence to keep the viewer moving — will still be ready to call bullshit. A similar charge may be made against the film’s efforts to obtain our sympathy for these scumbags — like us, they have money troubles, relationship troubles, work troubles, and all the rest of it — while at the same time insisting that they operate just like the one-percenter who did to this country what Mickey from New York (James Gandolfini) did to his hundred-dollar whore. In other news, Brad Pitt makes the most of his handsome, seedy authority, right up until the point where he decides to start speculating about Thomas Jefferson. 2012. — M.L.

**Les Misérables** — Sincere story of answered prayers, mostly those of one Jean Valjean (Hugh Jackman), an ex-con who tastes mercy and tries to break free from his criminal past (he stole a loaf of bread). But the reformed man is pursued by Javert (Russell Crowe), a lawyer who does not believe reform is possible. Jack-
man and Crowe are both game, but when almost every line is sung, the voice must do the work, and neither is quite up to the task. Crowe lacks the requisite menace, and Jackman can’t quite manage the controlled vocal acrobatics. So it’s up to Sacha Baron Cohen and Helena Bonham Carter to steal the show as a couple of naughty, bawdy scallywags. (The story is set in France, but the culture it portrays smells English, except there are more nuns about.) They have the show stolen from them by Eddie Redmayne’s Marius, a young nobleman with a head full of populist ideas and a heart full of love for Valjean’s adopted daughter. (In general, the kids carry the day here.) Director Tom Hooper (*The King’s Speech*) builds a rich world, full of muck and majesty, but can’t resist prolonged closeups come

the Union? Ultimately, it’s Spielberg, with his lumbering pace and “Hall of Presidents” anamorphic tableaus, who assassinates this Lincoln. 2012. — S.M.

**Parental Guidance** — Reviewed this issue. 2012. — S.M.

**Rust & Bone (De rouille et d’os)** — Two broken people — massive, insensate Ali (Matthew Schoenaerts) and wounded, miserable Stephanie (Marion Cotillard, scrubbed of both makeup and glamour) — warily, even unconsciously, approach the prospect of some one another’s deficiencies. Not out of charity, but out of ordinary, human need and the ordinary, human response to that need. Rust & Bone is most obviously a story of bodies — powerful Ali tending to broken Stephanie in any way she likes, including sexually. But the sex, as it so often does, winds up creating complications, which are no less real for their being immate-
ral. She tries to draw him into the realm of moral feeling (one that will include more room for his young son); in return, he awaken’s her to his life of fighting and thrusting. Director Jacques Audiard offers a harsh look at a harsh world, but his camera stays with love and leaming, search-

ing for beauty in an unpainted landscape. 2012. M.L.

**Silver Linings Playbook** — David O. Russell needs to leave Philadelphia almost as much as John Woo needs to stay in Hong Kong. For his follow-up to *The Fighter*, Russell once again takes the low road in search of truth and beauty amidst a group of boorish louts with personalities akin to the cast of *Here Comes Honey Boo Boo*. A former school-
teacher (Bradley Cooper) — undiagnosed bipolar, borderline delusional, violent, and fresh out of the state mental institu-

tion — decides to move back home with his parents (Jacki Weaver and Robert DeNiro, both phoning it in). Not since Do the Right Thing have so many charac-
ters in one movie spoken with the same identical voice. Close your eyes during one of the film’s numerous scream-
ing matches and you won’t be able to distinguish between Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence. To add injury to the insults, Russell’s camera covers the action either in constipated close-up, as a “walk and talk” (traveling shots of characters delivering dialog as they stroll), or both. Even a musical number is photographed from the waist up. The third-act com-
bination of Dancing with the Stars and repugnant behavior on the part of violent football fans should feature a menace with Monday night TV viewers. Apart from Ms. Lawrence’s electrifying turn as the tough-talking dame who plans on mending Cooper’s heart by putting him back in touch with his ex, this couldn’t have ended soon enough for me. (Incessant jabbering from Chris Tucker, a welcome, albeit brief appearance by Julia Stiles, and brilliant background work by Paul Herman. 2012. — S.M.

**Skyfall** — James Bond lumbers back to his roots. A Bond film is supposed to deliver mayhem and eye candy in exotic locales; Skyfall offers memorable set pieces in Shanghai, Scotland, and an abandoned island factory compound. A Bond film needs gadgets; Skyfall know-

ingly gives us a personalized Walther and a radio transmitter. (Honoring the bond, but not indulging it.) A Bond film should feature a menacing villain who’s also just a touch daffy; Javier Bardem has more fun than anybody else on screen as a rogue agent with a mommy complex and a come-hither leer. But most of all, a Bond film needs a proper English-
man who can do his bit for crown and country while dazzling the ladies and wearing a tuxedo like it’s a second skin. Here and there, Daniel Craig manages the trick, but too often, he comes off like a canny street tough, a musclebound Steve McQueen with a posh accent. Along the way, his boss M notes that “orphans always make the best agents,” but that shouldn’t mean they get to skip out on charm school. (Craig’s delivery on the trademark Bond banter labors harder than the scenes on his trousers, which is saying something.) But it’s not all his fault: he’s not the one who blends Mother and the Mother Country in a story that takes much too long to say too much too little beyond, “Spies — like the one in this old-time franchise — are still relevant!” With Judi Dench, Ralph Fiennes. 2012. — M.L.
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CAREGIVERS AND CNAs. Direct hourly, 12-hour and Live-in positions. HHA's, Companions and Homemakers. Reliable transportation. Availability is preferred. Must have 2+ years healthcare experience, preferably in a spare room. Call 619-235-8200 8:30am to 5pm Monday through Friday.


MISCELLANEOUS


REGIONAL INFORMATION OFFICER. NAPA. Information Technology for Carl Zeiss Vision Inc. (San Diego, CA). Req: Bach’s deg. or foreign equiv. in comp. sci., electric, engnr., industrial engnr. or related tech. field. A at least 5 yrs. exp. performing info. tech. & bus. syst. analyses in support of IT project planning & management. All stated exp. must incl. following: mentor. of IT prof. team. incl. performance assessments & goal setting. Managing IT processes across 5 or more prods. Facilitating & directing centering of at least 2 SAP implementations over full implementation cycle. Directing SAP implementation for in excess of 500 users. SAP experience in logistics & prodn. modules. exp. w/ IT budget & project planning for co. w/ multi/1 supply chain ops. Exercise overall resp. for leading devl’ of multi-location info. tech. syst. Installed & used in 24 locations in US, Canada & Mexico. Send resume to: C. Siquisano, HR Specialist, 25225 Scripps Summit Dr., San Diego, CA 92121. Tel: RIONZ.

RESTAURANT / HOTEL / CLUB
RESORT/RETIREMENT Community. Casa De Manana, an upscale retirement community in La Jolla offering independent and assisted living for seniors, is currently offering part-time positions for LVNs and CNAs. Also hiring Housekeepers and catering staff. We offer competitive pay and excellent benefits. Please apply in person at 882 Coast Blvd., La Jolla, CA 92037. EOE.

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Calendar THEATER
continued from page 7
A Christmas Carol
Sean Murray’s new adaptation of Dickens’s classic boats no smoky effects, no Bigfoot-sized Ghost of Christmas Future, or splashy choreography. It’s set in a radio station, in Manhattan, 1944, where media celebrities perform the story before a live radio audience, including numerous audio effects. The production has traded sights for sounds. One obvious benefit: you can even close your eyes. For those who saw Cygnet’s It’s a Wonderful Life, the staging has the been-there feel of a sequel. Performances, however, are high caliber, especially Tom Stephenson’s Scrooge, who dresses like a financier and makes a sweeping transformation.

Worth a try.
CYGNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGS ST.,
OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, 10PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 7PM AND 9PM SATURDAYS THROUGH DECEMBER 30.

Christmas on My Mind
Manny has a great log cabin up in the mountains. Now the Sequoia tree that fell nearby, on December 23, could have simply happened, right? Or... did Manny work some magic that stranded 11 emotionally-snarled people for the holiday? Could Manny be the “O Come, Emanuel” of the 12th century lyric? After all, the group bonds and simple living (either written or beautifully arranged by the cast members at Lamb’s Players) as if they’ve rehearsed it for years. Kerry Mead’s subtle script and Leonard Patton’s knowing smile as Manny hint at, if not the possibility, at least an intriguing similarity. The ensemble has no slouches. And, because they play so many instruments, constitute quite a back-up band. Worth a try.
LAMB’S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-437-0600. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, 10PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 7PM AND 9PM SATURDAYS THROUGH DECEMBER 30.

Drinkin’, Singin’, Swin’in’
Welk Resort Theatre presents “a Rat Pack style Christmas show: the weather outside is frightful... but Frank, Sammy, & Dino make it more delightful.” WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8800 LAWRENCE WELK DR., ESCONDIDO. 888-802-7469. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 1PM AND 6:30PM SATURDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 31.

National Comedy Theatre
The National Comedy Theatre presents a 100-minute improv comedy show based completely on audience suggestions. The show is appropriate for all audiences.
NATIONAL COMEDY THEATRE, 3717 INDIA ST., MISSION HILLS. 619-295-4099. 7:30PM AND 8:45PM FRIDAYS, 9:30PM AND 9:45PM SATURDAYS, 8PM SUNDAYS, OPEN-ENDED RUN.

Night Stage to Big Shaft
Peggy Sue Productions presents a dinner theater show set in 1853. “When a new mine and a dead lawyer are discovered, everyone becomes a suspect.”
THEATER, 760-433-9339. 7:30PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 30.

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COMPANY / TECHNIQUE
COMPUTER, Embedded Systems Software Engineer. Research in Motion Corporation (US), San Diego, CA. Research and integrate new features into existing software. Work on feature development along with the software development team. Work on characterization of different performance benchmarking. Interface with vendors to specify, develop, and debug software features. Develop and debug both software and device drivers. Bring up platform software on prototype hardware platforms. 

Requirements: Bachelors degree in Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, or a related discipline. Mail resumes specifying job title and expected salary to Research In Motion Corporation (US), PO Box 141394, Irving, TX 75034-1394.

CONTROLS ENGINEER. Alpha Mechanical Sales & Controls (Industrial) to coordinate and analyze projects relating to HVAC Controls Integration. Special focus will include estimating projects, selling projects, programming, installation, testing, training, and selling projects relating to HVAC systems to do re-commissioning, engineering for new constructions, commissioning of new HVAC systems; identifying new business and opportunities for projects perform detailed engineering analysis to quality control project results and customer benefits; provide project coordination for all activities of FPLG and sub-contractors; provide service estimating services; perform on-site data collection for product solution design and detailed design. Requirements: 3 years experience in HVAC sales and control and control assigned projects and ensure that the project is being performed in accordance with standard practices; act as a technical resource for sales and service department; validate assumption made during service department; validate assumptions made during project design; build a detailed cost estimate and scope of work for assigned projects; assist in preparing proposals and development functional expertise as a project development team member.

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 nøtson option plan. If you are looking to begin a career with an awesome company, then Home Juction would like to talk to you. Send resumes to ekm@ehomejunction.com or call Ed for an interview: 658-777-0830 x101.

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CRM APPLICATION MANAGER: SharePoint Web Developer at Carl Zeiss Vision Inc. in San Diego, CA. Requires Bachelor’s degree or foreign equivalent in Information Systems or related field & 2 years SW development experience utilizing high level programming language, such as C#. In lieu of Bachelor’s degree, will accept 2 additional years specialized SW development experience as stated. Experience must include following development & support existing web-based services, & experience with Web Services, C#, .NET, ASP.Net, Visual Basic, JIRA Script, Visual Studio, MS-SQL & MySQL. Develop, create a Windows/UNIX based applications SW & specialized utility programs. Send resume to C. Squillaci, HR Specialist, 12121 Scripps Summit Dr., # 400, San Diego, CA 92131.

SENIOR SCADA/Instrumentation Technician ($37.84-$47.30/ hour). SCADA/ Instrumentation Technician ($32.68-$40.86/ hour). Seeking an experienced and highly skilled electrical, electronic, and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Technician with knowledge of design and software programming of SCADA systems. Please visit our website www.otaywater.gov or call the job line at 619-670-2740 for requirements. Online Application required. Deadline for early consideration is January 4, 2013. EOE.

SOFTWARE ENGINEER: Software dev. and design for e-commerce sales. SAN DIEGO, CA. Mail Resume: Moz Store 1 LLC, 7854 Ronson Road, San Diego, CA 92111.

TECHNICAL, HD Supply, Inc. is seeking a Senior Developer in San Diego, CA to create functional and technical design specifications. Requires Bachelor’s plus 5 years experience. For additional requirements and to apply, visit: www.hdsupply.com/careers Reference Job ID: 73639

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LA JOLLA, $2580. Studio-1BA. 1/2 off 1st month! Extra large studio on the 2nd floor, with street wood floors, new paint, spa wood blinds, on-site laundry, off-street parking. 1120 Torrey Pines Rd. #10. 619-416-3255.

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

Exceptions: direct quotations, slang, colloquialisms, house/author style idiosyncrasies. Exempt: ads, blogs, user reviews, movie reviews, puzzle results, and letters to the editor. Submissions accepted until Monday at 7 a.m. after the issue in question. First identification of errors wins $10 or a Reader baseball cap (indicate preference). Winnings limited to $300/year per household. Mail to: Typo Patrol, SD Reader, Box 8583, San Diego, CA 92118; or fax to 619-231-0489; or deliver to 1703 India Street in Little Italy (we have an after-hours mail slot).
THE READER SUDOKU PUZZLES:
RULES OF THE GAME:
1) Submit completed puzzle of any difficulty level (Easy, Medium, Hard or Evil) to the Reader each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results and ranking are posted online at SDRreader.com/puzzle. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle and send it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.
2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your name. Clearly mark the puzzle that you want to enter this week, and circle the completed puzzles. All puzzles that are cut into pieces will be disqualified.
3) We will draw 10 names from weekly puzzle winners; no letter words or limericks required.

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

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4) The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year.
5) Entries must be received by 619-231-0489, or mailed to Reader Puzzles, P.O. Box 88100, San Diego, CA 92186-8100, or delivered through our mail slot at 1700 India Street in Little Italy, or scanned and e-mailed to Sudo@sdreader.com. Submissions by email must be attached in .PGF format. Only one entry per puzzle.
6) All answers must be legal and entered in the spaces provided. Entries not considered.
7) Our entries will be disqualified.
8) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
9) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

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9) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

Now you can go online to check your ranking and communicate with each other! Simply visit: www.sdrreader.com/puzzle. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle and send it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.

This week’s winners:
Prizes will be available for pickup at the Reader offices front desk from the Thursday your name appears in print to the following Thursday at 5 p.m.

Wayne Mathieu, San Diego, 3.
Marc Richard, Banker’s Hill, 4.
Patrick Driscoll, Santee, 7.
Hiroshi Miyazaki, Normal Heights, 7.
Joe Arbusto, Rancho Penasquitos, 5.

Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803; 619-231-0489 or e-mail: Sudo@sdreader.com.

San Diego Reader December 27, 2012
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Carpets and Upholstery
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Cleaning
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Complete E-Commerce

San Diego Reader December 11, 2012 91
NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS
Continued from page 6

San Diego College English professor Philip Lopez suffered a heart attack and died.

Many people consider Lopez an institution unto himself at the campus; he began teaching English as an adjunct instructor in 1973. As an English professor in a program called the Puente Project, he inspired students who often came from households where no family member held a college degree to pursue higher education.

Lopez had been a political activist all of his adult life. He made San Diego headlines when he was suspended from Southwestern. In October 2009, Lopez and three other Southwestern professors were furloughed for their alleged involvement with a student protest. Students were demonstrating against the college’s proposed course cuts for the spring semester.

Besides being a renowned fisherman (by his own account), Lopez was also a musician and writer. He had been looking forward to more leisure time when he planned to write a history of the campus and the decades-long struggle against corruption.

SUSAN LUZZARO, DECEMBER 17

MIDWAY DISTRICT

Belieber

Concert tickets led to apartment-complex police action?

San Diego police descended on the Stonewood Gardens apartments on Midway Drive and Sports Arena Boulevard early on the morning of Wednesday, December 19.

Four police cars flanked the driveway of the apartments next to the McDonald’s restaurant, and a female suspect was sitting on a large rock, her hands shackled behind her.

When I exited my car to go into the McDonald’s, the heavily tattooed woman called over to me and whispered a request to help her “get out of these goddamned handcuffs.” Since I did not want to aid and abet, I changed the subject and asked the lady what was going on.

She told me that she had gone to the apartment complex at 8:00 a.m. to give her sister “some Bieber tickets.” I asked her if the tickets were stolen. She said no, but that an altercation had taken place with some of her sister’s neighbors. I told her to just chill out and that if she had done nothing wrong, the cops would cut her loose.

Later, I phoned the Stonewood Gardens management office and asked Erica what all the commotion was about. She told me that since their onsite office does not open until 9:00 a.m.,

they were not aware of any police activity that had taken place earlier in the morning.

GAIL POWELL, DECEMBER 20

BANKERS HILL

Here come the condos...

Fourth Avenue Professional Center to undergo redevelopment

The Fourth Avenue Professional Center in Bankers Hill is no more. Boarded up and overgrown with weeds, the Spanish-style building with a clay-tile roof will soon be remodeled into a condo complex in the Park West area. However, since the building at 3235 Fourth Avenue is considered historic, much of the structure will be preserved.

According to the legal secretary at the law office of Matty Sandoval (longtime tenants of the building, along with doctors and dentists), the condos will incorporate some of the Spanish Revival elements of the original building in their design. Also, the arches will remain and the back building will be “pulled up to the front, with the condos built around it and behind.”

Preservationist groups are proud of the architectural history of the area. Some of San Diego’s greatest architects — including Richard Requa, Irving Gill, Frank Mead, Carlton Winslow, and William Templeton Johnson — have designed and built homes, apartments, office buildings, and medical complexes in Bankers Hill.

GAIL POWELL, DECEMBER 18

CHULA VISTA

Professor passes away

Heart attack befalls Philip Lopez, Southwestern College teacher/activist/accordianist

Friday, December 14, on the eve of his 66th birthday, on the last day of the fall semester,
surfer I loved the new sand, but something went wrong with the grading. I’ve never seen anything like it. Normally, the water flows back out to sea. Now it forms a pond and within two days it’s seeping under the driveway and concrete slab. We have cast-iron lines and there’s no telling the damage being done.”

Ed Vea with the Imperial Beach office of the city manager relayed a message to Seacoast Drive residents that SANDAG acknowledged there have been problems with pooling water and drainage in areas where new sand was placed.

Residents were told that on Tuesday, December 11, they would start remedial grading on the new sand to alleviate the problems.

“Two bulldozers showed up,” said Recker. “They pushed sand against the rocks the whole length of the beach. This just changed the pool, moving it 20 feet further from our homes.”

PETER C. SALISBURY, DECEMBER 18

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PETER C. SALISBURY, DECEMBER 18

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SAN DIEGO POLICE DESCENDED ON THE STONEWOOD GARDENS APARTMENTS ON MIDWAY DRIVE AND SPORTS ARENA BOULEVARD EARLY ON THE MORNING OF WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19.

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Engines

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