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NEWS TICKER

By Reader staff writers

Campus crime wave

Latest police report sheds new light on school's chronic crime problems

SDSU- As Don Bauder noted here last month, San Diego State University was high on the list of "The 25 Most Dangerous Colleges in America," as compiled by Business Insider magazine, with 27 violent and 575 property crimes per year.



According to *Business Insider*, SDSU was high on the list of the "25 Most Dangerous Colleges in America."

The rankings, in which SDSU placed number six, were based on FBI crime figures from 2008 through 2011. "Violent crimes were relatively low in 2011, with only five forcible rapes, three robberies, and five aggravated assaults," according to the survey.

But this year the story is different, according to an interoffice memorandum from SDSU police chief John Browning to Jessica Rentto, the school's associate vice president for administration.

The document, dated December 10, reports that from the beginning of 2012 through the end of November, 11 rapes occurred — 2 in September alone. There were 13 robberies, 54 burglaries, and 70 assaults, 17 in November.

In addition, campus police recorded 50 arrests for driving under the influence and 12 DUI busts of those under 21.

We've left calls with SDSU police chief Browning and an assistant seeking more information on the latest upswing in campus crime.

Matt Potter, December 19

Sneaky, sneaky

Ratepayers get a win as CPUC denies last-ditch attempt to shoulder SDG&E customers with 2007 fire costs

Diegans was almost certainly a factor in today's (December 20) decision by the commissioners of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to turn down San Diego Gas & Electric's attempt to get ratepayers to cough up for uninsured costs of the 2007 fires, for which the local utility has been held responsible.

San Diego — Quick action by irate San

On Sunday, December 16, Diane Conklin of Mussey Grade Road Alliance discovered that the CPUC has a subscription list, supposedly for minor changes in documents, and signed up. Yesterday she learned that

Commissioner Timothy Alan Simon had made a huge but cleverly concealed change in his proposal the day before the hearing, which permitted SDG&E to bill customers for the uninsured 2007 costs. She quickly complained.

Mike Aguirre, who was also fighting the proposal, stated last night, as reported on this blog, that this action was a blatant violation of the Brown Act, which mandates open meetings. All hell broke loose in San Diego media today, following the *Reader's* coverage last night and a press conference today by Utility Consumers' Action Network and Aguirre. Many media covered the story, and the CPUC was besieged with telephone calls at Conklin's urging.

At today's meeting, Simon was forced to withdraw his altered motion because of Brown Act violations. Then the commissioners voted unanimously to turn down SDG&E's bid and stated that for the utility to recover its funds under the so-called Z factor — a procedure to handle unanticipated events — SDG&E would have to show it had no responsibility for the fires. But a division of the CPUC has already ruled that the utility was responsible for those fires.

SDG&E's parent, Sempra Energy, has been telling shareholders that it expected ratepayers would be forced to pick up the tab for the uninsured costs.

Don Bauder, December 20

Home values on the up and up

County tops nation in monthly, yearly gains San Diego — Local home values rose 1.3 percent in November, topping the nation's 0.6 percent, according to Zillow.com figures released this morning (December 19). San Diego's year-over-year gain of 7.3 percent also beat the nation's 5.2 percent.

The median value of a county home is now \$366,400, topped among the 30 major markets by only San Jose (\$618,000), San Francisco (\$517,700), and Los Angeles (\$408,900). San Diego's median monthly rent of \$2120 is topped only by these same metro areas.

Don Bauder, December 19

Nabbed

Bank-robbery suspect claimed to be armed with a gun and bomb

Imperial Beach — The Navy Federal Credit Union in the Southland Plaza Shopping Center in the South Bay area was robbed at about 4 p.m. Monday, December 17, according to the San Diego Police Department.

According to San Diego police Lt. Paul Rorrison, a man entered the credit union branch on 555 Saturn Boulevard at about 4:30 p.m.

 $continued\ on\ page\ 40$

Economy for 2013: SD worse than state, nation?

By Don Bauder

re 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 and government spending. Happily, "the remarkably low long-term interest rates" engineered by the Federal Reserve will prop up housing, which has been a drag for years, says Starr.

"In the U.S., the sluggish growth of the last three years is a reasonable forecast for 2013," says James Hamilton, 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



Ross Starr: Spending is sluggish



James Hamiltion: Growth will be



Kelly Cunningham: San Diego economy will be sluggish

INFLATION-ADJUSTED ECONOMIC GROWTH

	San Diego	California	United States	
2011	2.1%	2.0%	1.8%	
2012 (estimated)	1.7%	1.8%	1.7%	
2013 (forecast)	1.5%	1.6%	2.0%	

professor of economics at the University of California San Diego. He thinks the economy could grow by possibly 2.5 percent, but he warns that to create jobs growth "we need in excess of 2.5 percent before we could say we have turned the corner." He is concerned about declining consumer confidence.

Both Kelly Cunningham, economist for the National University System Institute for Policy Research, and Marney Cox, chief economist for the San Diego Association of Governments, look for a sluggish San Diego economy next year. The military — including personnel as well as contracting — has accounted for

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

continued on page 40

MANCHESTER FINANCIAL BUILDING

A former art gallery at the Manchester Financial Building on Prospect in La Jolla is being

Manchester's La Jolla restaurant rattles residents

By Dorian Hargrove

4 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-



Leigh Hyman worries that noise from dining and live music at Amaya will destroy the quality of life at her neighboring condominium.

bearing walls, and hanging

a suspended ceiling, as well

as all necessary electrical,

mechanical, and plumbing

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, includ-

ing a DJ or a jazz band play-

Once completed, the res-

taurant will measure 5899

square feet — 8362 square

feet when factoring in two

covered patios and the entry

patio. The restaurant will fea-

Recent documents

work.

ing onsite.

ture 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 restaurant 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 a three-story duplex 60 feet away from the restaurant's newly constructed stage. She worries that the noise from diners and from the house band will run through the suspended ceiling and through the skylights into her bedroom.

Hyman has complained about the potential impacts for months. She has called councilmember Sherri Lightner's office. There was no return call. She has phoned the police about illegal parking on the small one-way street, but trucks and cars eventually return. She has even purchased generic parking tickets to place on windows of large construction vehicles and hung "no parking" signs.

"I heard over two years ago that they were planning a restaurant in there," said Hyman. "I couldn't believe it. There's no space for deliveries — and not only that, there are restaurants all over the place. But, of course, they kept denying it. There's no



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

space for this. It's downright ridiculous."

And that's only the beginning of Hyman's concerns. At 76, she worries noise from the restaurant will keep her awake at night.

Hyman walks up a flight of stairs to her living room. She stands at a window that looks directly over the enclosed patio. Five openings can be seen in the ceiling where skylights will go.

"I've lived here for 18 years, and I can hear everything from my bedroom because I am right over the street. What am I supposed to do when a live band is playing? How is this not going to affect my quality of life? Why wasn't this heard by the planning committee or city council?" she asks.

Those groups haven't heard it because the city's municipal code allows property owners within the La Jolla Planned District to change land uses without approval from the local planning groups.

Yet that doesn't mean

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."

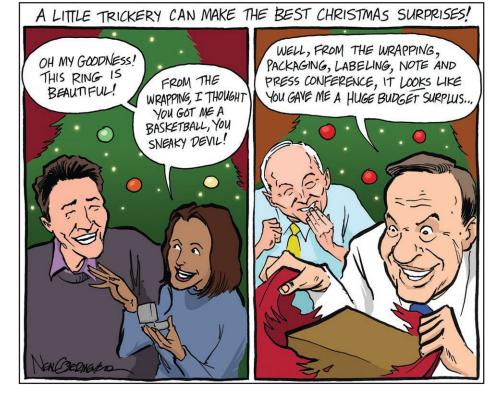
But Voss denies allegations that he or his company intentionally misled residents or the city. "Around the time that the owners of Simic [Art Gallery] told us that they were not going to renew the lease, we had to do some improvements to the building. I believe there was a leak that needed to be repaired. It was 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 deci- 🖔 sion is final, Voss looks for-

continued on page 40 w

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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 land 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 state parks and railroading the public out of their property, and then making these multimilliondollar land deals with the government.

Carmen via voicemail

Uniting the Country

Regarding Ron Harris's letter (December 13) on Don Bauder's November 21 article, "Hispanic Vote Calls the Shots in San Diego," City Lights. He writes, "The Republicans have become old and boring, and most people are aware of their true intentions." Well, unfortunately most people are deceived and they think Democrats are wonderful.

Look at Clinton. He took so much stuff from the White House that they had to actually bring in moving vans. Obama promises to unite the country, yet he invites Black Panthers in the White House. How is that uniting the country? You want excitement? You'll get it when the dollar drops out because he's printing up too much money and it becomes worthless. And then people start starving to death. You'll get plenty of excitement there.

Name Withheld via voicemail

Molding Minds

Fantastic piece by attorney Joan Jackson ("Still Fat," December 6 cover story). As an African-American female who has fought the battle of the bulge half of my adult life, it brought tears to my eyes how cruel people can be to their fellow men and women. Losing weight has become one of the most difficult battles I have ever fought.

As a 41-year veteran of the classroom, I was infuriated by the racism, insensitivity, and negativity of the teachers she wrote about. This Ms. Hooten, Ms. Lundquist, and the administration at Pershing Junior High School are hopefully no longer in the business of supposedly molding young minds. I realize there are prejudiced, bigoted, and right-wing teachers in my business, but when you read the toll it has taken on students of color, it makes one sick.

Mrs. Peggy M. Spates-Johnson Valencia Park

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 Clacton via email

continued on page 42

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NEIGHBORHOOD

By Reader stringers

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, a 15-pound "cha-weenie" mix, didn't stand a chance against the three pit bulls

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

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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.

Frantic, 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 across the street with her dogs.

T-Bone? The hospital said they saved his arm with a metal rod and nine pins. We miss you, Boner! You are loved by so many! Merry Christmas, wherever you are.

ANNIE ROSSI, DECEMBER 20

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



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

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 homeless 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.

JUSTIN POWELL, DECEMBER 20

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LAKESIDE

Hey, the lake's back

Recent rains restore Lindo Lake water

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 & Recreation 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 pooling 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 seeping 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

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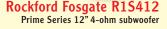
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No

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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

"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.

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 someone's requests for a favor. Saying "no" made me feel bad. I didn't want to be the cause of anyone's disappointment; it was too much to bear. But saying "yes" all the time was just

as burdensome. Rather than say "no" and feel bad, I'd say "yes" and end up feeling resentment toward the person who put me in a position where saying "no" was uncomfortable.

I started to get fed up with myself for prioritizing "being liked by others" above everything else. I used to get angry at people for "using" or "manipulating" me. But then I realized I had no one to blame but myself. Each time I said "yes" and didn't mean it, I was giving up my right to be angry. For example, if a friend asked me for a ride and I was busy but still said "yes," that friend wasn't "using" me — she was just asking 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-withmeat-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 disappoint-

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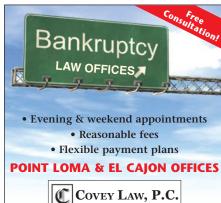
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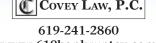
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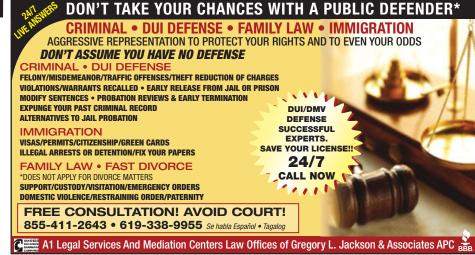
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San Diego Poetry Society Announces Winner of 2012 Award for Best Local Poem

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 sly 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

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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.

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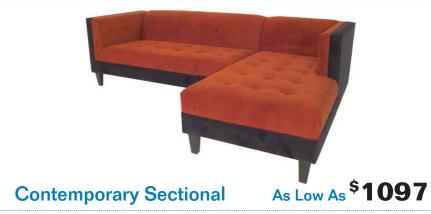


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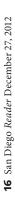
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DIEGO

TITLE: Creative Flow | ADDRESS: chelscreativeflow.tumblr.com AUTHOR: Chelsea Louise | FROM: Imperial Beach | BLOGGING SINCE: December 2012

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 gentile 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 overallstyle dress, bending over in the cafeteria, and having everyone gawk at my Hanes Not-Her-Way wedgie. 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....

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 prepubescent sexgod (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 debutante Grandma. "Why don't they have a bagina 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-out, 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.]

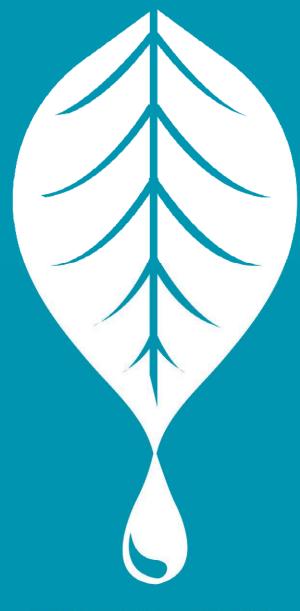
Mind-blowing! Look out, Alex Trebek! I don't mind being a loser as long as I'm free and no maniac villagers decide to come drag me out of my room, clad in my man-shirt and lady boxers, and burn me at the stake. If someone reads this and has a "me-too" reaction, then that makes all the difference. Freak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



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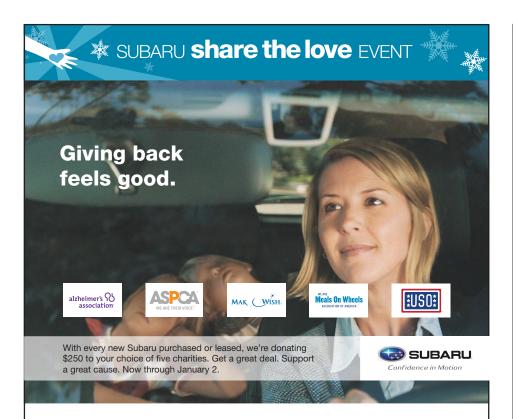
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End Times Edition



Feel like a little Naumachia? Caesar built an artificial lake in which to wage real sea battles.

he 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

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 newsstarved 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 the first team sport in human history. Think 1500 BCE dodgeball played in Mexico and Central America.

It was a little rough, even by NFL standards. Action centered around a rubber ball. The contest was held on a large court; some courts were larger than a football field. Special stone rings hung near the top of high walls. The objective was to pass the ball through one of the impossible-to-get-to rings. To add sporting zest, players could not touch the ball with their hands. Winning team members were honored during an extravagant after-game party. Government officials, priests, citizens of the highest rank celebrated with the winners. Sacred songs were sung, spiritual rituals were performed, and as the show-stopping, bring-the-audience-to-its-feet finale, losers were sacrificed to the gods.

For the good of all.

Jumping to 776 BCE and the first recorded Olympic Games. The games, normally held every four years, continued until 394 CE. That's 1170 years of sports action! If Earth could have survived another 1170 years, the Chargers might well be playing the 49ers in Super Bowl MCCXVIII. I'd pay to see that.

Time passes. It's 46 CE. Feel like a little Naumachia? Should be a good one — Julius 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. But, credit where credit is due, it was Emperor Claudius who put on the definitive show, using 100 ships and 19,000 fighting men. Even so, the game had to evolve, and you can see why: fans were seated too far away from the action.

What to do? Easy, build amphitheaters, fill their bottoms with water, insert the real ships, with the real crews numbering in the thousands of sailors, and have them go at it unto death in front of tens of thousands screaming fans. 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 courtly 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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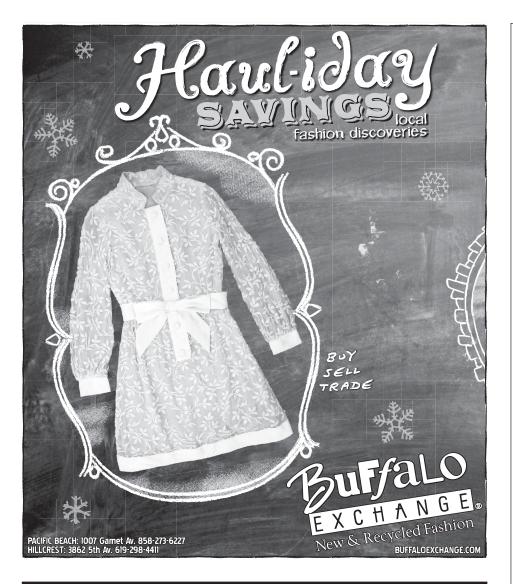
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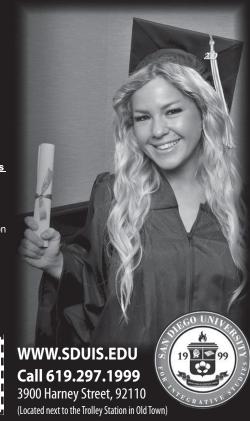
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The 12 days of Christmas are usually a rollercoaster of emotions in the Kelly home. A high on Christmas, post-Christmas low, high of New Year's, followed by a cavernous low in January.

"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 chili potluck."

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

"Viejas Outlet Center has the largest outdoor skating rink in Southern California," I replied. Open December 26 through January 6 from 12 p.m. to 10 p.m. Adult admission is \$12, and children 12 and under are \$10. Prices include skate rental and 90 minutes of fun on the ice.

"The San Diego Zoo is open until 8 p.m. through January 6," I continued. "They've penned it 'Jungle Bells' hand-bell musicians wandering through the park, a tree-lighting every night at 5 p.m., some snow falling, lights everywhere... How can you get blue amid that festive scene?" Adult tickets, \$44; children ages 3 to 11, \$34.

Patrick winced at the prices.

"Or, maybe you prefer Shamu and his Christmas," I said. "SeaWorld touts the largest Christmas tree in Southern California, standing 320 feet high [their "Skytower" elevator decorated with lights]; live music at Shamu's Christmas; and there's SnowWorld, a heap of snow right in Arctic Plaza for sledding and making snowmen." The park is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. through December 31. Adult tickets, \$78; children ages 3 to 9, \$70.

Patrick nearly fainted at that price.

"Legoland has the World's largest Lego Christmas tree," I continued. "Live wandering entertainment, fireworks, and we'll find a snow area there, also. You can use Legos to accessorize your snowman."

"Every snowman's dream, Lego accessories," Patrick joked, but he wasn't happy about the

"Viejas Outlet Center has the largest outdoor skating rink in Southern California."

price: \$59 for adults and children. (The park stays open until 7 p.m. through December 31.)

"San Diego Botanic Garden has a 100,000-light display called Garden of Lights," I offered. "More snow for sledding, horses for wagon rides, live music nightly, a Nutcracker exhibit, campfire for marshmallow-roasting, and they'll have your favorite for sale, Patrick:

> mulled wine." December 26 through 30, from 5 until 9 p.m.; nonmembers are \$12 and children ages 3 to 12

> > "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.

"There's 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-inlaw happy," he grinned. He's a fourth Wise Man, this husband of mine.

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me to tea. That should've been a red flag. A cup of tea costs about \$2. What a cheapskate."

When she denied the photographer a second date, he sent a scathing email telling Bekah that she wasn't "hot enough to be so picky."

"I am 32 years old! Too old for this BS," Bekah said. "I should be married by now."

Then came Mike, the Johnny Depp look-alike.

Bekah gave up hope of meeting a normal guy through a dating site. She stopped looking for something serious. One night, out of boredom, she typed the physical characteristics of her ideal man into Match. com's search engine. A guy named Christian (not his real name) popped up. She viewed his profile. He sent her an electronic wink. She winked back. They Skyped. Two days later, they went to a tapas bar. At the end of the night, they exchanged

Bekah was convinced that she'd found the one. The feeling was mutual.

In eight months, Bekah and Christian are getting married. She has already purchased her wedding gown and booked a reception hall.

"He's perfect for me," she says with a happy sigh. "I never thought I would actually meet someone I'd want to marry from one of these sites."

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

She had never been kissed.

"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



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Go to SDReader.com/stringers. Click on "Story Submission Page" 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

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

"He took me to tea. That should've been a red flag. A cup of tea costs about \$2. What a cheapskate."

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

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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 on May 1. 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."

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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.

"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."

She liked him immediately. They began to date exclusively. When

she discovered, five months later, that he was cheating on her with his high-school sweetheart, Rebecca broke up with him

"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

they were of a friend. Also, he lived in New York, not La Jolla.

"He swore the penis picture he sent was his,

"I never thought I would actually meet someone I'd want to marry from one of these sites."

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 Rebecca weren't of him; 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 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."
Rebecca says that, most evenings, someone buys her dinner, a different guy every time. If she doesn't feel like leaving home, she invites the man

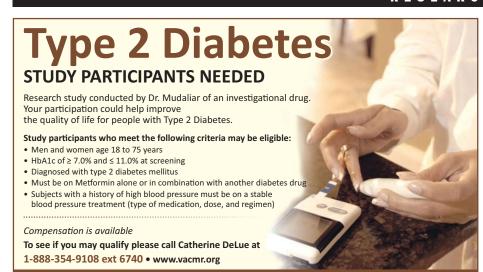
over to her place to watch movies.

"It's really fun, though sometimes it can be annoying. I had a Navy guy come over to my place. Less than 20 minutes later, he was begging me for sex. He almost cried when I said no."

Rebecca shows me her phone. There are dozens of text messages from different men.

"Right now, I'm talking to 12 guys. I've met 5 in person. The most promising one is an ugly guy. All the others are just looking to bone me. No one on these dating sites is really looking for a relationship. They're just looking for sex. That has been my experience."

RESEARCH STUDIES







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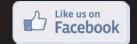






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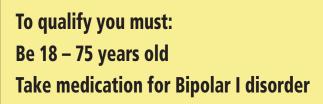
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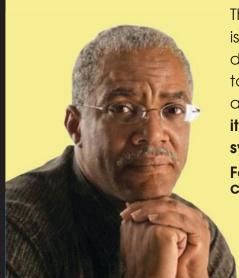
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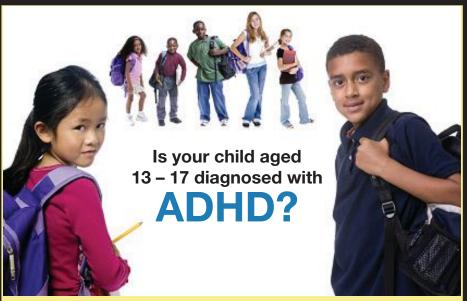
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1-888-619-7272 www.synergysandiego.com North County 710 E Grand Avenue Escondido, CA 92025 Rebecca says that tonight she has her choice between the ugly, sweet guy and a new date. Both are waiting to hear whether she will be joining them for dinner.

"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

"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.'"

she was 45. When she showed up she looked closer to 60. If anything, I thought that maybe the photos she'd posted were of her daughter."

Carlos knew within

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."

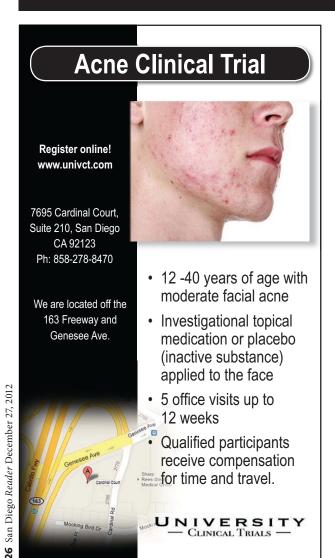
Carlos finds that, in order to make an online connection, he needs to be the one to initiate things. He is the first to send a message requesting a date.

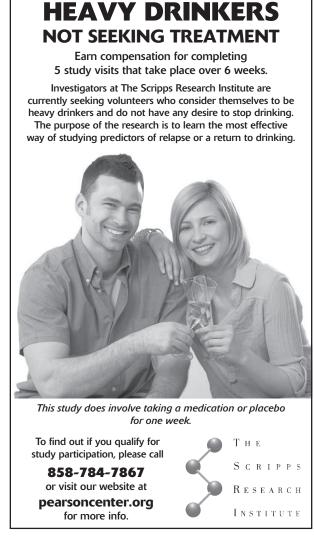
"I look at profiles and send messages to women I think I want to get to know. I rarely, if ever, hear back from them. San Diego ladies have their pick of the litter. They have to weed through the men on these dating sites. The women here have guys pawing all over them. They have more choices."

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

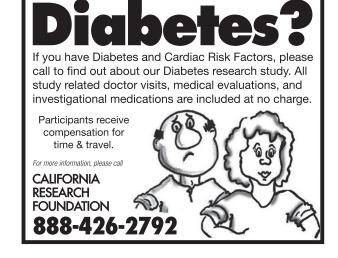
"My view of women has become jaded. Women

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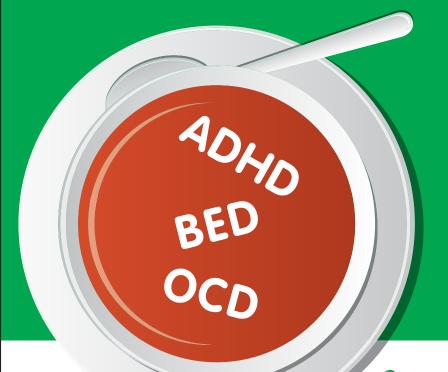
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on these sites say things like, 'I want someone that makes me laugh.' I can respect that, but I am not a comedian. I shouldn't have to be. There are women on Match that say you have to make a minimum of \$150,000-plus a year in order to even contact 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."

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 goodlooking people smiling and having a good time. It was at House of Blues in the Gaslamp."

Carlos thought it sounded like fun.

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 doorwoman 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

any of them."

Due to failed dates, Carlos has nearly given

people trying to get into

the event. I wouldn't date

"The problem with online dating in this town is that we live in Man Diego. There are not enough women to go around."

not staying for this. There were only a couple of girls. I left. By that point, there was a big line of up hope of meeting a nice San Diego woman online.

"It's like high school. All the women I like aren't interested, and the ones interested in me I wouldn't date. People are on Match for all different types of reasons. I have coworkers that have met their wives through online dating. I am doing it to find someone to have a serious relationship with, but I don't know if that will happen."

Margarita and Avi finish each other's sentences. Sometimes they talk over each other. On occasion, Margarita shushes Avi with a wave of her hand. In their La Jolla apartment, they sit side-by-side on a microfiber sectional. We keep our voices down because Milana, their 22-monthold daughter, is sleeping.

"We met on JDate [a Jewish dating site]," Margarita tells me. "I signed up for a profile because I wanted a relationship with someone of the same faith."

"JDate is a more serious dating site, compared to some of the others," Avi adds. "It's not a hook-up site like Match."

"I'm trying to remember why I responded to Avi's initial message," Margarita says.

"Because I am amazing," Avi laughs.

"It's easier for girls," Margarita says. "You can be a minimally attractive

RESEARCH STUDIES

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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

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-

"Women on these sites say things like, 'I want someone that makes me laugh.' I can respect that, but I am not a comedian."

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."

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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

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serenaded me on a grand piano. It was awkward."

After emailing backand-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 fireengine-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

"We walked her dogs for two hours that night," Avi savs.

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



JDate featured Margarita and Avi in an advertising blitz.

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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 a Padres shirt on. She looked casual. Sometimes, you'll go to these games and see women dressed like they're going clubbing. It's a frickin' ballgame. I decided that

night: I don't care if she likes me or not. I'm going to pursue her."

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 dat-

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

"If you know what you like, you don't have to waste your time."

ing, 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 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 Mar-

garita'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

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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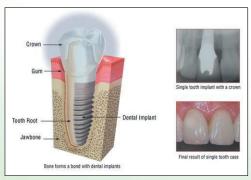
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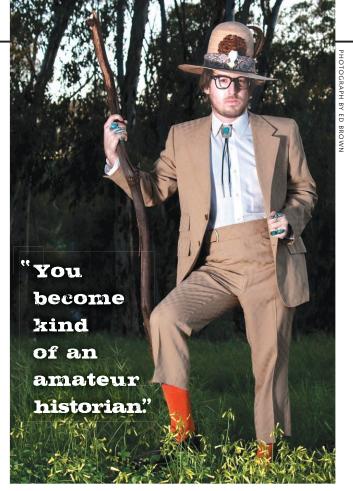
I try to never wear the same thing twice

he 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 a 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



Kenny King, manager of Frock You, has been rocking a "naughty Amish" look lately.



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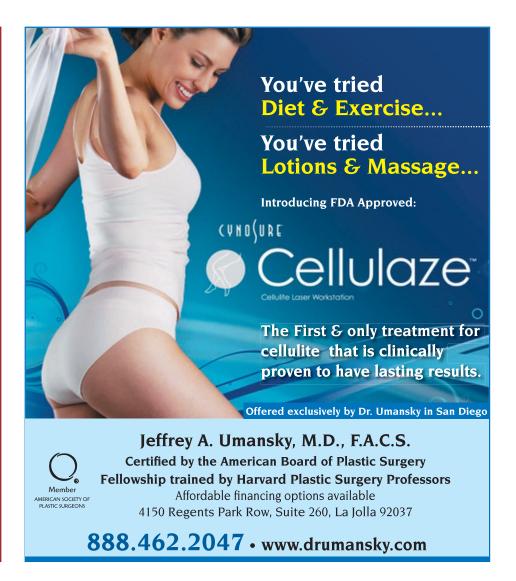
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an electric guitar. King says he's wearing 1960s swim trunks — they're colored with bright fish — because his new tattoo needs to breathe.

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 print. 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 vard is abuzz with early-bird shoppers. Inside, where the goods are fullprice, King mans the register under the breeze of ceiling fans. A line snakes around to the open front

"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 gabardine shirt on the counter for King to ring up.

"Yeah, 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 weeklong "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 is* 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,

"When people ask what my favorite decade is, my answer is 'Now.'"

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 temperatures at the desert event can go down to freez-

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-and-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 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 treasurehunting. I get a lot of kids coming in for prom dresses. They're the ones who want

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 its culture away from the sameness of a military-orbeach-only vibe.

to stand out and be unique

from the pack."

While racks at stores in the mall are all hung with the "standard black minidress uniform that women think men want them to wear," King says that vintage-clothing stores offer an opportunity to create a unique look.

Putting together unique looks is his forte.

"I try to never wear the same thing twice," he says.

For the past four years or so, he has snapped a photo of his outfit every day.

"I'm not sure what I'm going to do with them," he says. "Maybe an art show or something."

He shrugs off the idea of creating a blog to show-case 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...interesting as the Amish get-up he wore the first time we

In one, he wears a redand-white-striped jacket, black pants, and a flattopped straw hat adorned with a wide black ribbon. He looks like a popcornseller 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,"

HEALTH AND BEAUTY



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 has 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

"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

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

"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



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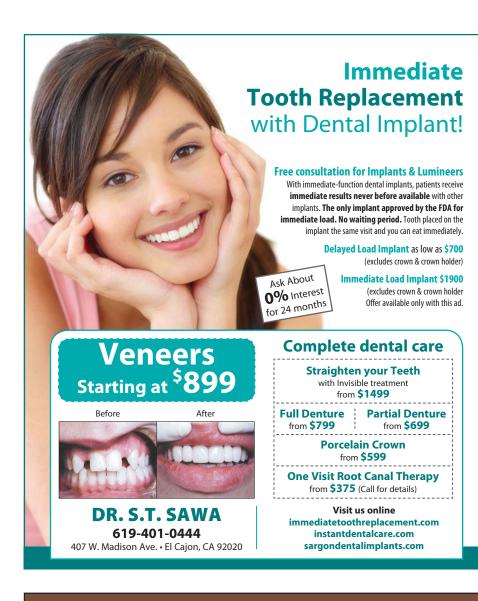


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and the Fish. He grew his hair out and started collecting vintage rock T-shirts, of which he has about 120 today. He shopped for himself at thrift stores and eventually became a "picker" — someone who shops at garage sales, thrift stores, and estate 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 antiques 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

"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-

"I'm not a fashionista. I have fun playing. Every day's an opportunity to push the envelope."

go-to stylist for local Mad *Men* parties and back-inthe-day photo shoots. His aesthetic is far less era-specific than, say, a modernday Don Draper wannabe or a James Gatz (Gatsby) reenactor. But listening to him now, as he helps bag the goods of another Burning Man-bound couple, he sounds like he knows his chased it from one of the vendors outside.

King says, "Okay. Cool. It's just so esoteric. It's amazing."

The man looks confused, and King explains that the Independent Order of Odd Fellows is a fraternal organization, not unlike the Freemasons. The coat, he says, is "Edwardian." The

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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.

King says, "*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.

An older woman in a purple paisley top lays a black-and-white polkadot dress (\$60) and a pillbox hat (\$28) on the counter. King will later tell me she's a "reenactor." At the moment, she's telling him about a costume party at the Corvette Diner. He suggests that she maybe add to her costume a pair of stockings with a seam up the back. She groans at the idea of stockings in this heat, then says that this particular party isn't really her thing.

"I wear the corsets and the bustles," she says. "*That* feels like a second skin."

"Right," King says, "it's not your era."

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

CITY LIGHTS

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 consumerspending 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 brickand-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. ■

Contact Don Bauder at 619-546-8529

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. ■

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 opening an account and I told him, 'Maybe another time."

Happy Holiday Bowl, Bridgepoint!

Peter Salisbury, December 18

The Street lists "5 Strangest College Bowl Sponsors"

San Diego/Beyond SD — Wall Street publication The Street recently looked at the five strangest collegebowl 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 percent of students drop out.

The publication rattles off facts that have been reported here many times and repeats a classic line: Senator Tom Harkin calling Bridgepoint "a scam, an absolute scam."

Don Bauder, December 18

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 closedsession 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 allgirl 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 class-rooms, 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 Gold-

CITY LIGHTS

smith 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 cellphone 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 Next-Wave 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.

CITY LIGHTS

"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





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San Diego Reader December 27, 2012 41

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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-yearold convicted rapist from Squaw Valley, California, was convicted last Friday of raping and robbing a 35-yearold 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

CITY LIGHTS

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

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 everything for everybody? 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 very 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 line 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.

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

MOREGRANGES SCHEMETERALANORARIOUNGE 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

A Touch of Clover

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Enter to win a pair of Ugg boots from Birkenstock of San Diego. Enter by Tuesday, January 8th at 1PM

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. ■

Find more stories by Barbarella at SDReader.com/barbarella

YOUR VELCOME TO IT CEK

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

Friday | 28

THE LOONS AND SIDEWALK SCENE

Soda Bar stages a benefit show for Norton Records, whose warehouse was flooded by Hurricane

Sandy in November.
They now need
help to try and
save as many
vinyl records

vinyl records as possible. The event also includes MC Kim Fowley and DJ Howie

Pyro. \$15.

WHEN: 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Boulevard, City Heights, 866-999-8111; *sodabarmusic.com*

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 dis-

cussed. 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

Hosted hors d'oeuvres and complimentary mixed cocktails 8–9 p.m., with party favors and a champagne toast at midnight. Two rooms of turbo sound. Updated lighting, sound, visuals, and decor. Local art displays and smoking patio. Featuring Halo, Mark Quark, Philaye, Drummer John, DJ Ala, Cris Herrera, Paul Najera, Jason Tokita, James Curry, Flo. Hosted by Surface, Soulonbeat, Dive, Siesta, Interconnected, Solid. Ages 21+. \$35–\$45.

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: 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: 4:00 and 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: California
Center for the Arts, 340
North Escondido Boulevard,
Escondido. 760-839-4186; artcenter.
org/performances/

Gather No Moss



TRAVEL STORIES AND TIPS FROM OUR READERS



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

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 hiking 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



Potter Marsh

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

continued on page 46

Other Adventures



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



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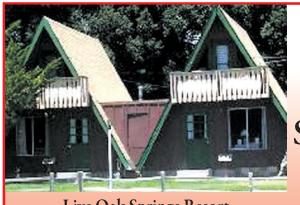
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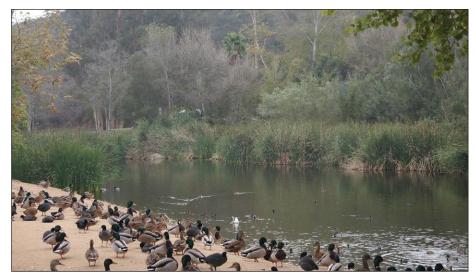


San Diego Outdoors with the Canyoneers

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. 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.



Hundreds of waterfowl, mostly mallards and coots, wait for a handout at the duck pond near the trailhead.

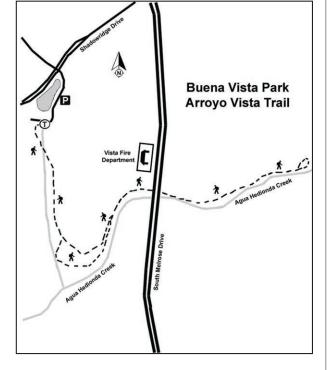
Buena Vista Park is a typical urban park, with manicured grass, ball fields, man-made

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



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ART

"Beatles Art and Artifacts" and Avant-Garde Furniture

The Beatles portion of the exhibit combines art and artifacts, "including an actual brick" from the Cavern Club in Liverpool, "a speck of John Lennon's hair (with certificate of authenticity)," rare Beatles photographs, a leaf from Paul's boyhood home, and more. Also on view: "a highbrow display by the SDSU furniture artist cartel,' who have used disparate materials including concrete, plaster, carbon fiber, reclaimed wood and even mud. Friday, December 28, 6pm; Saturday, December 29, 12pm; free. Kensington Gallery, 4186 Adams Avenue. (KENSINGTON)

"Behold, America!" "Art of the United States from Three San Diego Museums" is a collaboration between Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, San Diego Museum of Art, and Timken Museum of Art. "Frontiers" celebrates "the rich natural beauty of the United States, its urban spaces, its westward settlement, and the California landscape.' View works by Asher B. Durand, Albert Bierstadt, George Inness, Thomas Moran, John Sloan, Marsden Hartley, Jenny Holzer, Alfredo Jaar through Sunday, February 10. Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla, 700 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

"Charles Reiffel: An American Post-Impressionist" San Diego Museum of Art and San Diego History Center present collaborative,

two-museum retrospective of work of Charles Reiffel, celebrating the 150th anniversary of his birth. View more than 90 of Reiffel's works, primarily oils on canvas but also watercolors, gouaches, drawings in both pencil and crayon, through Sunday, March 10.

"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 performance 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 handmade 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."

Rhyme & Verse

Ring Out, Wild Bells A poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky, The flying cloud, the frosty light: The year is dying in the night; Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new, Ring, happy bells, across the snow: The year is going, let him go; Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind For those that here we see no more; Ring out the feud of rich and poor, Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause, And ancient forms of party strife; Ring in the nobler modes of life, With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin, The faithless coldness of the times; Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood, The civic slander and the spite; Ring in the love of truth and right, Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease; Ring out the narrowing lust of gold; Ring out the thousand wars of old, Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free, The larger heart, the kindlier hand; Ring out the darkness of the land, Ring in the Christ that is to be.



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.

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry

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

"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, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Art Uncorked — Sparrow Sky Recreate "Sparrow Sky" while sipping wine or cocktails. Supplies (canvas, paints, brushes, apron) included. No experience necessary. 619-255-7885. Save \$20 with promo code 98BOT12. Thursday, December 27, 6pm; \$25-\$45. 21 and up. 98 Bottles, 2400 Kettner Boulevard, (LITTLE ITALY)

Art-on-the-Green COAL Gallery member artists display their artwork at Art-on-the-Green every weekend (good weather permitting) in front of the Carlsbad Inn Beach Resort, 760-434-8497. Saturdays, 9am; Sundays, 9am; through Sunday, December 30, free. Carlsbad Inn Beach Resort, 3075 Carlsbad Boulevard. (CARLSBAD)

Thursdays on the Coast Art Walk Join the Carlsbad-Oceanside Art League and other downtown Carlsbad art venues for live music, refreshments, lots of art. 760-434-8497. Thursday. December 27, 5:30pm; free. Carlsbad Village, 2930 Roosevelt Street. (CARLSBAD)



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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 SDReader.com/travel for more information.







San Diego Reader December 27, 2012

712

SHEEP AND GOATS

I ANSWERED THE CALL

Shepherd of the Hills **Lutheran Church**

Contact: 9191 Fletcher Parkway La Mesa; 619-469-4197 sothweb.org

Membership: 125 Pastor: Aaron Boehm

Age: 34

Born: Yosilanti, MI

Formation: *Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN*; Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, WI

Years Ordained: 8 years

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 crediting those who believe in Him. Scripture is chock full of the beautiful pictures God uses to describe and show that grace. **SDR**: 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.

SDR: 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.

SDR: What is the mission of vour 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.

SDR: 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 met God's demands of perfection for me. He holds

Pastor Aaron Boehm with his then-newborn son Garret Daniel

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.

SDR: 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 SDReader.com/worship/

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Achieve Your New Year's Goals A series of three meditation class sessions with Ashirvad. visiting lecturer from Brazil. Learn

to meditate and experience guided visualizations suitable for both beginners and advanced practitioners, 619-281-8945, Friday, December 28, 7pm; Saturday, December 29, 2:30pm; Sunday, December 30, 2:30pm; free. Jyoti Bihanga Meditation Annex, 3351 Adams Avenue. (NORMAL HEIGHTS) **Computer Basics** Instructor Sheila Shaw teaches computer classes for adults. Thursdays, 9:30am; through Friday, December 28, 18 and up. Malcolm X Library, 5148 Market Street. (VALENCIA PARK)

Knot Your Nanna Knit and crochet instructional group in the Green Room. Beginners to intermediates. All ages welcome. Saturdays, 3pm; through Saturday, January 5, \$7-\$10. Twiggs Bakery Coffeehouse, 4590 Park Boulevard. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

Luminous Painting In Oil Visiting artist Cynda Valle guides participants in the exploration of

both the notion of chiaroscuro as practiced by the 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. 619-223-0058. Sunday, December

30, 9am; \$122-\$140. Bravo School of Art at NTC Promenade, 2690 Decatur Rd., Studio 206, (POINT

Painting From the Heart Instructor Cynda Valle helps participants turn off their conscious minds and give themselves over intuitive, unselfconscious paint-

\$15

Special price for listings of this size on these Sheep & Goats pages, 50 words or less. 50 cents for each additional word. Call Andrea Ormerod: (619) 235-3000 ext. 296 or email her: aormerod@SDReader. com. Or - easiest of all - go to SDReader.com/ SheepAds and place your ad automatically any time of day or night.

KNOW THYSELF AS SOUL FOUNDATION **Spirituality Introductory** Talk



On Inner Light and Sound and positive living. Free program and vegetarian lunch (RSVP). Sunday, January 6, Noon. www. santmat.net. Location: Progressive Health Services. (619) 260-0810. NORTH PARK 2141 El Cajon Blvd. (619) 260-0810

1ST SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

Meditation/ Auric **Healings**



Guest Speaker: Rev. Rosie Oberlies and New Year Healing Celebration1:30-4:30pm. Thursday, Dec 27: Full Moon Meditation 7:00-9:00pm. CITY HEIGHTS 3777 42nd Street (619) 284-4646

BABAJI TEMPLE Kriya Yoga

Classes in the yoga of the deathless Mahavatar, Kriya Babaji. His five-fold path begins with asanas, (postures of peace and relaxation arranged by Babaji Himself). The class proceeds through pranayam breathing, meditation and chanting satsang. Beginners and advanced students welcome. Every Thursday 7:00pm. **ESCONDIDO** 11152 Arco Drive

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Five Latin Masses

Every Sunday. 7:30 am low Mass; 9:00 am sung Mass; 11:05 chant Mass; 12:30 pm low Mass with sermon and some hymns in Spanish; 6:00 pm low

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Boulevard Suite 306

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House of Prayer Lutheran Church is a church with a friendly congregation, located in Escondido. House of Prayer is an Anglo-Hispanic integrated congregation. Please join us! Our Sunday services are at 9:00 am and 10:45 am every Sunday. hoplutheran.com **ESCONDIDO** 795 N Rose Street (760) 745-3738

TEMPI E EMANII-FI **Pathways** to Judaism



Are you an interfaith couple or family not affiliated with a synagogue? Want to learn more about Jewish life and traditions? Creative educational experiences in a welcoming friendly environment. Sundays, 2:00-4:00pm, beginning January 27. For info or to register: email pathways to judaism@aol.com or call 760.710.9057 DEL CERRO 6299 Capri Drive

SEASIDE CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING **New Year's**

Eve Burning Bowl Ceremony

All invited! Join us for this transformative evening as we burn and release the old and set intentions for the New Year. December 31. 7:00-8:30pm. All invited Free. Donations welcome **FNCINITAS** 1613 Lake Drive (760) 753-5786

THE CHURCH OF YESHUA HA MASHIACH

"Hebrew for Jesus the Messiah" YESHUA

As a local church, we are teaching the gospel of the kingdom and training a new generation of believers how to live and walk in the authority that God has given each of us. Stay tuned to our website at www.coyhm.org and go to the Event Tab to view the upcoming events KEARNY MESA 8334 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. (858) 384-2651

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL **New Year's** Eve at St. Paul's **Cathedral**

A labyrinth walk in the Great Hall to welcome the new year, followed by a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist on the Labyrinth (Great Hall). BANKERS HILL 2728 Sixth Avenue (619) 298-7261

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Paul Willweber Advent Services:

Wednesdays, Dec. 5, 12 and 19 at 7pm. Christmas Eve service Dec. 24 at 6pm. Christmas Day service Dec. 25 at 10am. Please join us for this celebration! New Year's Eve service Dec. 31 at 7pm. (619) 583-1436 or www.princeofpeacesd.net. ALLIED GARDENS 6801 Easton Court (619) 583-1436

CHABAD OF EAST COUNTY **New weekly Jewish Torah Studies** class

Chabad of East County, is proud to present our Torah Studies catalog of classes for the first season of the 2013 academic year. Classes are Tuesday evenings from 8 -9 PM. Please call (619) 387-8770 or email info@.lewishFC com for more information, to sign-up or to host a class in your home. Or visit www.JewishEC.com/ **TorahStudies**

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CHURCH

Latin for Homeschoolers

Wednesdays 11:00-11:45am. Grades 2-12 (must be able to read English at least 2ndgrade level). We use the Phenomenon of Language for younger grades, Jenney's first-year book for older. Volunteer teachers welcome. First class is Wednesday, Sept. 5 at 11am. More information. (619) 235-3000 ext 222 or email Materdomo@aol. com. No charge except for hooks LITTLE ITALY

1629 Columbia Street (619) 234-4820

ing. Materials list provided upon registration. 619-223-0058. Saturday, December 29, 9am; \$122-\$140. Bravo School of Art at NTC Promenade, 2690 Decatur Rd., Studio 206. (POINT LOMA)

Winter Camp: "Physics Fun" Use the force and enter the world of physics. Make roller coasters and parachutes and discover how inertia, gravity, momentum and other forces are a part of our lives every day during hands-on science explorations for grades 1-2 and 3-4. Sign up for one day or multiple days. Registration: 619-238-1233, x806. Friday, December 28, 9am; \$43-\$48. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Winter Camp: "Winter Magic" Explore ice, snow, weather and arctic animals. Be cool, learn how to keep warm, and perform a little magic along the way during hands-on science explorations for grades 1-2 and 3-4. Sign up for one day or multiple days. Registration: 619-238-1233, x806. Thursday, December 27, 9am; \$43-\$48. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

eReader eClinic: Download eBooks Learn to download library "ebooks" to "eReader" devices and computers. Handson demonstrations, quick tips and helpful hints to help you get the most out of downloads. Bring your devices. 858-573-5007. Saturday, December 29, 1pm; free. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

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, 8am; \$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. 619-795-3858. Monday, December 31, 7pm and 10pm. The American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

DANCE

Shen Yun Asian Ballet Troupes of nearly 100 dancers, musicians, and soloists, plus 5000 years of culture and history come alive on stage in a magic journey through ancient dynasties and faraway lands. 30-country world tour. Thursday, December 27, 7:30pm; \$60-\$200. San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue. (DOWN-TOWN SAN DIEGO)

Argentine Tango With Colette. Learn tango now! Take a first free class this Wednesday, January 2, at 7pm (or any Monday or Wednesday thereafter at 7pm) at Dance Place San Diego. No need for a partner. We will introduce you the passion and magic of Tango. Visit tangowithcolette.com, or call 514-726-5567. Dance Place San Diego, 2650 Truxtun Road Studio #106 (POINT LOMA)

Argentine Tango Beginners' Boot Camp Five hours of classes. Four hours of practice and dances. Instructor performances. No partner or experience necessary. 619-393-1974. Saturday, December 29, 5pm; Sunday, December 30, 2pm; \$50-\$65. Kona Kai Resort & Marina 1551 Shelter Island Drive (POINT LOMA)

Shen Yun Asian Ballet Troupes of nearly 100 dancers, musicians, and soloists. 5000 years of culture and history come alive on stage. A magic journey through ancient dynasties and faraway lands. 30-country world tour. Friday, December 28, 7:30pm; Saturday, December 29, 2pm and 7:30pm; Sunday, December 30, 2pm; \$60-\$200. California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard. (ESCONDIDO)

Tango Dinner Show Tango dinner show with live dancers. Recommended reservations: pampasgrill@gmail.com or 858-278-5971. Fridays, 6:30pm and 8:30pm; free. Pampas Argentine Grill, 8690 Aero Drive. (KEARNY

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

FOOD & DRINK

Bubbles and Cheese Prepare to ring in the new year with bubbles and fine from age. Sample cheeses as well as "simple and elegant cheese treats, perfect for any holiday party." 858-847-9616. Thursday, December 27, 6pm; \$50. 21 and up. Venissimo Cheese Del Mar, 2650 Via de la Valle, #C140. (DFL 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, threecourse 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. (MISSION HILLS)

FOR KIDS

Create Poinsettia Decorations How did the poinsettia came to be known as the Christmas flower? Learn about Encinitas's own Ecke

Ranch and how the Ecke family made the poinsettia a Christmas icon all over the world. Make a construction paper poinsettia, toilet paper roll stained "glass" poinsettia, tissue paper poinsettias or pipe cleaner poinsettias. All ages. 760-632-9711. Saturdays, 12pm; Sundays, 12pm; through Sunday, December 30, free. San Dieguito Heritage Museum, 450 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Explore-It: Kelp "Dive deeper into the fascinating lives of ocean animals and other interesting natural phenomenon." Take in demonstrations, live animals, and fun activities for learners of all ages. Included with admission. Friday, December 28, 10am; free-\$14. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

Family Science Saturday: Zip **Line Challenge** Zip over to the Tinkering Studio and take the challenge! Create a contraption to "slip and slide down our zip line course to complete increasingly difficult challenges." Included in admission (0-\$11.75). 619-238-1233. Saturday, December 29, 1pm; Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BALBOA

Finger Painting Friday: Stamp and Snow! Use fabric and stamping tools to create a masterpiece. Friday, December 28, 10:30am; New Children's Museum, 200 West Island Avenue. (EAST VILLAGE)

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 1,000 pieces of materials in the space, visitors will be able to manipulate and transform their visionary models of urban landscapes. Workshop Theme: Integrate: How would you design buildings and roads around a river? Sunday, December 30, 3:30pm; free. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

New Year's Bash — Beats, Patterns, and Rhythms! Ring in 2013! Festivities include dance and musical performances, handson art workshops, and scavenger hunts inspired by colorful, energetic street art. Members-only celebration (11am-2pm). Included in regular admission. Friday, December 28, 10am; free-\$10. New Children's Museum, 200 West Island Avenue. (EAST VILLAGE)

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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SPECIAL EVENTS



"Cavalia: A Magical Encounter Between Human and Horse"

Enjoy the "lavish production involving 49 magnificent horses," 39 riders, aerialists, acrobats, dancers, musicians from all over the world. "Horses cavort with the many artists in front of a constantly changing digital background

projected onto a 200-foot-wide screen." 866-999-8111. Thursday, December 27, 3pm; Friday, December 28, 8pm; Saturday, December 29, 2:30pm and 7:30pm; Sunday, December 30, 2pm; \$39-\$154. Cavalia big top, 1081 Imperial Avenue. (EAST VILLAGE)

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 Tours Get into the holiday spirit, with candy canes and holiday music playing. Required reservations: 619-298-8687. Thursday, December 27, 7pm; Friday, December 28, 7pm; Saturday, December 29, 7pm; Sunday, December 30, 7pm; \$10-\$18. Old Town Market, 4010 Twiggs St., San Diego

San Diego Auto Show Experience Ride & Drive events from Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Chrysler. Ford, GMC, Honda, Kia, Nissan, Toyota and Volkswagen, as well as Jeep Test Track — an interactive adventure zone where professional 4x4 drivers allow passengers to experience the 18-foot high, 35 degree Jeep Mountain. This year's show will have 20,000 square feet dedicated to the exotics with vehicles from manufacturers such as Bentley, Bugatti, Ferrari, Lamborghini, Lotus, and more. Sunday, December 30, 2012 is Mazda Family Day, when children 12 and under get in free with a paying adult — fun activities for kids of all ages planned. Thursday, December 27, 10am; Friday, December 28, 10am; Saturday, December 29, 10am; Sunday, December 30, 10am; San Diego Convention Center, 111 West Harbor Drive, (DOWNTOWN SAN

Skating by the Sea Enjoy outdoor ice-skating on rink overlooking Pacific Ocean. Three-hour sessions (at 2pm and 6pm daily) cost \$25 for adults and \$20 for kids ages 10 and under. Two-hour matinee sessions (11am) are \$20 for adults and \$15 for kids ages 10 and under (skate rentals are included in the price). Thursdays through Sundays, 11am, 2pm, and 6pm; through Saturday, January 5, \$15-\$25. Hotel del Coronado, 1500 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

Singles New Year's Eve Soiree. Age 40-60ish. Simply The Best Singles, an upscale organization for singles looking for relationships, marriage and more offers this dance/mixer with DJ Keith, special performance by Elvis, complimentary appetizers, champagne toast, coffee/dessert and party favors. Discounted NYE rooms plus breakfast buffet. Price \$55 per person, \$65 door, valet \$12, dressy dress (formal optional). Sign up at SimplyTheBestSingles.com or call 818-577-6877. Monday, Decem-

ber 31, 8pm to midnight. Hilton Garden Inn Carlsbad Beach, 6450 Carlsbad Boulevard (CARLSBAD)

New Year's at Monkey Paw.

New Year's Eve Beer Release! Kong Barleywine! Kong is being unleashed just in time for new years. Big, boozy, and bold, Kong clocks in at 11.8%, and will surely have you in the mood to climb the Empire State Building. Plus, it is New Years Eve! *Monkeypawbrewing.com*, 619-358-9901. Monday, December 31, 5 pm Monkey Paw, 805 16th Street (DOWNTOWN)

SPOKEN WORD

"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)

VAMP Best of 2012 So Say We All dedicates December storytelling and live literature performance showcase to celebrating 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 after set by DJ Ill Spectre. 619-284-6784. Thursday, December 27, 8:30pm; free-\$5. 21 and up. Whistle Stop Bar, 2236 Fern Street. (SOUTH PARK)

SPORTS & FITNESS

Raiders Invade! San Diego Chargers host Oakland Raiders during final regular season football game, broadcast on CBS. 877-CHAR-GERS. Sunday, December 30, 1:15pm; Qualcomm Stadium, 9449 Friars Road. (MISSION VALLEY)



Little Italy Mercato SATURDAYS North Park Farmers' Market THURSDAYS Pacific Beach TUESDAY Farmers' Market Public Farmers' Markets WED & SUN

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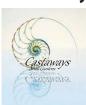
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Happy New Beer

DINING

BRANDON HERNANDEZ

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). Kearny 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

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 seldomexplored beer styles. That operation is the easternmost 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 made spicy with serrano chilies; and a low-alcohol, salted gose called Monkey Gose Bananas, an iteration of which given more flavor by tart cherries

Further endearing Monkey Paw to the community is the fact that Blair and Freese have teamed up for interesting collaborations with brewers from AleSmith, Stone Brewing Company, Stillwater Artisan Ales, and 8 Wired Brewing Company, and brewed beers to celebrate North Park bar Live Wire's 20th year in business and the departure of Jerry Sanders from the mayor's office.

Taking the bronze in this race is North County newbie Latitude 33° Brewing Company (1430 Vantage Court., suite 104). Latitude took over the brewhouse in Vista constructed by Green Flash Brewing Company when that rapidly growing business moved to Mira Mesa to inhabit a larger facility. It took some time for Latitude 33° to get their doors open, but when they did, the beers produced by brewer Kevin Buckley (formerly of Vista's Back Street Brewery and East County's Alpine Beer Company) allowed them to hit the ground running.

They aren't as well known around the county, mostly due to geography

and the difficulty of self-distributing product all over town, but beers such as the Pascha's Rye ryeinfused 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 Wet Hump 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 (thank-

Authentic Italian Cuisine

Societe Brewing Company's Doug Constantiner shows a customer

around the company's newly installed barrel house.

fully, 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 brewhouse 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. ■

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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 sundubu jjigae, 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 stillboiling broth. Many

diners mix the egg into the simmering liquid, but my habit is to use my spoon to created room for the egg (which David helpfully cracks for me, as my hands are busy with the spoon), and let it poach. I come back to it later, when it is mostly cooked and infused with the spicy broth, and then I scoop it out and eat it with my rice.

A creature of habit, I always order the same thing: boiled gyoza tofu, spicy level three out of four. In this pot, there are three big gyozas, as well as beef and pork. I love the flavor the beef and pork add to the mix, but I always pick out the meat bits and put them in an empty banchan plate. (I've got texture issues — it only took one bite of gristle over a year ago to make me forgo any more meat-chewing attempts here).

I order the "brown" rice, which is actually purple, and served with peas.

> David's favorite is the boiled chicken (spicy level two out of

four), which has a fresher pepper flavor, as it contains bell peppers, mushrooms, onions, and

Note: this stuff is still BOILING when it is served. It takes a while for it to cool. Sometimes, 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 Barbarella



I order the "brown" rice, which is actually purple, and served with peas.

Nautical nosh

Point Loma's Wine Pub bucks the trend of giving wine bars cutesie 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 it didn't need to be since one can only drink so



Wine Pub serves Chardonnay at the right temperature.

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-snooty places, I'm 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 bites and plates than I'd expected. They had a few full-sized entrées (\$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 it's a little cold for that right now. With its early hours and quietude, Wine Pub would also be a potential stop at the beginning of an evening out. Wine Pub, 2907 Shelter Island Drive.

by Ian Pike

Best dim sum in town?

I go through dim sum phases — for about a vear, Jasmine was at the top of my list. But, after so many sloppy shells in my shrimp dumplings, the smell of mildew emanating from the old carpet, the rickety chairs, it just seemed more and more dingy. So I went back to Emerald, and I couldn't remember why

I'd stopped going there in the first place. Before I 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 by chopsticking (that's right, I made a verb) some chili oil onto my plate and adding a small pour of soy sauce.

Once seated, the carts appear, almost always pushed by women, most of whom speak limited

Here you can see with a glance what is on offer and select by pointing (or asking, if you know the name of the item) to small plates or tins that you want added to your table.

Some items require cutting to make things more sharable or easier to manage with those slippery, oversized plastic chopsticks.

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Calendar

Here's an overview of some of my preferred dim sum plates. Of course, anything shrimp — these are shrimp *shumai* and *har gow*, or shrimp dumpling.

On my last visit, I tried (and liked) the *jiaozi*, or pot stickers. These were pork.

David loves the barbecue pork buns.

I'm a sucker for the fried glutinous rice dumplings filled with minced mushroom, shrimp, and pork. They're sweet (almost like a donut) on the outside and savory on the inside. The breaded shrimp balls are wrapped around sticks of sugar cane.

Then there are "shark fins," but not because there's any shark meat in there — rather, they're named for their shape. These have minced pork, prawn, and cilantro inside.

Finally, we recently discovered these fried-scallop-and-shrimp gems, served with a side of sweet-and-sour sauce.

Weekend dim sum is great for large groups — it's fast, easy, inexpensive, and lately at Emerald, always tasty.

by Barbarella

The Sixth Avenue handwarmer

Me? Napoleon? I swear. Strangest things happen at the Fifth and B trolley stop.

Tonight I'm just standing, doing the usual thing of hurry up and wait.

But through the cold, that cozy-lookin' place at Sixth and B calls my name.

"Cross over, come in! Warm, happy hour..." It's the Sixth Avenue Bistro (1165 Sixth Avenue, downtown, 619-239-4194).

Got me at a weak moment. I just missed a Blue Line, and it's getting dark and shivery out here. I look west down C. No sign of no Blue Line. I cross over Sixth, head up half a block.

Inside, you can see people taking coats off, relaxing, laughing. Looks really snug. A group of guys in white shirts settles into a booth. Gal at the bar is wrapping her hands around a huge cup brimming with cream. She holds it and smiles a Cheshire Cat smile.

Now I'm hoisting myself up on a bar stool near the banker-looking fellas.

"That hot drink," I say to the bartender, Kimmy, "what is it?"

"That's a Café Napoleon," she says. "It's cappuccino with a two-ounce shot of cognac, and cream and chocolate syrup on top. Six dollars."

Ulp. But, on the other hand, who can resist? I order one.

And...oh, man. Hot, heady, with that slightly winey overtaste, disgustingly delicious with the cream and chocolate on top, gut-heating, and, just as important, hand-warming.

Of course, now, seeing I'm here, start wondering about a snack.

"Happy hour?" I ask Kimmy.

"Till seven," she says, and moves a little stand-up menu my way.

Everything's \$5. Pot stickers, carne asada nachos, two street tacos, sweet potato fries, carne asada or chicken quesadilla, and buffalo wings. I go for the nachos. Jack (the owner, turns out) brings them in a few minutes.

I mean, nachos and Napoleon coffee ain't the greatest combo, but they're mighty filling, both of them.

"What you should be having," says Jamie, one of the financial planner guys in shirtsleeves (hey, we are in the financial district), "is the gumbo."

And, wow. Kimmy says Jack, the owner, is from New Orleans. Seems this place has won Best Cajun/Creole restaurant in the entire county four years in a row! On the 10News/A-List rankings. Who knew?

Gotta come back.

by Ed Bedford

Green Chefs?

A week ago, the Port of San Diego's Green Business Network (a mouthful of a name, that) staged a competition between a few chefs who work in portside restaurants. The challenge was a conventional, *Iron Chef*—style throwdown, the only catch being that the participating chefs had to work with energy-efficient electrical and CNG ranges, ovens, broilers, and such at the SDG&E Energy Innovation Center in Clairemont.

It looks as though the event was neither aggressively promoted nor attended. At first glance, Steve Black's offering of chicken tacos and winning cod entrée featuring macaroni and American-cheese slices doesn't seem enterprising, but perhaps the Sheraton Hotel chef's creation was a "you had to be there" bit of genius. Regardless, Black is the first "Top Green Chef," as awarded by the panel of judges and the Port of San Diego, so congratulations are in order.

More than anything else, this competition raises the question of burgeoning energy-consumption issues in the world of commercial food production. I suspect that there is a coming watershed moment in the industry where energy and efficiency regulators begin to crack down on professional kitchens that consume considerable resources to maintain their operations.

This will eventually affect you, me, and Joe Consumer in invisible ways. Restaurants that fail to adapt will be at a disadvantage, and this is going to change the climate and culture of restaurants from within. The end results can only be speculation at this point!

There's a good chance that the coming decade will force changes in the way restaurants do business. Between the high energy consumption required and the generation of solid waste, there's no doubt that restaurants could be significant "green offenders" from the perspective of energy reform. What I would like to see analyzed, more than anything, is the per-meal cost in terms of energy and solidwaste accrual incurred by restaurants as opposed to the home kitchen. My instincts tell me that restaurants are actually less wasteful than home cooking in that regard, but that they are, on the whole, prime opportunities for "greening." In theory, the marginal energy cost should be lower because restaurants are able to produce food more efficiently, but the exact figures would require close study.

by Ian Pike

Snail Pizza? Si!

Snail pizza? I check the menu again. Oh, yes. There it is, under "Pizza Baja Med."

"Escargots," \$12 for the chico ("small") size.

I'm here, nine at night, sitting in a converted warehouse. Okay, not really converted. The big ol' timbers and slapdash panels of corrugated iron look like they haven't been updated since they were tacked together maybe 100













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years ago. 'Course, that's the charm.

This is El Taller, "The Workshop" (Avenida Rio Yaqui #2969-B, off Boulevard Agua Caliente, 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, voilà!

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 abalone chorizo, lamb (cordero), roasted pig, chicken with mole...and, snails?

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-suave 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 dominated 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.

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 lat-

Lofty Coffee Company, 90 North Coast Highway.

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,

Yeah, that's right, I carry

ter example.

by Ian Pike

So, five minutes later, Kimmy drops it in front of me, all alive with shrimp bobbing up like mini alligators in

cooking, himself.

a steaming brown lava lake around an island of rice.

I shoot a taste across to

but running round serving

half the audience from the San

Diego Symphony concert up

the road. Must be half-time.

gumbo! It's just so right for a

night like tonight: wet, windy,

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-

"Go the whole hog," says

Dale, who sees me counting

my greenbacks. He spent 25

years managing food and bev-

erage for the Westgate Hotel,

turns out. Bit of a dab hand at

portion, \$7.95."

chilly.

Bottom line: I get the

Dale. Suddenly strikes me: He looks just like the Wizard in *The Wizard of Oz* (looked it up: Frank Morgan played him

in the movie).

"Flavor's more Italian than Provençal," he says. "It's the spices, the tomato. Jack uses Andouille sausage. I use Kielbasa. A little smokier. Personal taste." He takes the slurp. "Hmm... But this is good, really good."

I take my first spoonful. Oh, so rich, and h-h-hot. Love the contrast of the sausage and the shrimp. Ian (Pike) said watch for too much slime from okra or the filé (sassafras). This certainly has the flavor of the sassafras (bet that's where the word "sassy" comes from), but no, it's rich but loose. Almost louche in its richness.

Only problem, so much good chat going on. I'm in danger of not eating this steaming pond of goodness while it's piping hot.

by Ed Bedford

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 homey 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 overattentively 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

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Reader December 27, 2012

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 Saldaña 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 Garden, Restaurant and Bar (1557 Columbia, at Cedar), a Kiwi pub named after the famous South Island ski resort/birth-of-the-bungeejump town.

It's being put up by the guys who started Bare Back Grill in P.B. and downtown, and the Raglan, in O.B.

So far I've only seen the Queenstown at night, and it's a mess, but a mess in progress.

On the front porch a sign reads "Onairos Design."

Turns out this is the backto-front cover for Soriano, Michael Soriano, who's as hot as a designer can get right now. (He created the Pearl Motel out of the Sportsman's Lodge in Point Loma and the fantasy Vin de Syrah in the Gaslamp.)

Now, he has told San Diego Magazine he wants to make this pub like a, uh, polite garden party?

"We want to create a house where 80-year-old grandmas and 20-year-old hipsters can sit on a porch, have a drink, and play games," he told the magazine. "Grapevines out back, with lanterns and gardens growing food for local chefs. There'll be a sitting parlor inside with rocking chairs. Giant new portraits will look old, sepia-toned. It'll be old meets new, like steampunk."

Boy, I can't wait. Just think: ten years ago, this historic place would have been history, 'dozed, squished, kindling wood, no questions asked, replaced by some five-story loft with a Starbucks on the concrete corner.

by Ed Bedford

Davanti Del Mar

I live within a long walk's distance to Davanti Little Italy, but somehow I managed to make my way almost 20 miles away to Davanti Del Mar first. Of course, I was catching a flick at the new only-movietheater-I'll-go-to, Cinepolis, which is two doors down from the restaurant in the clean and always crowded Del Mar Highlands Town Center.

We were a group of three: me, David, and our friend

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 wellbalanced 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

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 warmer 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).

seasonings used.

Leslee had her heart set on the chicken. She was brilliant to request a substitution of the "romaine salad" for the "brussels sprouts and balsamic" she spotted being served with the swordfish. They were delicious. The chicken was tender and meaty, and the "chili pepper paste" could have easily been called "barbecue sauce." Tasty, but not very exciting.

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 Fokos

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.

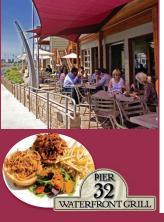
by Ed Bedford



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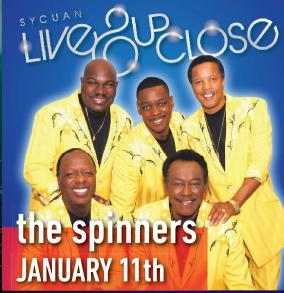


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Ice cream across

America. Indie electro-pop duo Claudeo recently returned from a U.S. tour that included dates in Stanley, Idaho (pop. 100), New Orleans, and an impromptu festival in San Antonio, Texas.

Half the band, Ivan

a wedding in Stanley, Idaho, which was beautiful. While at the wedding I saw a bald eagle [in the wild] for the first time. I've done my fair share of backpacking and camping, but I didn't realize how large bald eagles were. It's pretty unmistakable. As the eagle flew



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 affably referred to as Goth Mom Donna. She's active in the Midwest Christian



Electro-pop duo Claudeo ate its way across the states.

through Spain and Argentina to help perfect my command of castellano but nothing as large scale as touring across the United States....

"A couple moments stand out in my mind. We played at

Goth community. We were kinda blown away because we didn't know much about goths, and even less about Ghristian goths. She runs a ministry called the Grave Robbers....

"While in Cincy, we ate at

Jenny's Ice Cream. We made it a thing to eat all kinds of ice cream across America (I gained ten pounds on tour) and I can say with some certainty that Jenny's is, hands down, a cut above all other gourmet ice-cream makers....

"We played in New York the weekend before Hurricane Sandy hit. It was a bit disconcerting when Sandy hit because we had literally just been there. Fortunately, we were in the South, safe and sound....

"When we got to San Antonio, the gig we had had fallen through, but a local band, the Lost Project, helped us book a gig — on the main stage of a festival that weekend....

"Driving between Dallas and Santa Fe, New Mexico, we saw one chemical-plant fire, one car fire, and a commercial semi-truck with its merchandise on fire.

"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



Crosby taught herself to play cups for her first video, "Cups.

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 eightcount pattern. Second came

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RONI LEE

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

Something to hide

behind. Dust-kickin', plainplaintive-singin' rockabilly songstress Rosie Flores lived in San Diego from 1962 to 1978. She apologizes for not making her scheduled gig at Queen Bee's last year, but she got a counteroffer to play with Chuck Berry at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and said to herself, "Wel-l-l-l, that's something I probably shouldn't turn down." She describes the rock and roll founding father as "really adorable onstage, still." The first lead lick she ever learned to play, courtesy of her guitar-teaching brother, was that legendary "Johnny B. Goode" lead lick.

Flores was 12 in 1962. She remembers thinking how cool it was "to be living so close to the beach. My parents would take the kids out for rides, and we would go to Torrey Pines, have breakfast or lunch, then we'd go to Balboa Park. The zoo was a phenomenal zoo. We had family in L.A. and before the 5 was ever built, we would take that two-lane road, Highway 1, and ride through Laguna Beach. We felt really fortunate. I remember going to the first Jack in the Box!

"I was a really shy kid. I remember some girlfriends from high school, they saw me [perform] at one of the street fairs in North Park, saying, 'We can't believe you're onstage!' I wouldn't talk to

(continued on page 62)

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- Steve Earle
- 1/16
- Tycho Simpkin Project Femi Kuti and The Positive Force
- **Dead Man's Party**
- **Tower of Power**
- Beer Fest w/ The Tilt craft beer tasting
- Nicki Bluhm and the Gramblers
- 1/25 & 26 Ozomatli

 - An Evening w/ Jorma Kaukonen of Hot Tuna seated show Chef Bands feat. Sam the Cooking Guy and Josh Kopelman of Dining Out SD The Wood Brothers

- 2/1 & 2 Tristan Prettyman
 - 2/4 ZZ Ward and Delta Rae2/6 North Mississippi Allstars
 - 2/8 Tommy Castro & The Painkillers and Paul Thorn
 - 2/9 The Wailers
 - 2/10 Tony Saruci as The Highwayman - tribute to Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson,
- 2/11 Dirty Dozen Brass Band 2/15 Ra Ra Riot 2/16 Steve Poltz's Annual 50th Birthday Party w/ the Rugburns and Glen Phillips of Toad the Wet Sprocket
- 2/17 Blackalicious
- 2/20 B.B. King
- 2/22 An Evening with Leftover Salmon
- 2/24 Reckless Kelly

- 2/26 The Residents
- 2/27 Galactic
- 3/2 Super Diamond
- 3/3 David Lindley w/ Carrie Rodriguez
- 3/6 Mickey Hart Band 3/7 Toad 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**
- 3/30 Who's Bad
- 4/5 An Evening with Big Head Todd & the Monsters
- 4/14 Lucero
- 4/19 An Evening w/ Queensryche starring Geoff Tate

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anybody. As soon as I got a guitar in my hands, it gave me

something to hide behind."

Her first band that went anywhere was Penelope's Children, founded in 1968. Her dad signed for the gear, and Flores was elated to have a guitar that looked

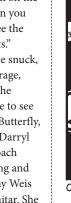
just like Brian Jones's. Dad said their payments to him would be \$80 a month. So, they worked the Rec Hall in Clairemont, the nearby Marine base, and assorted

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, underage, into the Palace to see Iron Butterfly, with Darryl DeLoach singing and Danny Weis on guitar. She gigged at the Spirit with an early version

Country singer Flores in her formative years here in SD. 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







Out with the new, in with the old - Pathology changing members yet again By Jay Allen Sanford — Dec. 20, 3:47 p.m.

Sweet Cheeks at El Dorado

By Chad Deal — Dec. 19, 2:40 p.m.

2012: the music year in review

By Dave Good — Dec. 19, 2:40 p.m.

Another musician loses gear in 5th Ave/HOB garage break-in

By Jay Allen Sanford — Dec. 19, 10:42 a.m.

Todd Reynolds @ Space 4 Art

By Robert Bush — Dec. 18, 7:48 p.m.

Eavesdropping on the classics

By Garrett Harris — Dec. 18, 1:30 p.m.

27 years ago this week: The Dead Kennedys at the California Theater

By Jay Allen Sanford — Dec. 14, 10:46 a.m.

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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. "We'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 Scow (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

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,

Pianoman Green will show you A Thousand Ways Home January 8.

from each of these genres and blending them together in my own way."

A release party for the Tilt'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

710 GARNET AVE. PACIFIC BEACH

like Freddie King's 'Going Down' and 'It's a Man's 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 Jodoin (Great North-

ern) 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 fulllength called Fiction Family Reunion, with "Foreman & Friends" playing that evening at downtown's House of Blues. Recorded at Switchfoot's Spot X 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

7:10pm

Kitchen open

11-9nm

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORS

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

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THA MAAD TRAY

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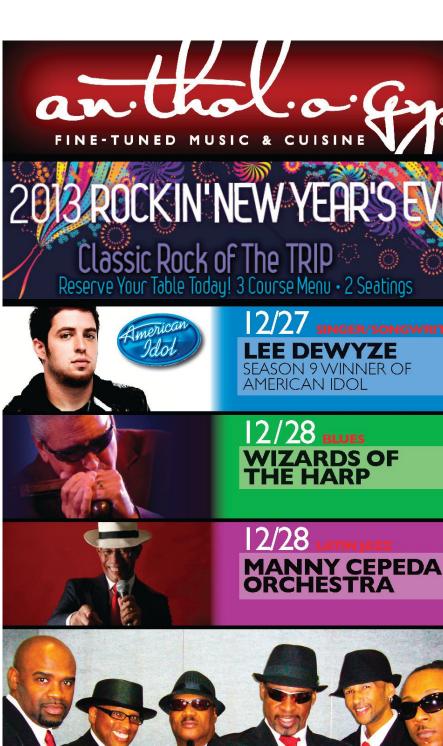
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THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

710 Beach Club:

Friday, 9pm — Buck-O-Nine and Bucket of Fish.
Saturday, 9pm — Zig Zag Jones.

98 Bottles:

Monday, 8pm — Steph Johnson. \$45-\$55.

AMSDconcerts:

Saturday, 7:30pm — Peter Rowan. \$22.

Andaz San Diego:

Monday, 9pm — DJs Drop the Lime and Grum. \$50.

Anthology:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Lee
DeWyze. \$11-\$60.
Friday, 7:30pm — Wizards of the
Harp. \$12-\$23.
Friday, 9:30pm — The Manny
Cepeda Orchestra. \$10-\$14.
Saturday, 7:30pm — Dazz Band.
Sunday, 7pm — Anthology
House Band. \$5.
Monday, 7pm, Monday, 9:30pm
— The Trip. \$15-\$145.

Balboa Theatre:

Thursday, 8pm — An Evening with Primus 3D. \$49-\$59.

Bar Dynamite:

Monday, 8pm — An Intimate Hip-Hop Affair with DJ Beatnick, In the Mix. \$5-\$10.

Bar Pink:

Thursday, 9pm — Fam Royal. Friday, 9pm — Bonkers! Sunday, 9pm — Happy Endings. Monday, 9pm — New Year's Eve Neon Beat. \$10.

Beaumont's:

Friday, 9pm — Cougar Canyon Band. Free. Monday, 9pm — New Year's Eve Party with Cash'd Out.

Belly Up: *Thursday*, 8pm — Cracker and

Camper Van Beethoven.
Friday, 9pm — The Aggrolites.
\$18-\$20.
Saturday, 9pm — Vokab
Kompany. \$13-\$15.
Sunday, 9pm — Dust N' Bones
(Gn'R tribute), Hitman Honey.
\$12-\$14.
Monday, 9pm — Reverend
Horton Heat. \$55-\$60.

Belo:

Monday, 9pm — Masquerade Ball with Z90.3. \$30.

Block 16 Union & Spirits:

Monday, 8pm — Finest City New Year. \$75-\$100.

Boar Cross'n:

Thursday, 9pm — Cordova. Free. Saturday, 9pm — Soul Maladay and Todo Mundo. Free.

Brick by Brick:

Saturday — Mandy Lion, Rammoth, Sinner's Rage. \$10-\$12.

Brick+Mortar:

Monday, 9pm — Brick+Mortar NYE. \$20-\$80.

Casbah:

Thursday, 8:30pm — Louis XIV. \$15.



BY DAVE GOOD

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,

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 punk-

cost should cease to be an

issue. To my ears, the Player's

Afro-Latin soul mix of funk-rock-

jazz and Cumbia is better than

the bands they are most often

er, 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 writes 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 Aggrolites also perform.

B-SIDE PLAYERS: Belly Up, Friday, December 28, 8:30 p.m. 858-481-8140. \$18 advance/\$20 door.

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

Friday, 8:30pm — The Donkeys, Cuckoo Chaos, Teenage Burritos. \$8-\$10.

Saturday, 8:30pm — Sweet & Tender Hooligans. \$18-\$20. Monday, 8:30pm — New Year's Party. \$15-\$20.

Catamaran Resort:

Monday, 8pm — New Year's Eve Beach Party. \$109-\$139.

Ché Café:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Kids, Tough Stuff, Twin Cabins. \$7.

College Rocks:

Monday, 9pm — 18+ New Year's 2013. \$15.

Copley Symphony Hall:

Tuesday, 2:30pm — New Year's Concert. \$20-\$85.

Cosmopolitan Hotel and Restaurant:

Saturday, 7:30pm — Saturday Night Jazz with the Full House Band. \$5. Monday, 9pm — A Swingin'

Good Time, \$20-\$25.

Coyote Bar & Grill:

Thursday, 6pm — Clay Colton Band. Friday, 6pm — Slower. Saturday, 6pm — Zydeco Blues Patrol. Free. Sunday, 5pm — Bill Magee.

Crowne Plaza Hotel:

Monday, 8:30pm — Black & White Bash Party. \$25.

Dirk's Niteclub:

Friday — Rhythm Red. Saturday — Hitman Honey.

Dizzy's

Friday, 8pm — David Negrete Quartet. \$10-\$15. Saturday, 8pm — Gilbert Castellanos. \$15. Sunday, 7pm — The All Stars Quartet featuring Mundell Lowe.

Eleven:

Thursday, 9pm — D. Pel and Little Fowl. \$5.

Friday, 9pm — Age of Collapse, Among the Enemy, Sculpins. \$4. Saturday, 9pm — Joy, Slipping Into Darkness, Tar Halos. \$5.













SPEND NEW YEAR'S WITH US.

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Sunday, Dec. 30

BETAMAXX (80'S DANCE)

Wednesday, Jan. 2 7pm NOISY TOYS (ROCK)

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Gallagher's Pub & Grill:

Thursday, 8pm — Hazmatt. Friday — Melly Frances. Saturday, 9pm — Almost Islanders.

Monday, 8pm — Champagne Showers. Free.

Go Lounge:

Monday, 7pm — New Year's Eve Casino Party.

Griffin:

Friday — Spawnbreezie. Saturday, 8pm — King Legend and Euphoria Brass Band. Sunday, 8pm — Caxton. Monday, 9pm — Dirty Sweet. \$28-\$40.

Hard Rock Hotel:

Monday, 9pm — Eventvibe.com Presents NYE 2013. \$60-\$80.

House of Blues:

Thursday, 9pm — Zeds Dead. \$22-\$47. Friday, 8pm, Saturday, 9pm — Rebelution. \$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 Steely Damned. \$25. Saturday — The Mighty Untouchables. Sunday — Fattburger. Monday, 9pm — Betamaxx.

Ivy Nightclub:

Monday, 7pm — Ivy NYE. \$40-

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.

Live

FRYONF'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 Vaughan massaged every tones provided one of the carrots that pulled me

the standards 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 anyone, "easy listening," her massaging 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,

SARAH

VAUGHAN

note, and she redefined

Funk Band Dance Party

Vodka Drinks. \$15-\$35.

Riviera Supper Club &

Friday, 8pm — Devil's Due.

Turquoise Room:

Down. \$35-\$45

Ruby Room:

Chili Peppers.

Code 7?s

Shakedown Bar:

Darlings, Oddball.

Party.

Featuring Unlimited Beer and

Monday, 8pm — Uptown Get

Thursday, 8pm — Adams & Eves.

Saturday, 8pm — Secret Samurai.

Monday, 8pm — New Year's Eve

Friday — Duane Peters & the Hunns, Dime Runner, PSO & the

Saturday — Prima Donna, the

Monday — New Years Eve Bash

with D.P.I., the Hang Zeros, Six

Cents, Spreading Evictions.

Sheraton Mission Valley:

Princesses and Knights. \$80.

Monday, 9pm — Royal

and "Nice Work If You Can Get It." Completists should be sated by the inclusion of numerous alternate takes.

including "East of the Sun," "Ain't Misbehavin',"

Music Reviews from Our Readers

Mike Watt and the return of **Hyphenated-Man** By Dryw Keltz

Mike Watt and his loyal Missingmen 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 Minutemen. In fact, Tom Watson's scratchy guitar-playing and Raul Morales's manic drumming are about the closest we are likely to get to Dou-

ble Nickels on the Dime // 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.



Greatest performance of a cover at Casbah — ever.

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 cover 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

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

Lestat's Coffee House:

Sunday, 8pm — Ramekega, the Flowerthief, Christine Parker. \$8-\$10.

Molly Malone's:

Friday, 9pm — Safety Orange.

Musicians Union Hall:

Monday, 9pm — New Year's Eve at Rick's Cafe Americain. \$27.

Ocean Beach Farmer's Market:

Wednesday, 4pm — Drew Taylor. Free.

Onyx/Thin:

Monday, 8pm — New Year's Extravaganza. \$30.

Pala Casino:

Saturday, 8pm — Help! Free. Monday, 9pm — Pop Vinyl. \$25.

Patricks Gaslamp Pub:

Thursday, 9pm — Missy Andersen. Friday, 9pm — Myron & the Kyniptionz. Saturday, 9pm — Johnny Vernazza. Monday, 9pm — Mystique Element of Soul.

Pechanga Resort & Casino:

Saturday, 8pm — Air Supply. \$35-\$45.

Port Pavilion on Broadway

Monday, 8pm — NYE 2013 Concert. \$100-\$150.

Prospect Bar & Lounge: Monday, 8:30pm — NYE 2013.

Queen Bee's Art & Cultural

Saturday, 8pm — Full Strength

Soda Bar:

Thursday, 8pm — Kera & the Lesbians. Friday, 8pm — The Loons and Sidewalk Scene. \$15. Saturday, 9pm — Zongo Junction, \$10. Sunday, 8pm — DJ Mustard, DJ Beatnick, Cali Cam, DJ Dead Serious. Monday, 8pm — New Year's Eve with New Mexico, Wild Wild

Soma:

Thursday, 8pm — Pyrate Punx. Saturday, 6:30pm — Gates, Monday, 8pm — Geezer, Slaves Against the Machine, Red Not Overboard Farewell, Lightning Starts Fire. \$8.

Wets, Bruin.

Spin Nightclub:

Monday, 10pm — Wobble NYE Ball. \$40-\$50.

Stage Rock Bar & Grill:

Thursday, 8:30pm — Van Roth. Free. Friday, 10:30pm — The Disco Pimps. Saturday — Fingerbang. Tuesday, 10pm — DJ Von Kiss. Wednesday, 7pm — Mark Fisher

Tango Del Rey:

Friday, 9pm — Áfrojazziacs,

& Gaslamp Guitars and Bl3ndr.

Dornob, Los Bandaritos, \$10-

Monday, 8pm — Loco Disco. \$20-\$40.

Tin Can Ale House:

Thursday, 9pm — Lozen and Tacos! *Friday*, 9pm — Down Big, Just Like Jenna, Someday Assassin.

Saturday, 9pm — Black Cassette and Duping the Public.

Monday, 8pm — Gary Hankins, Mike Pope, Jimmy Ruelas. Free.

Tio Leo's:

Thursday, 8pm — Nathan James & the Rhythm Scratchers. Friday, 9pm — Pleazure.

Upstart Crow Bookshop and Coffee House:

Saturday, 7pm — The Pizarro Brothers. **Free**.

VFW Post #3788:

Friday, 8pm — Cowboy Angels. *Saturday*, 8pm — Calico Ridge.

Valley View Casino Center: Sunday, 9pm — OMFG! NYE 2013 with Audrey Napoleon, Calvin Harris, and more. \$160.

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BC's BBQ: Sat. & Sun. Noon 'til Midnight

Thursday, December 27

LITTLE MONSTERS

Friday, December 28 KING FISH

Saturday, December 29

High Plains Drifters (Day 2 - 6pm)

TRAVEL AGENTS

Sundays NO COVER THE BROKERS

Monday, December 31 **CUSTARD PIE**

Tuesday, January 1

JAM WITH DOUG ALLEN OF THE MARDELS

Wednesday, January 2

FRANKIE DEE AND THE FUNK NATRA BAND













Charcoal House Restaurant

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 out their famous karaoke.

Behold! Faces full with character and self-knowing were everywhere. Footloose cougars

and post-menopausal sabertoothed tigers ruled 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.

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



Few places are better known for their ripened regulars.

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

Ensure tallboys to tailgate with the girls before karaoke kicks off (also Thursdays, 8 p.m. to close).

— Chad Deal

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

MIDNIGHT(ISH) DAILY; UNTIL 1:30 A.M. ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

Happy Hour: 3 TO 7 P.M.

DAILY — \$2 DOMESTICS, \$3

PREMIUM, 25 PERCENT OFF

APPETIZERS, AND \$1 OFF

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Voyeur:

Monday, 9pm — TJR and Brazzabelle. \$50-\$75.

W San Diego:

Monday, 9pm — Black & White Ball. \$85-\$100.

Westgate Hotel:

Monday, 7:30pm — New Year's Eve Great Gatsby Night. \$169.

Whiskey Girl:

Monday, 7pm — New Year's Eve Buffet, Champagne Dinner & Afterparty. \$30-\$40.

Winstons:

Thursday, 9:30pm — Turkuaz. \$7.

Friday, 9pm — Jet West, Project Out of Bounds, the Room Downstairs. \$10. Saturday, 9pm — C-Money & the Players Inc. and Agent 22 (members of Slightly Stoopid).

Sunday, 10pm — Jose Sinatra presents OB-o-ke. \$1. Monday, 9pm — The Electric Waste Band. \$5.

Zel's Del Mar:

Saturday, 8pm — Robin Henkel.

UPCOMING SHOWS

98 Bottles: 2400 Kettner Bl., Little Italy, 619-255-7885. *January 5* — The Áfrojazziacs.

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

January 12 — PF Sloan & Creed Bratton. January 13 CANCELED: —

Kapsalis and Ivanovic Guitar Duo. January 26 — The John

January 26 — The John Jorgenson Quintet. February 1 — Ray Wylie Hubbard.

ArtLab: 3536 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, 619-283-1151. *January 4* — Tribal Baroque. *January 9, January 23* — Robin Henkel Band, Whitney Shay, Billy Watson.

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

January 9 — Gregg Allman.

Bar Pink: 3829 30th St., North Park, 619-564-7194. *January 15* — Pony Death Ride.

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

January 3 — Rhythm and the Method, Tori Rogg, Aaron Kimball.

January 4 — Pato Banton. January 5 — Beat Farmers Hootenany.

January 6 — A Benefit for Victims of Superstorm Sandy with the PettyBreakers.

Bird Rock Coffee Roasters: 5627 La Jolla Bl., La Jolla, 858-551-1707.

January 12 — Robin Henkel.

Boar Cross'n: 390 Grand Ave., Carlsbad, 760-729-2989. *January 3* — Inberst (final show). *January 5* — New Shoes Old Socks.

January 10 — Camp Lo performs Uptown Saturday Night.

Brick by Brick: 1130 Buenos Ave., Linda Vista, 619-275-5483. *January 5* — The Cured.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido: 340 North Escondido Bl., Escondido, 760-839-4138.

January 6 — Pablo Sáinz Villegas.

The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Bl., Little Italy, 619-232-4355. *January 5* — Gone Baby Gone and Schitzophonics.

Ché Café: 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-534-2311. *January 5* — Tan Sister Radio.

Coffee Corner, 9608 Carlton Hills Blvd., Santee: ,. *January 19* — Robin Henkel with

MC "Shotgun" Tom Kelly. **Copley Symphony Hall:** 750

B St., Downtown San Diego, 619-

January 11, January 12, January 13 — Mendelssohn's Violin

235-0804.

Concerto.

January 18, January 19 — Brian Stokes Mitchell.

Eastbound Bar & Grill: 10053 Maine Ave., Lakeside, 619-334-2566. *January* 19 — The Drinking

Cowboy Band.

El Cajon Brewing Company:
110 N. Magnolia, El Cajon, 619873-0221.

873-0221.

January 16 — Robin Henkel Blues Trio.

El Tigre Bar: ,.

January 4 — Batwings, Calafia Puta, Deer Dear, Walle, Parche de Ira.

Flame: 3780 Park Bl., Hillcrest, 619-546-4642.

January 5 — Elektrofie.

January 19 — MayStar's

Diamond Dust.

January 26 — Deeply Rooted.

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

The Griffin: 1310 Morena Bl., Linda Vista, 619-684-1816. *January* 5 — Jamar Rogers. January 10 — Red Wanting Blue and the Darrows.

January 19 — Tumbleweed Wanderers.

House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Ave., Downtown San Diego, 619-

299-2583.

January 3, January 4, January 5
— Social Distortion.

January 8 — Sum 41.

January 8 — ListenLocalSD.com
Showcase with Wookie Garcia.

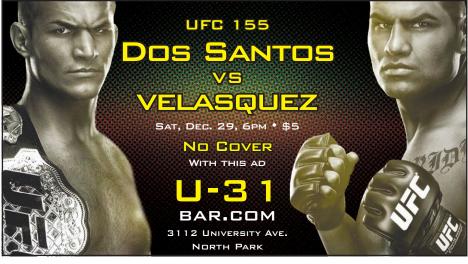
Humphreys Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Shelter Island, 619-224-3577. January 6 — Brunch with Blues Music featuring Robin Henkel and Billy Watson. January 29 — Robin Henkel

The Jumping Turtle: 1660 Capalina Rd., San Marcos, 760-471-7778.

January 12 — The Toven.

The Kava Lounge: 2812 Kettner Bl., Little Italy, 619-543-0933.

January 18 — Cannibal Ox, Double A.B., Kenyattah Black, Conspiracy Theorists.







San Diego Reader December 27, 2012

Kon Tiki Ballroom, Catamaran Hotel, 3999 Mission Blvd: ,.

January 3 — Songs of the Soul.

La Costa Coffee Roasting: 6965 El Camino Real, Carlsbad, 760-438-8160. *January 4* — Tony Taravella.

La Jolla Farmer's Market, 7300 Girard Ave. La Jolla, CA 92037: "

January 6 — Cowboy Jack.

Lestat's Coffee House: 3343 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, 619-282-0437. *January 27* — Robin Henkel Band with Whitney Shay.

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

Manhattan Cocktail Lounge: 400 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-422-6641.

January 11, January 12 — Windy City.

Museum of Making Music: 5790 Armada Dr., Carlsbad, 760-438-5996.

January 12 — David Borgo Quartet. January 18 — The Good Lovelies.

New Village Arts Theatre: 2787 B State St., Carlsbad, 760-

433-3245.

January 4, January 5 — Berkley
Hart and Eve Selis & Marc
Twang.

Pala Casino: 35008 Pala Temecula Rd., Pala, 877-946-7252.

January 12 — Arrival from Sweden: The Music of ABBA. February 1 — Earth, Wind & Fire.

Pechanga Resort & Casino:

45000 Pechanga Parkway, Temecula, 951-693-1819. January 5 — Creedence Clearwater Revisited. January 11, January 12 — The Fab Four. January 18, January 19 — Sharon Cuneta. February 1 — Jackson Browne.

Poway Center for the Performing Arts: 15498 Espola Rd., Poway, 858-748-0505. January 18 — Clint Black.

Qualcomm Hall: 5775 Morehouse Dr., Sorrento Valley, 858-259-5508. *January 12* — The Hutchins

Consort plays Bach and rock.

Ramona Mainstage
Nightclub: 626 Main St.,
Ramona, 760-789-7008.

January 12 — Jack Russell's
Great White.

January 18 — Paul Di'Anno.
January 19 — Michael Sweet of
Stryper.

February 1 — Guitar Shorty.

February 2 — Stu Hamm.

Rancho Bernardo Library

17110 Bernardo Center Dr., Rancho Bernardo, 858-538-8163. January 9 — Gilbert Castellanos. January 10 — The Orvieto Trio. January 23 — Free Classical Concert with Erin Breene, Ines Irawati, Robert Schumitzky.

Robbie's Roadhouse: 530 N. Coast Hwy. 101, Leucadia, 760-634-2365. *January 30* — Cowboy Jack. San Diego Civic Theatre:

1100 Third Ave., Downtown San Diego, 619-570-1100.

January 4, January 5, January 6, January 6 — Rain — A Tribute To The Beatles.

January 26, January 29, February 1, February 3 — The Daughter of the Regiment.

Schulman Auditorium at Carlsbad City Library: 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad. January 22 — International Guitar Night 2013.

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

January 12 — Grease Punk
Night With Black Market III and
Blackwater Jukebox.

January 13 — The Repercussions.
January 19 — Stealth By Starlight
and Cantina Renegades.

January 25 — Mods vs. Rockers

with Personal Conflict and Arab Spring Radar.

January 26 — Idols Plague.

Smokey's Lake Wohlford Cafe: 25484 Lake Wohlford Rd., Escondido, 760-749-6585. January 12 — The Drinking Cowboy Band.

Soda Bar: 3615 El Cajon Bl., City Heights, 619-255-7224. *January 13* — Jennifer O'Connor.

Soma: 3350 Sports Arena Bl., Midway District, 619-226-7662. *January 4* — Impending Doom, The Browning, Hearts & Hands. *January 5* — Oceans. *January 11* — Digital Jammer, 2B, Joshthebear. .

Space 4 Art: 325 15th St., East Village, 619-269-7230. *January 10* — Duo ICP (Han

Bennink & Mary Oliver) with Mark Dresser. January 20 — Erik Deutsch Band.

The Stage Rock Bar & Grill: 762 Fifth Ave., Downtown San Diego, 619-696-9436. January 3 — Van Roth. January 4 — The Disco Pimps. January 5 — Fingerbang.

Sycuan Casino Showcase Theatre: 5469 Casino Way, El Cajon, 619-445-6002.

January 11 — The Spinners.

January 24 — Neal McCoy.

February 1 — Great White and Slauphter.

The Garfield Theatre, Lawrence Jewish Community Center, 4126 Executive Dr., La Jolla CA 92037: "

January 7 — Benefit Concert with Israeli Idol Hagit Naso Jan. 7.

Tin Can Ale House: 1863 Fifth Ave., Bankers Hill, 619-955-8525. *January 22* — Aly Tadros.

Valley View Casino Center: 3500 Sports Arena Bl., Midway District, 619-224-4171. *January 21* — Muse.

Wine Steals: 1953 San Elijo Ave., Cardiff, 760-230-2657. *January* 5 — Robin Henkel.

Winstons: 1921 Bacon St., Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822. *January* 29 — Battle of the Bands.

Zel's Del Mar: 1247 Camino del Mar, Del Mar, 858-755-0076. *January 12, January 26* — Robin Henkel.



4 FREE ADMISSIONS

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Must be 21 - All shows 2-drink minimum



HAPPY HOUR

find more information about these establishments online at SDReader.com/drinks

ALLIED GARDENS

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

Donato's Italian Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$3 glass Bud Light, \$6 pitcher; \$3.50 house wine.

The Prado: Tuesday-Saturday, 4-6pm, 8-10pm: \$4.50 wells, wine, draft ale, margaritas, mixed drinks.

BANKERS HILL

Bertrand at Mister A's: Monday-Friday, 2:30-6pm: \$5 wells, \$6 wine, \$13.50 cocktails, \$6 nonalcoholic drinks, \$7 appetizers. Bar or patio only. No Happy Hour in December.

The High Dive: Monday-Wednesday, Friday, 3-6pm: \$2 off Local San Diego Craft Beers, \$1 off House Wine by the Glass. Thursday, 3-6pm: \$2 off Local San Diego Craft Beers. \$1 off House Wine by the Glass..

Villa Capri: Wednesday, 4-7pm. Half-off bottles of wine.

Beach House: Daily, 4-7pm: \$2.95 draft/domestic beer, \$3.45 wells, \$3.95 bloody mary & house wine, \$4.95 well martini, \$5.95 cosmopolitan, mojito, margarita, bloody mai tai.

CARLSBAD

Bellefleur: Monday, Friday, 5-7pm: 1/2-price martinis. Tuesday, 5-7pm: 1/2-off all bar-menu food items. Includes salads, pizza, seafood. Thursday, 5-7pm: \$3 well margaritas and wine. Saturday, all day: \$4 shoppertinis. Sunday, 5-7pm: \$3 domestic beer, happy hour wine, well highballs.

Boar Cross'n: Tuesday, all night: \$5 beer and shot. Thursday, 7:45-9:45pm: \$1 Blue Moon drafts. All night: \$2.50 Budweiser 16 oz. retro tallboys. Fri-

day, 7:45-9:45pm; \$1 draft, Saturday, 7:45-9:45pm: \$1 Miller High Life draft.

CARMEL MOUNTAIN

Oggi's Pizza & Brewing Co.: Monday-Friday, 11am-2pm: \$3 house microbrews.

CARMEL VALLEY

Twenty/20 Grill & Wine Bar: Daily, 4-6pm: \$2 off drinks. 1/2-off seasonal spreads and pizzas. Excludes special events and promotional nights.

CHULA VISTA

Achiote Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$1 beer, \$3.99 margaritas.

Veni Vidi Vici: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: \$1 off all draft and well liquors. 1/2-price appetizers.

CITY HEIGHTS

Eleven: Daily, 5-8pm: \$1 off local draughts and drinks.

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

Blarney Stone Pub: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$.50 off all drinks.

COLLEGE AREA

Casa Machado: Monday-Friday. 4-7pm: \$2.50 and \$3.50 drafts. \$3.50 wells, margaritas. Free chips & salsa.

Brigantine: Monday-Friday, Sunday, 3-6pm: \$4 Brig brew, Dos Equis. \$4.75 margarita, \$5.50 chardonnay, \$6 merlots, \$1 off featured wine. Discounted

Village Pizzeria: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm, 9pm-close: \$3.50 drafts, \$5 wine by the glass. \$2 off artichoke hearts and mozzarella sticks

DEL MAR

Bully's Del Mar: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: Discounted food, beer, cocktails. Sunday, all day: \$3 Bud Light, Coors Light. \$4 bloody marys, margaritas, mimosas.

Zel's Del Mar: Daily, 4-6:30pm: \$1 off drafts & premium drinks, \$2 off wines by glass, \$3.50 wells. \$4 fried calamari, \$5 fish tacos, \$10 burger &

DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

Altitude Sky Lounge: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm; \$4 drafts, \$5 premium wells. 1/2-off artisan flat breads.

Analog: Tuesday-Friday, 5-7pm: \$4 drafts, \$5 house wines, \$6 specialty drinks. 1/2-off loaded skins, hummus, sweet-potato fries.

Set 'Em Up, Joe!



MARTINEZ Imperial House 505 Kalmia Street San Diego 619-234-3525

imperialhouse.ne

MARIO

ew 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're drinking a Boulevardier; order a Negroni with Aperol instead of Campari and you'll be handed a Raultini.

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 he 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,

In fact, Martinez's instincts led him back to the drink's original style — itself a higher-octane derivative of an earlier classic after the Italian Count Negroni ordered his Americano 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 it was a before-dinner cocktail, 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 of 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 overload it with Campari, that's the only flavor you're going to get."

THE IMPERIAL HOUSE'S NEGRONI



In a cocktail shaker with ice, pour:

- 1 oz. Cinzano sweet vermouth
- 1 oz. Hendrick's Gin
- 1 oz Campari

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

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

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

Yard House: Monday-Wednesday. 3-6pm & 10pm-close: \$3.50 domestic pints; \$6.25 martinis. 1/2-off select pizza, appetizers, and more. Thursday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$3.50 domestic pints; \$6.25 martinis, 1/2-off select pizza, appetizers, and more. Sunday, 10pmclose: \$3.50 domestic pints; \$6.25 martinis. 1/2-off select pizza, appetizers, and more.

EAST VILLAGE

Basic Urban Kitchen and Bar: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$4 keg beers; \$5 liquor, house wine. Free pizza

Monkey Paw: Daily, 5-8pm: \$1 off local draughts and drinks.

Chili's: Monday-Friday, Sunday, 3pm-close: \$1 off drafts, discounted margaritas. Discounted nachos, fried

Blarnev Stone Pub: Monday Friday, 4-7pm: \$1-\$2 off liquor.

Main Tap Tavern: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$1 off 16-oz. pints, \$2 off pitchers, \$3.50 wells.

ENCINITAS

3rd Corner Wine Shop & Bistro: Tuesday-Friday, 3-6pm: Local draft beer, \$3. House wine, \$4. Sangria, \$4/glass and \$14/carafe. Well drinks, \$5, 10pm-1am: \$10 food specials. Saturday-Sunday, 10pm-1am: \$10 food specials.

Union Kitchen & Tap: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$2 off craft cocktails; \$4 drafts, \$6 select wine glasses. \$9 flatbreads.

ESCONDIDO

Brigantine: Monday, 11:30am-close: \$6 vodka cosmo, merlot, chardonnay. Saturday, 11:30am-7pm: \$6 vodka cosmo, merlot, chardonnay. Sunday, 3:30-7pm: \$6 vodka cosmo, merlot, chardonnay.

Vinz Wine Bar & Tasting Room: Monday-Thursday, 3-6pm: \$6 wine, tapas, premium and eclectic beer; \$4.50 wells. Saturday, noon-5pm: \$6 wine, tapas, premium and eclectic beer; \$4.50 wells.

FALLBROOK

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

GOLDEN HILL

Turf Supper Club: Friday-Sunday, noon-4pm: \$1 off beer/wine/spirits. \$5 burger, chicken sandwich, hot links

GRANTVILLE

Camel's Breath Inn: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: Discounted drinks. 11pm-1am: Discounted drinks, hot wings, lumpia.

HARBOR ISLAND

C-Level: Monday-Friday, 3:30-5:30pm: \$4 brews, \$5 specialty drinks.

HILLCREST

Busalacchi's A Modo Mio:

Monday, 4pm-6:30pm. 1/2 off Wine Bottles. Tuesday, 4pm-6:30pm. Wednesday, 4pm-6:30pm. All martinis 1/2 off. Live Music. Thursday-Friday, 4pm-6:30pm. Live Music. Saturday, Brunch 9am-2pm;\$2 Mimosas. Live Music. 4pm-6:30pm. Sunday, Brunch 9am-2pm;\$2 Mimosas. 4pm-6:30pm.

Wine Steals: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$4 for 8 different glasses of wine. \$2 select pizza slices. Saturday, 4-6pm: \$10 wine tasting of 10 wines. Sunday, 11am-run out: 1/2-off red & white wine flights, \$10 for 6 half glasses wine.

IMPERIAL BEACH

The Salty Frog: Tuesday, 6-10pm: "Toss it Tuesday" — each drink has 50/50 chance of costing a quarter. Thursday-Saturday, 9pm-close: \$5 Jäger bombs and Fireball shots. Sunday, 1-9pm: \$4 bloody mary bar; \$3 Smirnoff flavors.

KEARNY MESA

94th Aero Squadron: Monday-Friday, 3:30-6:30pm: \$2.75 glass wine, draft beer; \$3.25 most domestic bottled beer; \$3.50 margaritas. Free buffet: pizza, quesadillas, veggies.

Bud's Louisiana Café: Wednesday-Friday, 3-6pm: 1/2-off glass beer, wine; \$5 cocktails. 15% off cup jambalaya, oyster shooter, cajun chicken

Khan's Cave Grill & Tavern: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$2.50 sake, \$3 Bud Light draft, \$5 pinot noir, chardonnay. \$4 gyoza, egg rolls; \$6 sliders, dumpling sampler.

KENSINGTON

Clem's Tap House: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$2 off all beer and wine flights.

Kensington Cafe: Daily, 4-7pm: \$3 Bohemia, Fat Tire: \$6 50 Duvel \$3 red/white wine special, mimosa; \$5.50 pinot noir. \$4 taco, \$8 ahi crunch.

The Kensington Club: Daily, 10am-6pm: \$2.50 wells, drafts, domestic bottles.





Kensington Vine: *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm: \$5 glass of wine. *Saturday-Sunday*, 3-6pm: Discounted champagne. \$13 bottomless mimosas and bellinis.

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

LA JOLLA

Beaumont's: *Daily*, 3-6:30pm: \$5 margaritas, mules, & mojitos; \$5 ceviche; \$7 pork spare ribs; \$4 threemeat sliders.

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

La Jolla Brew House: Friday-Saturday, 10pm-1am: \$2 Off Pints; \$3 Wells & Wines; Buy Any Pizza Get One Free.

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

Sushi on the Rock: *Daily*, 5-6:30pm: \$2 sake, Coors Light; \$3 sake; \$4 Soju spritz; \$5 house wine.

\$1.75 vegetarian roll, \$2.75 spicy tuna roll, \$4 potstickers.

LA MESA

Anthony's Fish Grotto: Monday-Friday, 3:30-6:30pm: \$3 draft, Anthony's white; \$4 wells, \$5 calls. \$2.75 fish tacos, \$3 lettuce wraps, \$4.50 tostado.

The Go Lounge: *Monday, Wednesday-Saturday*, 2-7pm: \$3 draft beers, Smirnoff shots, glasses of wine, and well drinks. \$2 Jack shot with beer purchase. *Tuesday*, 2-7pm: \$3 draft beers, Smirnoff shots, glasses of wine, and well drinks. \$2 Jack shot with beer purchase. 9-11pm: \$2 you-call-its.

LAKESIDE

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

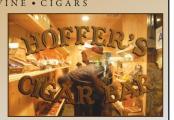
LEMON GROVE

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

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LEUCADIA

Bar Leucadian: *Monday-Wednesday, Friday,* 4:30-6:30pm: \$2.75 wells, \$2.50 beer of the month. *Thursday,* 4:30-6:30pm: \$2.75 wells, \$2.50 beer of the month, Ladies U-Call-it \$2.75.

LINCOLN PARK

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

LINDA VISTA

Tio Leo's: *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm: \$3 domestic & Mexican pints; \$4 house margaritas, wells; \$5 quesadillas, hot dogs, tacos.

LITTLE ITALY

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

MIDWAY DISTRICT

Brazil by the Bay Restaurant and Sports Bar: *Monday-Friday*, 4-7pm: \$2.50 drafts, \$8 pitchers, \$2.50 French fries, \$4.50 chicken wings.

Wine Steals: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$4 for 8 different glasses of wine. \$2 select pizza slices. Saturday, 4-6pm: \$10 wine tasting of 10 wines. Sunday, 11am-run out: 1/2-off red & white wine flights, \$10 for 6 half glasses wine.

MIRA MESA

Mira Mesa Lanes: *Monday-Friday,* 3-6pm: \$2 domestic pints, \$7 pitchers. \$3 import pints, \$10 pitchers. \$2.50 wells. \$3.50 chicken strips, chicken wings.

MIRAMAR

The Filling Station: Monday, 7pm-close: \$4 margaritas. Tuesday, 7pm-close: \$2 kamikazes. Wednesday, 7pm-close: \$3.50 premium drafts. Thursday, 7pm-close: \$2.50 wells, domestic beers; \$7.50 domestic pitchers. Saturday, noon-7pm: \$3 mimosas. Sunday, noon-7pm: \$3 bloody marys.

MISSION BEACH

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

MISSION 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: \$5 mules. \$15 off wine bottles.

MISSION VALLEY

Randy Jones All American Sports Grill: *Monday-Friday*, 4-7pm: \$3.75 selected craft beers, \$5 specialty drinks, \$2 off wine by the glass and grazing menu.

NATIONAL CITY

Buster's Beach House & Long-board Bar: *Daily*, 2-7pm: \$2.25 Bud drafts; \$3.50 mai tais, Long Beach tea, margaritas.

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

NESTO

Baja Oyster Bar: *Monday-Thursday*, All day: \$.99 fish tacos. 3-6pm: Two-for-one domestic bottle, discounted special roll.

NORMAL HEIGHTS







The Air Conditioned Lounge: Monday-Friday, 4-8pm: \$3 draft, bloody marys; \$5 you-call-it; \$6 Jayne's Gastropub fare.

NORTH PARK

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

Imig's Kitchen and Bar: Monday, 4:30-6:30pm: \$2 off wines by the glass; \$3 beers; \$4 well cocktails. 5-9pm: \$5 burger and a draft beer. Tuesday, 4:30-6:30pm: \$2 off wines by the glass; \$3 beers; \$4 well cocktails, 5-9pm; 1/2 off bottles of wine. Wednesday-Thursday, 4:30-6:30pm: \$2 off wines by the glass; \$3 beers; \$4 well cocktails. Friday, 5-10pm: \$2 off wines by the glass; m\$3 beers; \$4 well cocktails, 6pm; Live music, Sunday, 7am-3pm: \$15 bottomless mimosa; \$22 bottomless mimosa with brunch item; \$5 bloody marys.

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

OCEAN BEACH

Mother's Saloon: Monday, 3-7pm: \$1 off drafts; 1/2-off appetizers. 7pm-close: \$3 Jägermeister shots. 11pm-close: \$2.75 well; \$1 off drafts. Tuesday, 3-7pm: \$1 off drafts; 1/2-off appetizers. 7pm-close: \$3 Fireball shots; \$1.50 tacos. 11pm-close: \$2.75 well; \$1 off drafts. Wednesday, 7pmclose: \$5 Rolling Rock and shot; \$1.50 TJ dogs. 11pm-close: \$2.75 well; \$1 off drafts. Thursday, 9pm-close: \$3 youcall-its; \$1.50 sliders. 11pm-close: \$2.75 well; \$1 off drafts. Friday, 3-7pm: \$1 off drafts; 1/2-off appetizers; \$2.75 well. 11pm-close: \$2.75 well; \$1 off drafts. Saturday-Sunday, 11pm-close: \$2.75 well; \$1 off drafts

Winstons: Monday-Saturday, 1-8pm: \$3.50 wells. \$1 off all beer/wine.

PCH Sports Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$2 domestics, \$1 off premiums, \$3 house wines. Saturday, 2-8pm: \$2 domestics, \$1 off premiums, \$3 house wines. Sunday, 2pm-close: \$2 domestics, \$1 off premiums, \$3 house wines.

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

25Forty Bistro and Bakehouse: Tuesday, 5:30-8pm: Free buffet of pasta, cheese, meat, and salads with purchase of a beverage. Wines start-

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

PACIFIC BEACH

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

The Australian Pub: Monday-Friday, 7-9pm: \$3 Long Islands. Saturday, \$2.50 Karl Strauss. Sunday, \$3 bloody marys.

Baleen: Monday-Thursday, 5-7pm: 1/2-off small bites at bar/fire ring. Friday-Saturday, 5-6pm: 30% off entrées. Pacific Beach Ale House: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm; \$3 drafts, wells, house wines. 1/2-price appetizers.

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

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

POINT LOMA

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

Jimmy's Famous American Tavern: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: 1/2-off all appetizers, drafts, wells, and select house wine.

Solare Ristorante Lounge: Tuesday-Saturday, 3-6:30pm; \$5 Tapas, \$3 Beers, \$5 Select Wine, \$6 Select Cocktails. Sunday, 4-7pm; \$5 Tapas, \$3 Beers, \$5 Select Wine, \$6 Select Cocktails.

Phileas Fogg's Bar & Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$2.50 domestic pints/\$7.95 pitcher, \$3.50 import pints/\$11.95 pitcher. \$2.95 cheese quesadilla, \$3.95 chicken wings.

RAMONA

Cheers: Monday, 2-5pm: \$1 off drinks. \$10 steak. Tuesday, 2-5pm: \$1 off drinks. \$1 tacos. Wednesday, 2-5pm: \$1 off drinks. \$.50 wings. Thursday, 2-5pm: \$1 off drinks.

RANCHO BERNARDO

Bernard'O Restaurant: Monday-Saturday, 4:30-7pm: \$4 wells, \$2.75 domestic, \$3.50 imported/specialty, \$4.75 house margarita, \$5 house wine.

Carvers Steak & Chops: Monday-Friday, 2-6:30pm: 1/2-off drinks. \$3-\$4 off appetizers.

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

RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS

Deli Stop Sports Pub: Daily. 4-7pm: \$1 off all beer: \$3 Corona or glass of wine. \$1 off all appetizers.

RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Da Boyz Pizza & Pasta: Monday-*Thursday*, *Sunday*, 2-6pm, 9pm-close: \$2 draft, \$3 glass select wine.

Press Box Sports Lounge: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: Half-off appetizers, \$1 off drafts, house wine, and wells.

RANCHO SANTA FE

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

SAN MARCOS

Back Alley Grill: Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-9pm: \$2.50 drafts, \$4.50 imports and house wines. \$1 Taco Tuesday, 50¢-a-Wing Wednesday, \$1 off pitchers Thirsty Thursday.

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

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

The Jumping Turtle: Monday, 11am-close: PBR \$2.75/pint, \$6.75/ pitcher. Tuesday, 11am-close: \$2 Corona, Pacifico, margaritas. Wednesday, 11am-close: \$4 drop drinks. Thursday, 7pm-close: \$3 Jäger, \$2.50 Bud Lime, Friday, 5pm-midnight: \$5 Long Islands. Saturday, 11am-close: \$3 Orange Patrón, Tanqueray. Sunday, 11am-close: \$2.50 bloody marys.

SANTA YSABEL

Santa Ysabel Resort & Casino: Monday, Mojito Monday: \$4 Irish Mojito. Tuesday, Tropical Tuesday: \$4 Tropical Dream. Wednesday, Wicked Wednesday: \$5.50 Speedy Gonzalez. Thursday, Thirsty Thursday: \$2 bottled domestics. Friday, Fiesta Friday: \$4 classic margarita. Saturday, Sweet Saturday: \$5 pineapple-Midori martini. Sunday, Sunset Sunday: \$4 Amaretto Sunset.

SANTEE

Bar Pink **Happy Hour** M-F 4pm-8pm 12/28 - Bonkers! **EDM Dance Party**

feat. Maren Parusel 12/30 - Happy Endings

& TramLife

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

SCRIPPS RANCH

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

SERRA MESA

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

SHELTER ISLAND

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

SOLANA BEACH

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

The Fish Market: Monday-Friday, 3:30-6:30pm: \$3.50 wells, \$3.95 drafts, domestic bottles, house wine, \$.95 ovsters, \$4.25 smoked trout quesadillas, \$4.95 mahi mahi sliders. Saturday-Sunday, 11am-4pm: \$3.50 wells, \$3.95 drafts, domestic bottles, house wine. \$.95 oysters, \$4.25 smoked trout quesadillas, \$4.95 mahi mahi sliders.

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

SORRENTO VALLEY

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

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

SOUTH PARK

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

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

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

cocktails, pints. SPRING VALLEY

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

Saturday-Sunday, 2-8pm: \$1 off all

Fannie's Nightclub: Daily, 4-6pm: \$.50 off all drinks

TIERRASANTA

JP's Pub: Monday-Friday, 4:30-6:30pm: \$2.50 wells, domestic drafts, \$3.25 house wine.

UCSD

Porter's Pub at UCSD: Daily, 11am-7pm \$3 Menu; 4pm-7pm \$1 off all beer.

UNIVERSITY CITY

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

Cozymel's Mexican Grill: Monday-Saturday, 4pm-close: \$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: \$8 martinis (complimentary steak sandwiches and burritos 4-6pm).

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

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

Babbo's Bar and Grille: Daily, 4:30-6:30pm: \$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.

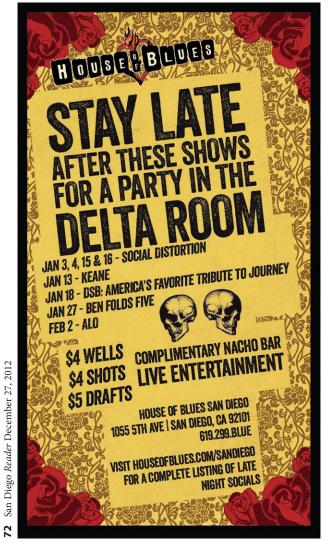
VALLEY CENTER

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

Jumping Bean Cafe & Mexicali Grill: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$2 domestic, imports, \$2.75 margaritas, \$3 wells, microbrews, \$4 Leaping Horse wine. 3-5pm: \$1.50 chicken or carnitas street tacos.

Vista Entertainment Center: Monday-Friday, 11am-6pm: \$2 domestic and \$3 premium drafts; \$3 wells.





Fillina Station **PUB & GRILL FREE POOL ALL THE TIME! Daily Happy Hour** 11:30am to 7:00pm Karaoke is Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9pm to 1am MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL, WEAR YOUR TEAM JERSEYS, FREE HOT DOGS **THURSDAY DRINK SPECIALS** \$2.75 DOM. BEER AND WELL DRINKS \$7.50 PITCHERS FRIDAY &

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DECEMBER 31

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Different kind of risk

THEATER

It's a measure of San Diego theater's growth that they were so well received.

HE 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 musi-

cals 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, smokey-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: savvy direction (Sean Murray and Susan Stroman), inventive choreography (David Brannen and Stroman), talent to the *n*th 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 — now it can be told — 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.

Tanya Saracho's *Kita* follows the lives of two Latina women. They grow up side-by-side in McAllen, Texas, but grow miles apart. Fernanda knew privilege; Kita was an undocumented alien. To alienate her audience, the playwright wrote scenes in either Spanish or English, sans subtitles. The choice became most apparent when an actor told a joke in Spanish and less than half the audience laughed. The others — like Kita in the story — felt left out. English speakers may have wanted the device to stop — okay, we get it — but it didn't, and they remained excluded throughout, unable

to wish it away.

This also happens in *Scottsboro Boys*, come to think of it, since the musical persists with an offensive, minstrel-show format long after the point's been made.

In Little Flower of East Orange, Stephen

Adly Guirguis writes scathingly, fingernails-on-the-chalkboard, about abuse: physical, chemical, psychological. Act One mirrors

his subject. In brief scenes, many just flashes, the playwright bombards his audience with enough stark images and brutal acts to disturb, even offend, hardened playgoers — in effect, theatrical abuse.

Those who didn't leave at intermission witnessed one of the year's finest performances.

In 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 shone 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 first-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 Fagels's excellent translation helped a heap, as did Mark Bennett's "soundscape," 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



Little Flower of East Orange: brutal acts to disturb, even offend, hardened playgoers

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.

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.



continued on page 80



Let the gags begin

MOVIES

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 pathosladen 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



In *Parental Guidance,* Billy Crystal — the self-appointed spokesman for American comedy — is reduced to vomiting on a child for laughs.

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. Since it was a holiday weekend, I didn't expect to find much in the way of celluloid rarities. Surely there was something more to behold than DCPs of 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," providing

you 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



IN THEATERS **JANUARY**



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LIMIT ONE TICKET CODE PER PERSON. EACH WINNER CAN PRINT OUT TWO ADMIT ONE TICKETS. DEADLINE TO ENTER IS WEDNESDAY, 1/2 AT 1PM.

THIS FILM IS RATED R FOR STRONG VIOLENCE INCLUDING BRUTAL DISTURBING IMAGES, AND FOR LANGUAGE.

Please note: Screening passes are available while supplies last. Passes received through this promotion do not guarantee you a seat at the theatre. Seating is on a first come, first served basis, except for members of the reviewing press. Theatre is overbooked to ensure a full house. No admittance once screening has begun. All federal, state and local regulations apply. A recipient of tickets assumes any and all risks related to use of ticket, and accepts any restrictions required by ticket provider. Columbia Pictures, San Diego Reader and their affiliates accept no responsibility or liability in connection with any loss or accident incurred in connection with use of a prize. Tickets cannot be exchanged, transferred or redeemed for cash, in whole or in part. We are not responsible if, for any reason, recipient is unable to use his/her ticket in whole or in part. All federal and local taxes are the responsibility of the winner. Void where prohibited by law. No purchase necessary. Participating sponsors, their employees and family members and their agencies are not eligible. NO PHONE CALLS!

IN THEATERS JANUARY 4

virtually impossible to see a Stooge two-reeler play before a theatrical

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 booking 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" — "B-A bay, B-E bee, B-I bicky 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 everybody else. The Follies came at a time in my life when my only exposure to Buster had been in the Frankie and Annette pictures. I didn't know Sherlock, Jr. from How to Stuff a Wild Bikini.

The only thing that kept the party alive were the rude and lascivious heckles the well-baked crowd hurled at the screen. At one point Buster flings his wife over his shoulder and stares at her backside. As though perfectly dubbed by one of Columbia's expert sound technicians, a member of the crowd yelled, "GAS ON!" a reference to one of Larry's more arcane lines in Dizzy Pilots. The crowd cheered, and for several minutes afterward, anytime a character stood up, sat down, or bent over, someone in the crowd yelled either "GAS ON!" or, its companion line, "GAS OFF!"

The crowd in attendance for this year's Thanksgiving show in Glendale wasn't quite as subversive. More than half of the Alex's 1381 seats were occupied by hardcore imbeciles, Stoogiologists of the first degree thrilled to be in a room with like-minded morons eager to devour every fine-grain frame of 35mm mayhem. I was accompanied by a pair of hair-pulling mavens (and frequent contributors to The Big Screen comments section), John Schultz and Matt Wilson.

Sony struck brand new prints of five Stooge opuses. Four featured Curly: three standouts (Pop Goes the Easel, Three Little Pigskins, and An Ache in Every Stake) and Movie Maniacs, a rare and only moderately amusing attempt by the boys at selfreflexive parody. Rounding out the quintet was Merry Mavericks, another noxious western parody that rivals Punchy Cowpunchers as the weakest link in Shemp's chain of command.

Easel is by far my favorite Curly. I once owned a sparkling 16mm print and know every inch of it by heart. Nothing the Stooges can do is onetenth as amusing as what the (Del) Lord commands. Black doors suddenly appear in the blink of a cut. Moe's clip-on tie drops off in midshot (one can't "retake" genius). Didn't anyone notice that the exact same painting hangs on two walls of the ramshackle set? It's a perfect Stooge excursion: the boys are in their youthful prime and Del Lord's direction, if you can call it that, renders the narrative, 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 Lickona, John Rubio, Scott Marks, and Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews sorted alphabetically, by year of release, and by rating are available online at SanDiegoReader.com.

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 Levva) 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 generally reliable Cumming appears to be bucking for a permanent slot on the Lifetime Channel. Given how little the unashamedly sentimental script has to say about its watery characters, Any Day Now might just as well have been about a gay couple struggling to take in a stray cat. Beyond horrifying. It makes Forrest Gump look like The Titicut Follies. With Frances Fisher, Gregg Henry, and Chris Mulkey. 2012. - S.M.

FROM GUS VAN SANT, DIRECTOR OF "GOOD WILL HUNTING" & "MILK" "FANTASTICALLY **ENTERTAINING!"** -FILM.COM "MATT DAMON HAS NEVER **BEEN BETTER! ELECTRIFYING!** One of the best pictures of the year." "A RARE TREAT THIS **HOLIDAY SEASON!"** -FOX-TV MATT DAMON * JOHN KRASINSKI * FRANCES McDORMAND SCREENPLAY BY JOHN KRASINSKI & MATT DAMON STORY BY DAVE EGGERS FOCUS FEATURES R participant PromisedLandTheFilm.com IMAGE NATION **EXCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENTS START FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28** SAN DIEGO ArcLight La Jolla (310) 854-8501 AMC Mission Valley 20 (888) AMC-4FUN **California Solo** — A fine performance — and a good character — in search of a story, Silken-maned Robert Carlyle plays an aging former rocker, haunted by the death of his brother (his old band's frontman) 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 small 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 mundane on a man who flirted 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 Basterds. Oscar-winner Christoph Waltz returns to the Tarantino fold as Dr. King, a German dentist-cum-bounty hunter hot on the trail of a pair of nefarious outlaws. Once again, the connivingly 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 uppity 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 Mandingo. (There is a hilarious bit about proper eyehole placement in KKK cowls.) Once they reach Leo's Candyland, however, the film becomes talky and set-bound, 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 miscegenation 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-haired Woody Strode in Ford's The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance. - S.M.

End of Watch — David Ayer, the screenwriter 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.? Copz?) Meaning, Cops with a white protagonist (Jake Gyllenhaal) who's smart enough to go to law school but chooses not to, parcissistic 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 Peña) who's ironic enough to be forever joking about the more outlandish aspects of his heritage (a neverending parade of quinceañeras!) 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 hugely 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. If the Jittercam 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, the in-car banter between calls is the best thing going here. — M.L.



/IEW THE TRAILER AT WWW.RUSTANDBONE.COM

27, 2012

Flight — What is Flight? Is it a toughminded look into the dangers of making heroes out of men who do amazing things? (Denzel Washington, 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 main 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 shattered 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 Chekhov's gun that way — you can't introduce Him at the outset, and then have Him not show up by the end. Director Robert Zemeckis does his best to hide the providential machinery, though making sure that Cheadle's attempt to get "act of God" added to the list of accident causes is a thoroughly cynical move, that a prophet who proclaims God's hand in everything is a cancer patient suffering from "chemo-head," and that a husband who does the same is backed by a wife bleating out "Bless Jesus!" like a madwoman. Alas, Zemeckis can't keep himself from playing the Rolling Stones' "Sympathy for the Devil" when vice-peddler John Goodman comes on the scene. And that sort of indulgence plagues the picture, or rather, bloats it. 2012. — M.L.

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Flight of the Butterflies — 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 has never been. In Flight of the Butterflies, you'll join the monarchs' perilous and extraordinary journey while following an intrepid scientist's 40-year search to find the monarchs' secret hideaway. Featuring breathtaking cinematography, an award-winning production team, a true scientific mystery, and hundreds of millions of real butterflies.

Fun Size — Instead of going to a hot boy's Halloween party, Wren (Victoria Justice) is ordered to take her 8-year-old, bonbon-eating bon vivant brother, Albert (Jackson Nicoll) trick or treating. When first we meet the brawny tyke, he is parked naked on the bowl dropping a deuce while sis finishes up her shower. All that's missing is a stogie and can of Blatz! Their dad is dead and Albert hasn't

verbally communicated with anyone in over a year. He turns a page in his comic book before holding up one finger as if to say, "I'll be off as soon as I finish this chapter." As much as we all deplore plebeian fart humor, the added 'kerplunk' is a touch of aural splendor. Dressed as Spider-Man with a bloody stump, Albert is the type of kid for whom Benadryl Baby will definitely act as a stepping stone to harder drugs. Albert escapes, and virginal Wren enlists the aid of her slightlysluttier BFF April (Jane Levy) and a pair of class nerds with wheels (Thomas Mann and Osric Chau) to join in her hunt for Albert. What am I forgetting? Chelsea Handler's career — she plays Wren and Albert's mother — has officially jumped the shark. Other kid-friendly infractions include a CG cat that's allergic to the NAIR on April's backside, a pair of obese, scantily clad Samoans, an adorable African-American child saying, "You're not my mommy, bitch," a giant chicken humping a Volvo, mammogram jokes, and a can of slow-motion soda that's timed to hit the floor with an ejaculatory splash the minute the nerd's feelings for Wren are made known. 2012. - S.M.

+

The Guilt Trip — Babs dearest. Barbra 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 justification for matricide. Rogen — an uptight organic chemist shopping around a new environmentally safe cleaning product decides to play Cupid by dragging Yentl the yente along on a cross-country business trip. (Mom's lost love now resides in San Francisco.) Streisand and Rogen have what it takes to pull it off, but the material and execution quickly reduce what little potential this joyride had to a humiliation derby. Their car just happens to break down in front of a PG-13 gentlemen's club where mommy is exposed to strippers who wear more clothes than their patrons. At least Jane Fonda knew that Monster-In-Law was crap; Streisand looks to be trying for another Oscar. The posters and print ads proudly boast, "From the director of The Proposal," and if you check the fine print, you'll find Lorne Michaels's name attached as producer. Don't say they didn't give you advance warning. With Kathy Najimy, Miriam Margolves, and 30 seconds of Ari Graynor as Streisand's vindication. 2012. — S.M.

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Here Comes the Boom — Thought experiment, possibly entertaining: view this film as if it were titled *The Passion of the Kevin James*. It's as much a Christ parable as *Raging Bull*, only "director" Frank Coraci doesn't know it. In order to raise the funds needed to save his school's music program, the nutty redeemer becomes a glorified kickboxer, and before it's over, his students are in Vegas watching their favorite teacher get stomped into a bloody pulp. He wins in the end (SPOILER ALERT), but there is

Picture Show

Highlights from Judd Apatow's This is 40 online featurette featuring Megan Fox:



something to be said for getting to watch a group of muscled individuals take turns beating up on Kevin James, Besides, art and salvation through violence is a PG message we can all abide by. The third act pathos proceeds exactly as planned, and an unexpected cutaway to the teary-eyed father of an Asian kid brought tears to my eyes. I'll have to check the list, but I don't think I've had more fun laughing at a movie all year. Hideous on the eyes, too. With a blue filter strapped on the camera throughout the entire production, Phil Meheux's cinematography makes it look like a Smurfs sequel directed by Michael Mann. If you have a taste for the terrible, this one comes highly recommended. With Salma Hayek and Joe Rogan as "Himself." - S.M.

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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 watered-down romcom directed in the style of an episode of Hitchcock Presents. (It's ostensibly about the production of the most influential horror film ever made, yet Anthony Perkins only appears in two scenes!?) Anthony Hopkins encased in a Martin Lawrence fat suit, outfitted with a bad latex nose, and suffering from an oscillating dialect — is simply not convincing as Hitchcock, and Helen Mirren would never be confused, on her best day, with the mousy Mrs. H. Hitchcock purportedly wants to do nothing more than counter all the years that loudmouth 'Tippi' Hedren spent publicly branding Hitch a pervert by playing fast and loose with the facts. Beyond that, screenwriter John J. McLaughlin attempts

to give Alma her due by dredging up a zipless romantic fling she allegedly had with a screenwriter during the making of The Paradine Case (1947). A fantasy sequence wherein Hitchcock employs the services of Ed Gein, the monster upon whom Norman Bates was based, as a psychiatrist is downright unclean, as is the assertion that Cocky had a Batesstyle peephole drilled in his office wall in order to spy on his leading ladies. Perverse as it sounds, the film was shot in 'Scope, a ratio Hitch despised and never used. Gervasi's talent did wonders when it came to revitalizing the careers of a pair of bird-brained heavy metal singers. Leave the Hitchcock legacy 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 Stuhlberg, and the beautifully blank Jessica Biel perfectly cast in the Vera Miles role. 2012. — S.M.

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The Hobbit: An Unexpected Jour-

ney — More of the same from director Peter Jackson, here pulling a proper Lucas and giving us the first installment of a prequel trilogy to his earlier three-parter, The Lord of the Rings. (Then, he was adapting three books; now, he's stretching just one, packing a straightforward quest with all manner of history and political intrigue.) And like Lucas, he has fallen in love with technology; in this case, High Frame Rate visuals that highlight every pore and strip-mine the magic from a movie that should be laden with it. (Do yourself a favor and stick to plain old 2D here.) The story involves 13 dwarfs (plus a helpful wizard) who hire a diminutive burglar to help them take back their mountain kingdom and its treasures from an invading dragon. Again, Jackson manages the creation of a believable fantasy world through well-pitched performances (Martin Freeman makes a fine homebody 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, special effects that lean heavily on cartoon physics, and weepyeyed alpha males. With Ian McKellan, Hugo Weaving. 2012. — M.L.

 \star

Hvde Park on Hudson — Bill Murray goes fishing for Oscar in shallow water. In the Spring of 1939, Franklin D. Roosevelt (Murray) was the first-ever president to host to British royalty on American soil. The weekend shindig was thrown at the title locale, F.D.R.'s home in upstate New York. Chin jutting, cigarette holder pointing northward, and voice lolling in a jaw-stretching drawl than can only be described as Thurston Howell, III-ish, Murray's Roosevelt is more of a graphite rubbing than it is a completed portrait. What baubles of wisdom are to be gleaned from this shuddersome biopic? That the 32nd president loved his mother and behind-the-wheel hand jobs, though never at the same time. Laura Linney's somnambulistic performance as Frankie D's lover/distant cousin makes this feel more like Dawn of the Dead than Sunrise at Campobello. In 1995, director Roger Michell came out of the gate swinging with Persuasion and hasn't given us much worth looking at since. Hide or park yourself in another theater, anything but this. With Olivia Williams, Elizabeth Marvel, and Elizabeth Wilson. 2012. — S.M.

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

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Jack Reacher — "A Tom Cruise Production" — it's the first thing you see on the screen, and it's all there is to know.

FILM FESTIVALS

CATAMARAN RESORT
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Two Short Films Challenging Impossibility is a 2011 documentary that chronicles the weightlifting odyssey of the spiritual teacher Sri Chinmoy, who in 1985 at the age of 54 took up weightlifting and performing feats of strength using the power of meditation. *Ocean Monk* chronicles the inner and outer search of a group of New York City monks. Q&A following

the films. 619-281-8945. Friday, January 4, $7{:}30pm$

CO-MERGE

330 A St., Downtown San Diego 619-255-9040

Lunafest - Film Festival This festival highlights women as leaders in society, illustrated through nine short films by women filmmakers. The films range from animation to fictional drama, and cover topics such as women's health, motherhood, body image, aging, cultural diver-

sity and breaking barriers. Food and cocktails will be served. **Thursday, January 10, 6:00pm**

SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF ART

1450 El Prado, Balboa Park 619-232-7931

Do the Right Thing In conjunction with *Behold, Americal*, this film takes a look at American identity the role of race in our country with Spike Lee's *Do the Right Thing*, a fictional story about one afternoon in Bedford-Stuyvesant. The 1989 film won multiple Academy Award

nominations. Pre-film lecture at 7 p.m, film at 8pm **Friday, January 4, 7:00pm**

WORLD RESOURCES SIMULATION CENTER

1088 Third Ave., Downtown San Diego 619-234-1088

Watershed Film executive produced and narrated by Robert Redford. Produced by the Redford Center and Kontent Films. 619-234-1088. **Tuesday, January 8, 5:30pm**

San Diego Reader December 27, 2012

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Here, he plays Jack Reacher, an invincible, invisible genius who appears out of the mists of cliché to investigate a rogue sniper's shooting spree. (The opening scene, in which a rifle scope follows first one pedestrian and then another and then another, is both chilling and promising, as is the dialogue-free investigation that follows. Then, suddenly, we're deep in TV procedural territory.) Reacher teams up with the sniper's lawyer (Rosamund Pike) who we're told is a smart crusader-type 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 amazement, as our hero tells her what's what. The only parts that aren't formula are just weird - most notably. a Stooges-style attempt on Reacher's life by a couple of clumsy thugs. You might find some joy in Robert Duvall as a crusty gun-range owner, or in Cruise's gradual demolition of a beautiful muscle car during a drawn-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 American morality with regard to money as manifested on the macro level by the 2008 financial crisis and on the micro level by 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 ever select, by 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 listening to a speech on Federal intervention in the marketplace. Also, also, also. The audience — if it is hasn't been lulled to sleep by the endless, gentle lapping of dialogue and a storyline so flat it requires jolts of electric, effects-heavy violence to keep it moving — will very likely call bullshit. A similar charge may be made against the film's efforts to obtain our sympathies 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-percenters 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 speechifying 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 lawman who does not believe reform is possible. Jackman 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 ideals 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

solo time. And solo time comes often. With Anne Hathaway, Amanda Seyfried. 2012. — M.J.

 \star

Life of Pi 3D — [Nota Bene: the 3D is probably worth it on this one.] If Ang Lee's adaptation of Yann Martel's novel had been nothing more than the story of a teenaged boy who survives a shipwreck only to find he must share his lifeboat with a Bengal tiger, it might have been a very fine - and often visually astonishing — adventure movie. But for better or for worse, Life of Pi aspires to be much more than that. For better: the adventure is strong enough to bear the weight of some larger meaning. For worse: that meaning is spelled out and hammered home in a pair of talky bookends. This isn't a film about a boy lost at sea; this is a film about humanity adrift, about the importance and significance of storytelling, about religion and God him/her/itself. That doesn't have to be a bad thing; it doesn't take much to see the tiger as death itself, an immutable and inescapable fact that nature imposes on every person. The boy struggles against it. He tries to trick it. Eventually, he realizes he must make peace with it. And somewhere along the line, he realizes that the certainty of death is what has helped him cling to life. Storytelling! Significance! Ditto the boy's struggle with faith: he prays, and things happen. Are those things answer to prayer or just things that happen? Don't worry about answering; the film is happy to do that for you. The viewer does get to make a choice at the end, but it's not a choice about anything as exalted as the existence of God. It's more about where we find consolation during our own adventure in the lifeboat. With Irrfan Khan, Suraj Sharma. 2012. — M.L.

**

Lincoln — Four score and 150 minutes ago, Steven Spielberg shifted into his John Ford mode with this giant, mythbolstering Golden Book of a movie. As the Civil War rages on, we open with a moment lifted from Saving Private Ryan: a shorter, but equally anonymous massacre. Inasmuch as it fails to properly set the mood and tone of this otherwise setbound gabfest, the scene is as spectacularly executed as it is worthless. (As my friend Jim Hemphill said once the initial bloodbath was over, "The closest thing to an action sequence is Tommy Lee Jones taking off his hairpiece.") Moving on, we find Lincoln's ear being bent by a returning black soldier while The Great Emancipator is seated at a railway station. The soldier, after spelling out the future of African-American relations for both the audience and Honest Abe, is conveniently bounced from the proceedings. In his place, comic relief appears in the form of James Spader, Tim Blake Nelson, and John Hawkes. Their schtick feels like a reprise of Sneak, Snoop, and Snitch from Fleischer's animated version of Gulliver's Travels. And what of the rest of the cast, you ask? For the first time in his career, Daniel Day-Lewis lets the costume and the adenoidal voice do much of the acting for him; he needed a little more Bill the Butcher here, and a little less Left Foot. Sally Field performs as if she really wants the Academy to like her again. The good news is that scenarist Tony Kushner's authentic-sounding period dialog flows in abundance, helping to make this the closest I've come to not wanting to walk out on an Amblin production since Catch Me if You Can. You'll want to cheer when, as Number 16 is getting set to spit out yet another platitude, Bruce McGill turns on him with, "No! Not another speech." If the real Lincoln was this dull, can you really blame the South for seceding from

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 (Matthias Schoenaerts) and wounded, miserable Stephanie (Marion Cotillard, scrubbed of both makeup and glamor) - warily, even unconsciously approach the prospect of supplying 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 immaterial. She tries to draw him into the realm of moral feeling (one that will include more room for his young son); in return, he awakens her to his life of fighting and thrusting. Director Jacques Audiard offers a harsh look at a harsh world, but his camera stares without leering, searching for beauty in an unpretty landscape. 2012. — M.L.

 $\star\star\star$

Searching for Sugar Man — Documentary about two South Africans who go searching for Rodriguez, a '70s rocker who fell off the map. 2012.

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 schoolteacher (Bradley Cooper) — undiagnosed bipolar, borderline delusional, violent,

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 characters in one movie spoken with the same identical voice. Close your eyes during one of the film's numerous screaming 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 combination of Dancing with the Stars and repugnant behavior on the part of violent football fans should make this a bit hit 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. With incessant jabbering from Chris Tucker, a welcome, albeit brief appearance by Julia Stiles, and brilliant background work by Paul Herman. 2012. — S.M.

and fresh out of the state mental institu-

*

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 knowingly gives us a personalized Walther and a radio transmitter. (Honoring the brand, 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 onscreen as a rogue agent with a mommy complex and a come-hither leer. But most of all, a Bond film needs a proper Englishman 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 seams 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 much too little beyond, "Spies - like the one in this old-timey franchise - are still relevant!" With Judi Dench, Ralph Fiennes. 2012. — M.L.

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This Is 40 — This is 134 minutes! Paul Rudd and Leslie Mann star as the now-married couple Judd Apatow first introduced us to in Knocked Up (Katherine Heigl, who told Vanity Fair that the original "paints the women as shrews, as humorless and uptight, and it paints the men as lovable, goofy, funloving guys" was not invited back for the sequel.) Rudd has a dream of introducing a new generation to Graham Parker, while Mann is desperately clinging to 39. The largely improvised marital skitcom marks Apatow's fourth jaunt in the director's chair; at least this time, he has the good sense to feature Albert Brooks in a meaty supporting role as Rudd's dependent father. There are the usual amount of gross-out jokes one associates with the Apatow factory, along with the usual featherweight observational material — he sneaks cupcakes, she hides cigarettes - sprinkled with topical references. And what would a Viagra opener be without a subsequent stream of penis jokes? As much as I enjoy watching Albert on screen, in this case, his comedic timing would have been put to better use if he'd been hired as an editorial consultant to whittle away a half-hour With Jason Segal, Robert Smigel, and Megan Fox. 2012. - S.M.

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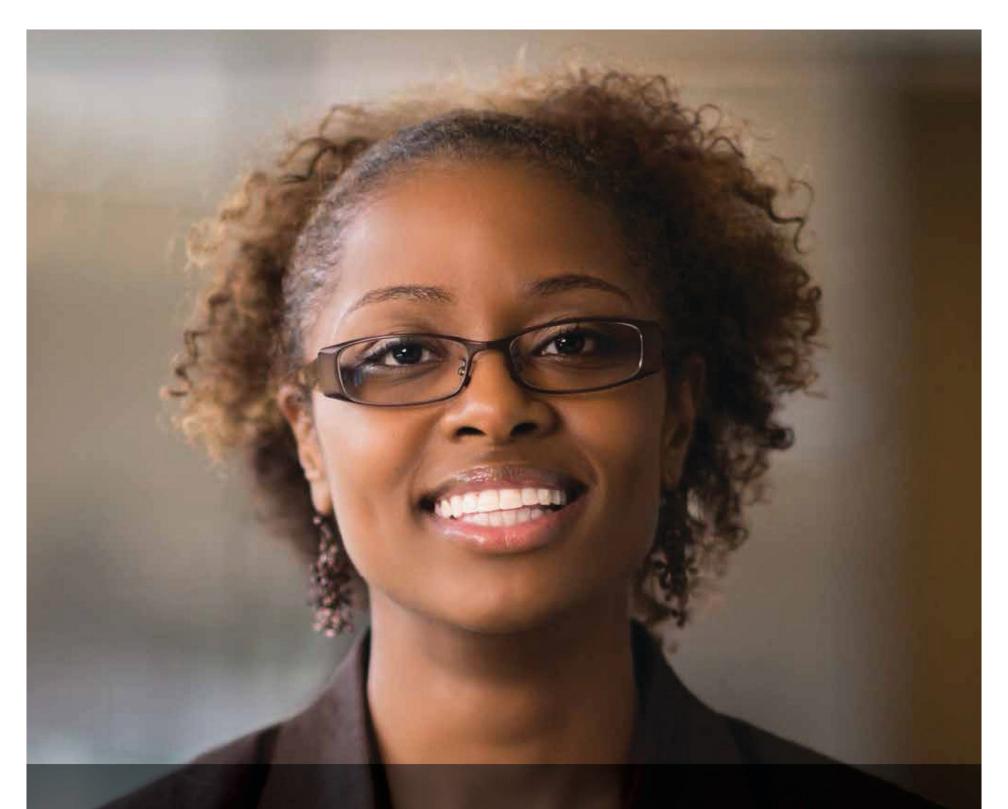
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A Christmas Carol

Sean Murray's new adaptation of Dickens's classic boasts no smokey 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 studio audience, including numerous audio effects. The production has traded sights for sounds. One obvious benefit: the emphasis is on the word (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 TWIGGS ST.,

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LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-4370600. 7:30PM THURSDAYS. 8PM FRIDAYS, 4PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 6PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 30.

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AND 8PM SATURDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 24.

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DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, 619-220-0097, 8PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 8PM AND 2PM SUNDAYS THROUGH DECEMBER 30.

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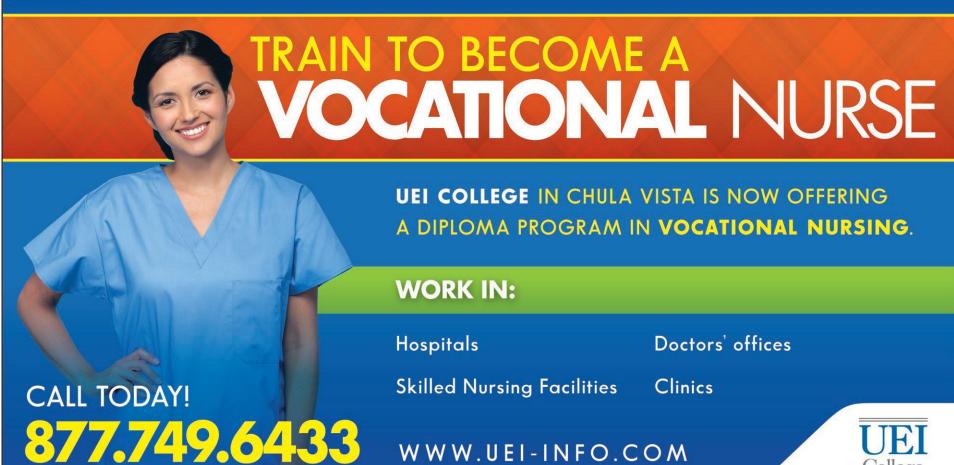
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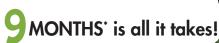
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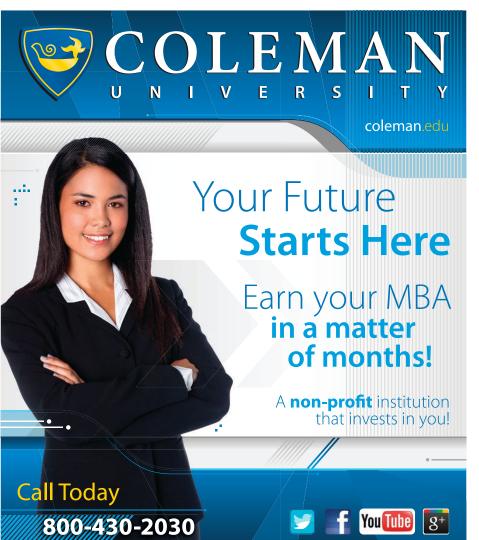
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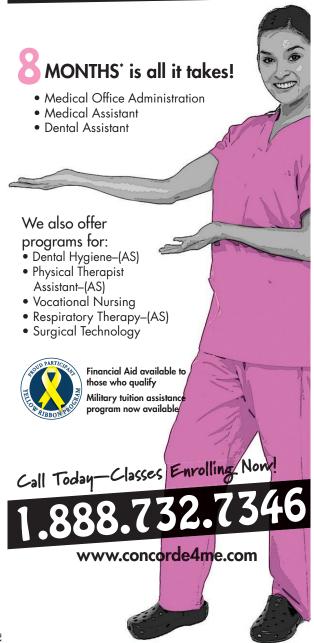


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Beaches

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Colima. Del Sol Property Management, broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

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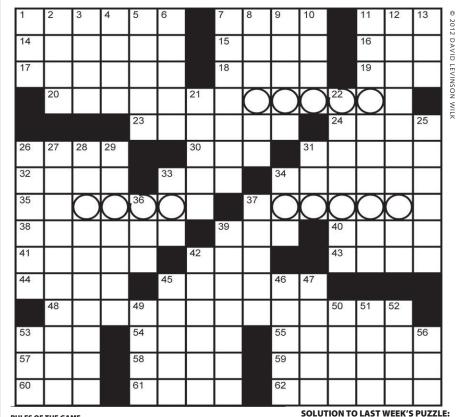
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1) Submit your completed puzzle to the *Reader* each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results and ranking are posted online each week to SDReader.com/puzzle. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.
2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your name.
3) The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three

months. Complete the journey four times a year!

4) Entries must be faxed to 619-231-0489; or mailed to *Reader* Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803; or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy; or scanned and emailed to puzzles@sdreader.com. <u>Submissions by e-mail must be attached in JPG format</u>, 800 by 800 pixels, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed.

- will not be counted or viewed.

 And now for the really small print:

 1) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.

 2) Late entries will not be considered.

 3) We will draw 10 names from weekly puzzle winners; no clever words or limericks required.

 4) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.

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

- 1. Car introduced in 1908 "for the great multitude"
- Some email attachments
- 7. Some errial access
 11. Campfire residue "The Story of ____" (1975)
- Truffaut film)
- 15. Croft of video games
- 16. Key above Caps Lock
- **17.** Private aye?
- **18.** TV iournalist Burnett
- 19. Notable 1969 bride
- 20. Argentine soccer star of the 1980s-90s
- 23. Soccer shot
- 24. Harmless cysts
- **26.** Give ____ on the back
- **30.** Cartoon character who cries "You eediot!"
- **31.** Climber's observation
- Kemo 33. Give a leg up
- **34.** Somewhat What the first caller might be on
- **37.** Beyond repair **38.** Mavens
- 39. Sample **40.** Work like a dog
- **41.** Bother a lot
- -shek **42.** Chiang ____-shek **43.** "____ plata" (Montana's motto)
- **44.** Show stopper?
- Twist and shake and set it and play!" game
- 48. Lyric in a 1968 Rolling Stones hit that defines the groups of circled letters in this puzzle's grid

- **53.** "____ was saying ..." **54.** Kunis of "Black Swan"
- **55.** Its logo features two eighth notes
- 57. Tyler of "The Lord of the Rings"58. Face-to-face exam

- **59.** Former's opposite
- Consumed
- **61.** German photographer Bing
- **62.** Size up

Down

- **1.** Fifth of 12
- 2. Pigged out (on)
- **3.** He loved Lucy
- 5. "Gone With the Wind" Oscar winner
- Severe pang
- Said "Guilty," e.g.
 "Black Swan" director Aronofsky
- 9. Brother in a hood? 10. Beach blanket?
- 11. Arrived, say
- **12.** Starting point of the Chisholm
- **13.** "Girls" airer
- **21.** Raymond's mother on
- "Everybody Loves Raymond" 22. Because of
- 25. Without risk
- 26. Like italics
- 27. Stopped by
- 28. Rare blood type **29.** Driving surfaces

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L E V I E S N E S S S Y D

- **33.** Opposite of a gues. 34. Mary ____ cosmetics
 36. Mel of Cooperstown
- 37. Odin's wife
- 39. Common house event before moving **42.** Over half of them reportedly
- suffer from chlamydia
- 45. Certain hip-hop dancer
- 46. Boxer Ali
- **47.** These, in Madrid
- **49.** Opposite of yours, in Tours
- 51. Initial stake
- **52.** Gets the aist
- **56.** Jun. grads

SEE YOUR RANKING ONLINE!

Now you can go online to check your ranking and communicate with each other! Simply visit: www.SDReader.com/puzzle. The new ranking is posted each Wednesday. To use the "comments" feature, you must be a registered site member

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS:

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.

- Johanna Barry, Pine Valley, 7.
- Bob Carlson, Serra Mesa, 7.
- Linda Hughes, Lakeside, 7.
- Vincent Lee, San Diego, 7.
- Michael Rewa, Allied Gardens, 7.

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Address:									
City:	State:	7in Code:							

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www.torreypinespm.com.

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#9. TPPM, 858-699-3851. www.

torreypinespm.com.

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OCEAN BEACH, \$1041. 2BD+1BA apartment. No applicati fee. Section 8 welcome. 5073 Mui Avenue (upstairs), San Diego, CA 92107. Call Dulce for move-in special! 858-638-7886.

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OCEAN BEACH, \$2900.

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1-car garage plus 1 private parking space. Roof deck. 3 blocks to coean. Washer' dryer. Dogs OK with additional deposit. 4653 Bermuda Ave, front house. 858-270-4492 x203, CDunphyPacwest@san.rr.com

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OCEAN BEACH, \$985.
18D-1BA apartment. \$700 deposit
OAC. No application fee. Blocks to
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Doris, 619-204-1651, 619-224-0759.

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all Dulce for move-in special! 858-

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ACIFIC BEACH, \$1175. 1BD+1BA. Appliances, Laundry on Site, One parking space, close to the bay and park. 3714 Ingraham Street. 858-272-9547.

272-9547.

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Available in December. 208-682-2962.

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PACIFIC BEACH, \$1225. 28D-1BA, cottage with private yard. Close to all. Walk to bay. Laundry, parking. No pets. Eight month lease. 4109 Ingraham Street. 858-270-4674.

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Felspar. 858-361-0844.

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Agent, 619-232-6811.

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959 Chalcedony. Del Sol Property
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com. 858-270-2071.

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Typo Patrol Results

Issue of December 20, 2012

City Lights

p.3 story should be story.

Diary of a Diva

p.8 41 should be 42

Ryan McKinzie (San Diego) \$20

Events listings

p.49 lea should be Lea

Feast!

p.57 tempted should be tempted to

John Mann (Linda Vista) \$20

BANKERS HILL, \$925.

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at the beach. Pets under 35 lbs. OK. Office open 7 days. 4217 Oliver Court. 858-483-7670.

POINT LOMA, \$1250.

Beautiful apartment homes starting at \$1250! **\$0** deposit, OAC. City/bay views stainless steel gourmet appliances, custom cabinetry, bamboo laminate floors. Barbecue, fire pit/lounge, resort-style pool, oversized hot tub, brand-new fitness center. Pet friendly. Gables Point Loma, 3811 Marquette Place #2N. 619-223-6577. Gables.com.



POINT LOMA, \$1595-1710.

POINT LOWA, \$1,535-1710.

2BD+2BA Spacious! Garden view or panoramic ocean views from hilltop.

Private balcony. New appliances, fixtures. Pool. Fitness rec-room. Saunas. No pets. 619-226-8158.

2BR+ 2BA \$2395+

1/2 Off Deposit (OAC)

Granite countertops, stainless steel appliances

underground parking. Walk to Balboa Park/Downtown.

619-550-8069

Viewing by appointment only.

BANKER'S HILL, \$1250.

1BD+1BA \$800 deposit OAC, VIEW, balcony, laundry, hardwood floors, no pets, at 111 Nutmeg Street (at First Avenue). 619-299-8515. www.mpmcorp.

net.

BANKERS HILL, \$1095.

1BD+1BA, 700 sqft (estimated)
townhouse. Bordering Downtown, Very
private. Spacious. Hardwood floors.
Laundry. Patio. Free parking. Pets OK.
Available now. Steve, 619-696-7500.

BANKER'S HILL, \$1250.

\$20 OFF

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18D+1BA loft. Gaslamps best
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countertops, air conditioning. Parking.
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deposit. A must see! 777 Sixth Avenue
#435. TPPM, 619-296-8802. www.
torreypinespm.com. Trilogy on 5th, **Banker's Hill** torreypinespm.com



DOWNTOWN, \$400 & UP.Rooms \$400/ up. Clean and quiet.
Includes utilities and free cable, on-site laundry, elevator. Excellent location, convenient to all. No pets. Centre City Manor, 1450 4th Avenue and Beech Street. 619-255-5631. www.HughesManagement.net



HUGHES MANAGEMENT

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







DOWNTOWN, \$450.
Best deal in town, period. 55+ quality senior living. Beautiful furnished rooms with private bathrooms. Includes utilities, cable TV, maid service. On-site laundry and storage. Edge of Bankers Hill at 1814 Fifth Avenue, New Palace Hotel. 619-235-2323.
www.HughesManagement.net.



HUGHES

DOWNTOWN, \$475-550.

Affordable rooms near Petco Park. Utilities included. Common kitchen bathrooms, laundry, vending machines. Star Hotel, 522 7th Avenue & Island.

619-235-6068. www.HughesManagement.net.



HUGHES MANAGEMENT

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



MANAGEMENT

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





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



DOWNTOWN, \$550-800.

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



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



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

DOWNTOWN, \$775.
Studio+1BA. Upstairs, with kitchenette, all utilities included! Laundry, street parking. No pets. Near Balboa Park. 1758 6th Avenue. Available now! Agent, 619-298-7794. 619-298-7724.

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San Diego Reader December 27, 2012

Hat trick - No limericks!

Luck of the draw - 10 T-shirt or hat winners a week!

THE READER SUDOKU PUZZLES:

9

5

1

6

6

5

9

1

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 get 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 by crossing off the other completed puzzles. All puzzles that are cut into pieces will he disqualified

3) We will draw 10 names from weekly puzzle winners; no clever words or limericks required.

8

9 4

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3 7

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4 1

6 8

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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 vear!

5) Entries must be faxed to 619-231-0489; or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803, or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy, or scanned and e-mailed to Sudoku@sdreader.com. Submissions by e-mail must be attached in JPG format, 800 by 800 pixels, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions

- that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed. 6) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
- 7) Late entries will not be considered.

 8) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
- 9) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are

MEDIUM:

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

HARD:

EASY:

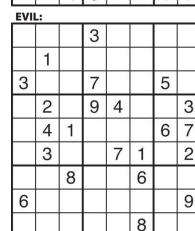
7 1

3

1

8 4 2

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



SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

FASY:

MEDIUM:

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

HARD:

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

3	6	5	7	1	4	2	9	8			
4	8	9	3	2	7	1	5	6			
5	3	2	1	4	6	7	8	9			
1	7	6	9	5	8	4	2	3			
9	5	7	4	8	1	6	3	2			
6	1	8	2	3	5	9	4	7			
2	4	3	6	7	9	8	1	5			
EVIL:											
3	4	7	8	9	5	2	6	1			
0	F	0	_	^	4	7	4	0			

8 9 1 5 6 2 3 7 4

7 2 4 8 9 3 5 6 1

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

8 7 6 1 4 3 9 2 5

4 3 5 9 2 7 1 8 6

9 1 2 6 5 8 4 3 7

SEE YOUR RANKING ONLINE!

Now you can go online to check your ranking and communicate with each other! Simply visit: www.SDReader.com/puzzle. The new ranking is posted each Wednesday. To use the "comments" feature, you must be a registered site member

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS:

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.

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

We cannot accept your entry without the following:						
Name:						
Address:						
City:	State:	_Zip Code:				

DOWNTOWN, \$800 & UP.

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

DOWNTOWN, \$850. Studio+1BA. 1/2 off 1st month! All utilities paid! Beautiful, extra large studio located in gated building, gorgeous wood floors, walk-in closet, built-in dresser in powder room, large eat-in kitchen with built-in table and bench, tons of cupboards, on-site laundry. 1747 5th Avenue #2. Deborah, 619-702-4887.

DOWNTOWN.

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

DOWNTOWN

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

DOWNTOWN.

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

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

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

GOLDEN HILL, \$1495.

2BD+1BA. Great location! Wood floors. Just remodeled with new appliances, granite countertops. On-site parking and laundry. 2424 A Street. Call Jeff, 619-713-1044 or Rachael, 619-804-

GOLDEN HILL. \$850.

9

2

GOLDEN HILL, \$850. 1BD+1BA charming casita. Hardwood floors. Great neighborhood, on-site laundry. No dogs. Available Now! 2426 E Street. 619-857-3706.

IBD+1BA. Private patio, New floor, assigned parking, On-site laundry, close to Balboa Park and Downtown. (Pets up to 15 lbs) welcome. (619)501-0582

LITTLE ITALY, \$1595

SPAN STATE S

SHERMAN HEIGHTS, \$670.
Studio+1BA. Deposit \$469. Street parking. Upgraded. Available to move in 12/4. 322 sqft. 532 21st Street, #6. Unit is vacant. 619-220-4840.

SHERMAN HEIGHTS, \$895.
Newer studio/office cottage, 460sqft.
Utilities included. \$500 deposit. By
Market/42nd- 805. Must have steady work/references, pay lease on time Parking. 619-299-1969.

SOUTH PARK, \$1145.

2BD+1BA spacious and immaculate apartment. Extra storage locker. Very quiet area. Coin laundry. Indoor cat upon approval. Excellent location. 3131 Hawthorn Street. TPPM, 619-296-8802. www.torreypinespm.com

Downtown, \$150. **Furnished Studios!**

Studio+1BA, clean and furnished with Free Utilities! Pay by the week or month (from \$150/\$560 at Trolley or from \$175/\$660 Peachtree). Phone, microwave/ fridge, television/ HBO, housekeeping, parking, laundry, patio, WiFi lobby, gated entry. Move in from \$300/\$375 (subject to credit approval). *Trolley* at 940 Park: 888-506-9053. *Peachtree* at 901 F Street: 888-506-9052.

East County

EL CAJON, \$1005.
2BD+1BA, large 900 sqft apartment with new carpet. Swimming pool, assigned parking, on-site laundry. Close to shopping and freeway. 619-444-1876.

shopping and freeway. 619-444-18/6.

EL CAJON, \$1395.

3BD+2BA condos. 1/2 off 1st month!

Upper unit, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, crown molding, laminate flooring in kitchen, recessed track lighting, central A/C and heater, washer and dryer, ceiling fans, covered parking. No pets. Section 8 OKI 1028 Leslie Road #8. 619-804-3325.

EL CAJON. \$480-850.

Trailers. Gated community park. Each unit has a little yard. Convenier located, close to trolley, bus, shopping. No pets. 619-933-5189.

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I hr. Body

l hr. Foot

Solana Beach

536 Stevens.

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EL CAJON, \$795.

1BD+1BA. First month free on approved credit! Spacious apartments. \$500 deposit. Large kitchen. Pool, Jacuzzi, barbecue, on-site laundry. Offstreet parking. Credit check. Section 8 OK. 619-440-5258.

EL CAJON, \$800 & UP.

EL CAJON, \$800 & UP. 1BD-+1BA and 2BD-1BA apartments. Appliances, A/C, on-site laundry, off-street parking, pool, lush landscaping. No pets. 294 Ballantyne. On-site manager: 619-715-8243, 858-703-4932.

EL CAJON, \$825-845.

1BD+1BA apartments in fabulous pool/ courtyard complex. Super clean. No pets. 314 Wisconsin Street. TPPM, 619-742-7600, www.palmestates.info.

EL CAJON, \$845-975.
Spacious 1BD and 2BD-1BA in beautiful property with sparkling pool. Walk to courthouse and Main Street shopping. No pets. 163 Ballantyne Street. TPPM, 619-990-5900, www. tradewindsapts.info.

EL CAJON, \$845.

IBD+1BA. Beautifully maintained apartments with sparkling pool. No pets. 234 W. Park Avenue. TPPM, 619-850-9722. www.palmtowers.com.

EL CAJON, \$900.
2BD-1BA, 830 sqft large upstairs apartment. New carpet, tile floors.
On-site parking and laundry. Patio. No pets. Oakdale Avenue. 619-993-1386, 619-440-5700.

EL CAJON, \$950. 2BD+1BA spacious apartment with private patio. Great location with on-site parking and laundry. 441 Dominguez Way. TPPM, 619-405-4500, www.torreypinespm.com.

4500, www.toneypmeop.....

EL CAJON, \$950.

BD +1BA upstairs condo in The Bradley
Community. Newer carpet, custom color
paint.. Available 12/27. 745 East Bradley
Ave. People Helping Others Property
Management, 619-282-5400.

LA MESA, \$1399.

SBD+2BA apartment. Welcome to Mt. Helixl Spacious. Air conditioning. Laundry. Garages. Balconies. Pool. Hablo Espanol. 619-646-8670.

LA MESA, \$1399.

3BD+2BA apartment. Espaciosos. Aire acondicionado. Lavanderia. Garage. Balcones. Picina. Mascotas OK. Espanol. 619-646-8670.

LA MESA, \$875. 1BD+1BA. 1/2 off 1st month! Extra large apartment, includes appliances, stove, refrigerator, A/C, BBQ area and picnic tables, on-site laundry, off-street parking. Cats and Section 8 OK. 4325 Lowell Street #2. Nancy, 619-460-1074.







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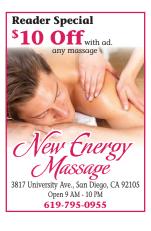




Before



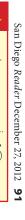








License #13694



NEIGHBORHOOD

Continued from page 6

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

CHULA VISTA

Professor passes away Heart attack befalls Philip Lopez, Southwestern College teacher/ activist/accordionist

Friday, December 14, on the eve of his 65th birthday, on the last day of the fall semester, Southwestern 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 apartmentcomplex police action?

San Diego police descended on the Stonewoood 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



It took four police units to settle an altercation at Stonewood Gardens.

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

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.

BY GAIL POWELL, DECEMBER 20

BANKERS HILL

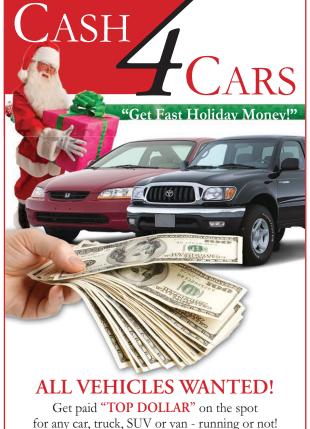
Here come the condos... **Fourth Avenue Professional Center to** undergo redevelopment

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



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2BD+2BA condo in gated community. Upper unit with balcony and all kitchen appliances. 9728 Marilla Dr #811. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400.

LAKESIDE, \$897-1097.

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ozz-5312.

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2BD+2BA. \$300-off 1st Months Rent! Large upper unit with new flooring, blinds, appliances, and fresh custom paint. Air conditioning, parking. 3639 S. Bonita Street. 858-344-5329. www torrevpinespm.com

Central San Diego

BAY PARK. \$1650.

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IBD-11BA, 550 sqft. apartment. \$150 off 1st month's rent for \$965/ month and a one year lease, or pay \$950 a month without the \$150 off. Pet friendly. Available Dec 1st. Good Storage. Clean, roomy. Close to water, park, freeway, shopping, restaurants. Friendly. 619-276-0606.

CLAIREMONT, \$1240.

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CLAIREMONT, \$950.

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

COLLEGE AREA, \$1000.

IBD+1BA cottage in Rolando. Cleaning deposit. Street parking, back house with private yard. 4734-34 68th St. 92115. Must see! Call Willow, 619-465-4362.

COLLEGE ARRA, \$1100.

18D+1BA townhouse in contemporary building, central air conditioning. Security, underground parking. Year lease, 4742 Seminole Drive. Call 619-460.0031

COLLEGE AREA. \$1200.

COLLEGE AREA, \$1200. 2BD+2BA upstairs apartment. Fireplace. Central heat/ air. Microwave, dishwasher. Balcony. Gated. On-site laundry. No pets. 4828 Art Street. Agent: 619-298-7724.

COLLEGE AREA, \$1550.

SBD+2.5BA nice condo in the College Park Community. 3962 60th Street Unit 66. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400.

COLLEGE AREA, \$695.
IBD+1BA senior condo. New carpet/
paint, on-site parking, laundry. Clean,
quiet, secure. If you can find one better.
rent itil 4260 44th St. Call Jeff, 619-7131044 or Rachael, 619-804-1044.

COLLEGE AREA, \$825. 1BD+1BA apartment. Near bus, shops, SDSU. Laundry room. No pets. \$150 security deposit. 6769 El Cajon Boulevard. Apartments in rear courtyard. 619-464-0901.

COLLEGE AREA, \$975.
2BD+1BA. Large open floor plan. Great location. Close to all. On-site laundry. No pets. If you can find one better... rent it! 7240 El Cajon Boulevard. Call Lynette, 619-602-0959, or Rachael, 619-804-1044.

LINDA VISTA, \$1295.
3BD+1BA townhome. Deposit \$906. 1 space assigned. Upgraded. Available to move in 12/21. No pets. 918 sqft. 6542 Kelly Street. 619-220-4840.

MISSION VALLEY, \$1200 & UP.

2BD-1BA, 750 sqft. Huge walk-in closets. Dishwashers. On-site parking. Balcony. No dogs. Other pets considered. 5720 Gaines Street. 619-299-3477.

MISSION VALLEY, \$1400.

2BD+2BA. 1100 sqft. Pool, laundry, assigned parking plus permit. Ready to view by 12/15/12 in pm. Marilyn A&P Realty, 619-425-4555.

SAN CARLOS, \$1450.

SAN CARLOS, \$1450. 2BD-1.5BA townhouses. 1290sqft. Gas stove, dishwasher, garage, large patio, pools, laundry facilities. \$1000 deposit. Lakewood Villa Townhomes, 8492 San Carlos Drive. 619-469-3585.

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North County Coastal

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4BD+2.5BA beautiful home in Carmel Valley. Look no further! Gorgeous home in the Del Mar Highlands. 4205 Corte Favor. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400.

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OCEANSIDE, \$1150 & UP.

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www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

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4219 Georgia Street #5. TPPM, 619-299-1004. www.torreypinespm.com.

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2BD+2BA condo, Uptown/ Hillcrest. Top-floor corner unit with private balcony. noor corner unit with private balcony. New stainless steel appliances. Stove, refrigerator, microwave, dishwasher, new washer/dryer, A/C, underground parking. No pets. Few blocks to the Zo Balboa Park. 3633 Indiana Street #27. Agent, 619-232-6811.

Agent, 619-232-0811.

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San Diego *Reader* December 27, , 2012

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IBD+1BA upstairs apartment by Morley Field. Quiet complex, view, new carpet/paint. Mirrored closet doors. Parking/laundry. No pets. 3811 Arnold. 619-252-

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NORTH PARK, \$950.

18D-1BA Extra large upper unit in a gated complex, balcony from living room, new paint, new carpet, new blinds, large wall-to-wall mirrored closet doors, on-site laundry, off-street parking. Small pets negotiable. Section 8 OK. 4036 Oregon Street #17. 619-804-3325.

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IBD+1BA cute cottage. New appliances, Garage, small fenced yard with fountains Cat or small dog OK. Nonsmoking. 619-280-3331

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, \$1200.

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1BD+1BA very large lower unit. Near North Park Light, airy, clean. Newly remodeled, fresh paint. Gated building. Laundry, off-street parking. No pets. Deposit. 4575 Arizona. 619-993-9505.

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CHULA VISTA, \$1200. 2BD-2BA large apartment. Move- in Discount specials! New carpet. Dishwasher. Nice patio. Gated, brand-new laundry facility, off-street parking. Near Navy Base. No pets. 619-425-6511.

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CHULA VISTA, \$950. 2BD+1BA apartment. Move- in special! On-site parking and laundry! No pets. 265 H Street. Manager, 619-646-5922.

In Sireet, Marlagel, 1619-04-5922.

IMPERIAL BEACH, \$1050.

2BD+1BA. 1/2 off 1st month! No application feel Extra large, new carpet, vinyl, paint, blinds, counters and fixtures. Dining room, extra large bedrooms and wall-to-wall closets, on-site laundry, off-street parking, fenced patio and BBQ area. Cats OKI 612 Delaware Street #H. 619-804-325

IMPERIAL BEACH, \$1425.

2BD+1BA duplex, with loft-style bedroom. Utilities included. Cat permitted. Refrigerator, cooktop stove, microwave New hard flooring, fresh paint. 354-B Evergreen Ave. 619-861-7379.

Evergreen Ave. 619-861-7379.

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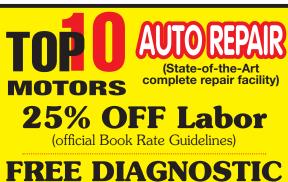
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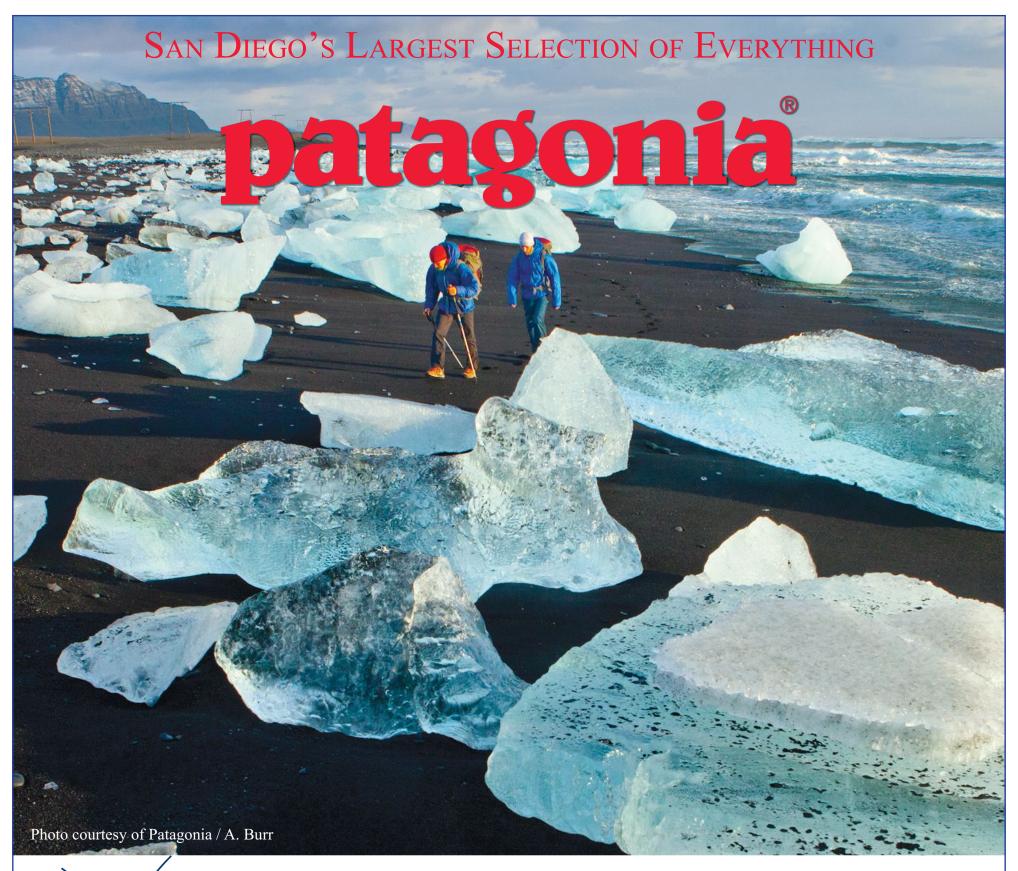
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