Apollo crew: NASA has a problem
Ex-astronauts chide agency at Balboa space agency at Balboa

By MARTIN JONES WESTLIN

Retired Navy Capt. James Arthur “Jim” Lovell, the central figure in one of the nation’s most harrowing space-program dramas to date, has a spot of trouble counting to 10. He hits 5 without missing a beat; then the call of duty intercedes.

“I’m an old astronaut,” Lovell deadpanned. “What can he say, y’know?”

Come to think of it, Lovell, 80, doesn’t have to say anything ever again, at least certainly not in his own defense. He’s an American hero dozens of times over, with a list of accomplishments that stretches to — well — the moon and back.

As chief of the fateful Apollo 13 mission in 1972, he and crewmembers Jack Swigert and Fred Haise drilled between here and eternity, frantically trading their crippled command module for a clunky lunar vessel never designed as a rescue craft. His request is thus satisfied, just not in the way he expected.


The franchise’s sale price hasn’t been divulged, but Fortune magazine placed worth at $385 million.

This country has become so tangled in its own under- wear that it can’t do anything.

WILLIAM ANDERS

NEW SCHOOL COULD HELP FUND DOWNTOWN LIBRARY, SANDERS SAYS

The project is a long way from completion, and the city faces crushing financial burdens in the meantime. Nonetheless, San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders has reaffirmed the city’s commitment to a new Downtown library. He cautioned, however, that private fundraising for the venue now appears to fall short of closing the gap in the total bill, adding that the city has spearheaded talks with a potential tenant for the venue now appears to fall short of closing the gap in the total bill, adding that the city has spearheaded talks with a potential tenant as a means of compensation.

In a Dec. 19 letter to state librarian Susan Hildreth, Sanders stated that “The city has begun talks with the San Diego Unified School District to include a 300-student, high school in the new Main Library.” The letter notes that two floors of the new facility, assumed to be leaseable space, would be “well-suited” for a "niche" high school such as the one under consideration address high dropout rates.

"The cleared and graded site is at the corner of Park Boulevard and 11th Avenue. The letter states that “While the City and School District may have much of the funding in place to construct the current project, funding has not been identified to cover any major redesigns which may be caused by the inclusion of the school in the project or increases in the cost of construction due to time.”

The letter says that smaller, so-called "niche" high schools such as the one under consideration address high dropout rates. Moreover, it notes, "(H)joint use with a high-tech modern library is an excellent way to encourage information literacy in a new generation of Californians."

The school board is scheduled to consider the matter at its next meeting, on Jan. 13. City Council will look at the proposal later this month.

The implications are great and the implications are small, but at least they’re implications. Finally, there’s movement in the San Diego Padres’ camp. And while it won’t be known for months, the upshot may just augur well for the future of the team.

An agreement “in principle” has been reached to sell the team to a group of investors led by Jeff Moorad, former chief executive officer of the Arizona Diamondbacks. Moorad, one of the most recognized figures in sports commerce, owns a Hall of Fame NASCAR racing team and helped broker the deal that brought Manny Ramirez to the Boston Red Sox.

The good news is that Moorad’s expertise is in sports. The bad news (at least for the impatient among us) is that his deliberate- ness will prolong questions about the team’s on-field future. The club panicked in the final weeks last season, filling positions haphazardly, and acclaimed pitcher Jake Peavy’s future is still in doubt even as baseball’s winter meetings are a memory. Moorad ha smuch to arbitrate.

The franchise’s sale price hasn’t been divulged, but Fortune magazine placed worth at $385 million.

"Charge!"

Philip Rivers waves to the crowd after the Bolts cruise to a playoff win over Indianapolis. See more on page 16.
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Balboa Park. That’s when the San Diego Air & Space Museum welcomed Lovell, retired Air Force Col. Frank Borman and retired Air Force Maj. Gen. William Anders for a special memorial in its own right. The Apollo 8 mission, on which the three became the first to orbit the moon and to witness an earthrise, would commence 40 years ago last Dec. 21 — and even as man would walk on the lunar surface seven months later, this program would set the stage for that event.

The decades have sealed the men’s deep personal bond and, when it comes to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), fueled their disillusionment. But make no mistake: These guys are bright, best, and humble and good humor coloring their place in history just don’t force a Borman-Anders debate about whose earthrise picture has the more lasting impact, or things could get mighty ugly. Time magazine may have named them its Men of the Year in 1968, but the public mind did the magic one better.

“You saved 1968!” read a telegram to Borman from somebody he’s never met. And maybe, just maybe, they did.

“[Apollo 8],” Lovell said at a museum press conference, “accomplished something that gave an upbeat sense to the country after a rather tumultuous year of assassinations and riots. The Vietnam War was going on. We were able to help honor President Kennedy’s commitment to getting a man on the moon before the end of the decade. I think those were the things that were the most significant about the flight of Apollo 8.”

“Anders, 75, had a different take. ‘In that order, too,’” Anders quipped.

Anders, portrayed a different take on the mission’s significance. Vietnam had spawned lots of creative means to avoid the draft — and for him, Apollo 8 was maybe the most innovative of all.

“With the Vietnam forces, the Grossmont High School grad quipped, “[President] Clinton only went to Canada. We went all the way to the moon.”

Truth is, Bill was going to school in England at the time and opted for student deferments. He’d return to the States in 1970, not long after Apollo 12’s Charles “Pete” Conrad Jr. became the first man to kill alligators, and they got it done. Now, you can’t even build over here in Ramona without putting radio collars on rats! It’s nuts!

APOLLO 8 CO-PILOT FRANK BORMAN

Frank Borman, William Anders and James Lovell today, with a San Diego Air & Space Museum model re-entry module in the background.

From left, Frank Borman, William Anders and James Lovell today, with a San Diego Air & Space Museum model re-entry module in the background.

“Now, you can’t even build over here in Ramona without putting radio collars on rats! It’s nuts!”

Frank Borman Apollo 8 co-pilot

“too became so tangled in its own underwear that it can’t do anything. It can’t even fight in Iraq without a bunch of lawyers getting involved.” And the risk-tolerance level at NASA has gone way down, mainly because they’re not really accomplishing much.”

“It’s true,” Lovell added. “The [international] space station right now only has enough people to maintain it, without doing anything positive as far as education or experimentation or anything like that. It can support three people whose job it is to maintain it.”

“You couldn’t even build a Kennedy Space Center corridor,” Borman said, “because of the environmental impact. [The contractors] went down to Florida and cleaned it out and I’m sure killed alligators, and they got it done. Now, you can’t even build over here in Ramona without putting radio collars on rats! It’s nuts!”

Today’s NASA, Anders said, faces the biggest impediment of all — a diminished level of public endorsement.

“For forty years ago,” he explained, “the farmer in Iowa was willing to put his tax money into health, those dirty Commies. He didn’t really care that much about the money and the science. Now, even if the tax expenditure were adjusted for inflation, we couldn’t go to the moon again because of the congressional view on the budget and the lack of political support.”

But in 2004, the Bush administration hawked the idea of a return to the moon, with George himself advocating a lunar landing by 2015.

“In my view,” Anders said, “President Bush doesn’t really know what he’s talking about. Somebody’s got him to use the moon as a steppingstone to go on to Mars, if that’s possible. And he’s not financing it, so to it, it’s a hollow promise.”

“What we ought to be doing is quietly going back to the moon. Not because we’re trying to beat the Chinese or the Indians. We want to go back as human beings, not as Americans, to use whatever the moon can be used for, for radio telescopes and that kind of thing — not to go back to find helium-3 and a bunch of rocks and all that stuff.”

“The reason we stopped [the moon launches] at [Apollo 17],” Lovell added, “was people thought the risk was too great. But I think that by going back to the moon, we’ll create the risk as we improve our hardware to get there. We can
Trail, DNA evidence lead to arrest, charge in 1971 murder

Gerald Dean Metcalf must have wondered when — or if — San Diego Police would knock on his door to ask him about killing a Pacific Beach man he met at Horton Plaza almost four decades ago.

It took 37 years, and thanks to DNA evidence and modern fingerprint technology, police say the 1971 murder of Gerald Jackson, 27, is solved.

Metcalf, now 61, is charged with stabbing Jackson to death when Metcalf was 24 years old. The knock on his door by San Diego Police Detective John Tefft occurred in August 2008, where Metcalf was living in a house with his wife in the 2100 block of Easty Street in Chandler, Tex., a town of 2,000.

Metcalf was extradited to California and now resides in the Downtown central jail on $1 million bail. He has plead- not guilty and a preliminary hearing is set for Jan. 15 in San Diego Superior Court.

The suspect in Jackson’s murder was named after a paid intern with the police department, Gabrielle Wimer, 24, who was looking at the cold-case file and discovered that investig- tigators had fingerprints from the murder scene. The prints were run through the FBI’s database and matched Met- calf’s.

According to court records, during a visit to Metcalf’s home in Texas, the suspect told Tefft, a homicide detective with the department’s cold case team, that he was picked up by Jackson in Horton Plaza on Dec. 29, 1971, and taken to Jackson’s apartment in Pacific Beach. Jackson’s nude body was later found in a bedroom of his Hornblend Street apartment. He had been stabbed 55 times.

Tefft learned that Metcalf was arrested in 1984 in Texas for murder but that a jury had acquitted him. Metcalf’s palmprints were taken in that 1984 arrest, and they matched the palmprint found on Jackson’s recovered stereo in 1972.

Authorities wanted to match the fingerprints and palm- prints with Metcalf again, and Tefft obtained a warrant from a Texas judge to take the prints of the suspect. On Aug. 27, Teffl and two Texas officials knocked on his door.

Metcalf agreed to accompany authorities to a Texas sher- iff’s station, where his prints were taken again, but he was- n’t told initially that this was for a 1971 murder investiga- tion. Metcalf was not under arrest, but he was asked if he knew Gerald Jackson or had an explanation why his finger- prints would be in Jackson’s car or apartment.

Initially, Metcalf said he had memory problems and could not recall anything that happened in 1971 in San Diego. He told Tefft he wanted to terminate the interview and go home, which he was allowed to do. Teftt asked him if he could phone him the next day, and Metcalf said yes.

The next day, Metcalf’s wife answered the phone call from Teffl, and Tefft wrote that “she informed me of the two of them talked throughout the evening” after he returned home. Tefft added, however, that she was given no details.

When Metcalf talked with Tefft, he was quoted as saying, “I never told anyone about what happened in San Diego. I never told my wife.” Metcalf agreed to be interviewed in person again.

Metcalf then confessed to the slaying in a tape-recorded interview conducted by Teffl outside his home. Metcalf said he remembered being picked up by a man and taken to his apartment. Metcalf said he went with the man because he was “cold, tired and hungry.” He said he didn’t remember the man’s name.

Metcalf said Jackson asked him to sleep in the same bed with him, and as agreed, telling the detective he took off his clothes and got in with Jackson.

Metcalf said Jackson tried to initiate sex with him, which he refused. Metcalf told the detective to order him a knife and ordered him to perform oral sex. Metcalf claimed he was in “the fight of [his] life” and “blacked out” the details.

Metcalf said he fled the apartment and took Jackson’s car keys. He spent the night in the vehicle and remembers leaving it somewhere with the keys in it.

When asked about passing the victim’s stereo and tak- ing his wallet, Metcalf said he did not remember. The detec- tive showed Metcalf a copy of the handwriting on the pawn

New state laws crack down on texting drivers & copper thieves

By SEBASTIAN RUIZ | Downtown News

Unless you’ve been driving on the freeway with your head down thumbing through your cell phone, you might not recall anything that happened in 1971 in San Diego. He
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“Back when copper was over $3 a pound... people were stealing everything.”

ROBIN FAULKNER
PB RECYCLING
Information Officer Eric Newbury

With the new rules in place, police are looking for people fiddling repeatedly with their phone while on the road. GPS mapping systems with big screens obstructing a driver’s view are also prohibited, he said. “Slowly but surely [legislators] are realizing that anything that takes your attention off the road is potentially dangerous,” New- bury said.

He said it opens “Pandora’s box” for possible legislation addressing eating and putting on makeup while behind the wheel. All traffic violations, even repeat drunk drivers aim to make life miserable for those under the influence, he said. Police can write a citation or impound a vehicle if they catch somebody on proba- tion for a previous drunk driving charge with any amount of alco- hol in their system, he said. It can result in a automatically suspended license.

Other laws that took effect this year include tougher regulations for those trying to sell recyclable materials. Recyclable material sellers have to show identification, give a thumbprint and receive payment by check after three days, Robin Faulkner, owner of Pacific Beach Recycling said.

The new rule applies to those selling material such as copper, according to the text of the bill.

Although certified by the State of California, Faulkner said she doesn’t deal in scrap metal and so doesn’t have a license filed with the city to sell scrap. The new regulation is intended to prevent copper and scrap metal thieves from selling stolen recycl- edables, she said.

Last year, the city saw a rash of copper and scrap metal thefts hit schools and construction sites around the city. “Back when copper was over $3 a pound... people were stealing everything. A lot of people lost their [business] licenses,” she said.

Every year California legislator- passes hundreds of laws. A full list of all the bills signed or vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger can be found at www.gov.ca/issue.

Downtown San Diego is more than just the hottest tourist location, it’s a growing community.

Viva-city invites you to visit www.viva-city.info for all the latest news, events, and important information.
CCDC may lend hand in city Petco payments

Centre City Development Corp. (CCDC), the city’s downtown redevelopment agency, may help the city with its indebtedness on Petco Park.

Under the plan, CCDC would cover the city’s bond payments on the park, which total $183.5 million, through 2013. It then would begin repaying its own loans, which total $116.3 million, back to the city in increments of $10 million every year.

The city’s loans to CCDC, which helped get it started, date back to 1978 and that time totaled $42.5 million. CCDC’s 2009 budget totals $236 million.

CCDC was to consider the proposal, which has been advocated by the city before, at its Wednesday meeting.

Photo device mounted at downtown intersection

A downtown intersection has been newly outfitted with red-light photo safety (RLPS) devices designed to create a safer environment for San Diego motorists.

The RLPS system, mounted at the corner of 10th Avenue and F Street, operates via cameras mounted on poles and sensors buried in the pavement near the intersection. Once the signal turns red, the system is activated and will recognize a vehicle that trips the sensors and travels into the intersection.

A motorist caught in the intersection with the light is yellow will not be photographed. The citations carry a minimum $401 penalty.

Selections of the intersections are made by the police department and the traffic division. They’re based on traffic history and volume, collision type and input from residents.

Three intersections in other parts of the city have been similarly outfitted.

An RLPS system is currently in operation at 10th Avenue and A Street.

Annual ArtWalk festival takes its sponsor’s name

It’s a common practice at sports stadiums and bowl games nation-wide—and now, a failed San Diego arts festival has taken up the cause.

ArtWalk, the city’s yearly celebration of the visual and performing arts, is now known officially as Mission Federal ArtWalk, in recognition of the event’s anchor corporate sponsor, Mission Federal Credit Union, with nearly 130,000 members and assets of $1.8 billion, will spearhead funding that keeps the event free and open to the public.

It also will play a large part in support of children’s education, a major item in the event’s agenda.

The 2009 Mission Federal ArtWalk will take place April 25 and 26 at 16 blocks of Downtown’s Little Italy neighborhood.

About 100,000 regularly attend the event.

Floresta hits a mark in anti-deforestation effort

Floresta, a San Diego-based international charity that works to end poverty by fighting deforestation, has planted its 4 millionth tree worldwide.

Floresta, which has been planting trees since 1984, has recently noted a growth in the scope of its work, due chiefly to the roles of the environment in poverty-stricken countries. Trees, the organization explains, are a source of nourishment and sustainability to the hundreds of millions who live in chronically poverty.

Nearly 75 percent of the trees planted are in the Dominican Republic. Floresta has also helped with reforestation efforts in Mexico, Haiti, Tanzania and Thailand.

Floresta has established an endowment fund in support of its work. It hopes to raise $50 million by 2020 toward its efforts in reforestation, farming and animal husbandry.

Skate parks untended amid city budget woes

Body: The city’s five skate parks will remain unsupervised indefinitely because of city budget cuts, according to a statement from the office of Mayor Jerry Sanders.

It costs the city about $282,571 a year to pay staff to supervise the parks.

The city has also stopped paying park entrance fees, which previously helped cover some of the cost of staff.

The city faces an estimated $53 million 2009 budget shortfall.

Aside from the facility at Robb Field Recreation Center, other skate parks eliminating supervisor positions include:

- Robbins Field Recreation Center, 2525 Bacon St.
- Bill and Maxine Wilson Skate Park, 792 S. 36th St.
- Rancho Peñasquitos Skate Park, 10111 Carmel Mountain Road.
- Charles L. Lewis III Memorial Skate Park, 6610 Potsdam St., and
- Carmel Valley Skate Park, which just opened in November.

The skate parks are open from about 10 a.m. to dusk.

San Diego publisher named by 944 Media

Lee Ann Hoshaw, a media sales veteran whose experience includes work for several major national and international firms, has been named publisher of the San Diego edition of 944, a monthly lifestyle magazine featuring articles on fashion, music, entertainment and culture.

Hoshaw has 20 years’ experience in national and international media sales with firms including Microsoft Corporation, America Online, Time-Warner and the American Automobile Association.

As publisher, Hoshaw will focus on increased marketing of San Diego’s travel industry. Visitors spent $555 million in San Diego in October of 2008, the latest monthly figure available from the San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Parent company 944 Media, based in Scottsdale, Ariz., also publishes in San Francisco, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Orange County and Los Angeles.

Notes from the heart of America’s Finest City

edited by Martin Jones Westlin

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Thanks to the grand jury system in California, democracy is alive and well in San Diego.

There are two types of Grand Juries. Most commonly, people think of a Criminal Grand Jury, which is impaneled by the district attorney to evaluate a particular case. These members are picked from the regular jury pool that we all get called up on from time to time. The “Civil” Grand Juries are quite different. To be on a “Civil” Grand Jury you need to get an application – be interviewed by a Superior Court Judge – and then 19 are picked to serve a one-year term.

This is quite a commitment. I did it for a year. From 2004 through 2005. Every day. At least six hours each day. Yep! For a week straight from July 1 until June 30. A valuable, eye-opening experience.

By state law we were required to visit every jail in the county and to report on conditions we found there. And make suggestions of changes or improvements we thought appropriate and affordable, actually, recommendations in the form of a “report” that is filled all throughout the year. And then at the end of the year we get a summary which also gets put on to a web site: www.sdcounty.ca.gov/grandjury (go to “reports”).

Any citizen can file a “complaint” with this Grand Jury of something they think is worthy of investigation. “Whistle-blowing” at its best! Each of these requests is carefully evaluated for merit and value, and handled in a careful and serious way. Each of the 19 jurors has an equal voice and vote. No “boss” to look over your shoulder or “veto” your hard work. Long, thorough, intensive investigation is done through the work of various committees that they set up for themselves to deal with all possible areas of concern. Then deliberation is undertaken. Sometimes heated. But always with the intent of reaching a fair, reasonable, equitable recommendation.

Oh, yes. Some reports are not spectacular. Some are very ordinary. (I admit, some were not all that sensible!) But, there were many that made significant changes for the betterment of our city and county. Here are a few.

1. Get an application from www.sdcounty.ca.gov/grandjury. Then get the “forms,” then to “application form” on the site.
2. Fill it out and send in the address given on the “instructions.”
3. When you get a phone call for an appointment for an interview with a judge.
4. Do the Interview as instructed.
5. Wait to be notified by the Office of the Superior Court Presiding Judge for the “drawing of the names” (drawn by lottery in June so that each Supervisory District is equally represented).
6. If your name gets drawn, look forward to an exciting “democratic” experience.

— La Jolla Walter D. Hofmann, M.D., is past president, San Diego Grand Juries Association.

The Grand Jury — where democracy is at its best

BY WALTER D. HOFFMAN

As the new year is underway, it’s a good time to reflect on the past and look forward to the future. It was a year of great change and progress for our city and county. The Grand Jury played a critical role in addressing some of the most pressing issues facing our community.

At work it isn’t any easier. There is so much information available now that not keeping up with it is no longer an option. We have the ability to access information as it becomes available and make informed decisions. Expectations from colleagues and managers are always changing, and we must be able to adapt and respond to these changes. However, we must also remember to prioritize our own well-being and take care of our emotional and physical health.

In conclusion, the Grand Jury has been an essential tool in ensuring that our community is served fairly and justly. As we look ahead to the new year, let us continue to support this important institution and work towards a more democratic and just society.

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OPINION

It’s a brand-new year – so relax, already

BY NATASHA JOSZFERTWITZ

No, it’s not going to get any bet- ter — that was my New Year’s resolution last year. Nor is anyone involved with “democracy at its best.” We were involved with “democracy at its best.” Each of these requests is carefully evaluated for merit and value, and handled in a careful and serious way.

I have come to realize that when someone calls to ask if we could get together three weeks from Wednesday, and I happen to have a blank space in my calendar, I will automatically say “yes” and put his name down. Thus, I’ve probably filled the only blank in my calendar without a thought as to whether I really want to see that person in three weeks. In other words, I give control of my calendar to whoever the next caller is. And then we have to reciprocate.

At work it isn’t any easier. There is so much information available now that not keeping up with it is no longer an option. We have the ability to access information as it becomes available and make informed decisions. Expectations from colleagues and managers are always changing, and we must be able to adapt and respond to these changes. However, we must also remember to prioritize our own well-being and take care of our emotional and physical health.

In conclusion, the Grand Jury has been an essential tool in ensuring that our community is served fairly and justly. As we look ahead to the new year, let us continue to support this important institution and work towards a more democratic and just society.
Who knew having an older home could save you money? Historically designated homes, recognized by the city can save homeowners thousands in taxes.

The city of San Diego adopted the Mills Act Program in 1995, but it recently came under the mayor's budget microscope.

As a result, the City Council recently needed to look for ways to pay for the program. "We didn't have a number in mind that we wanted to generate a certain amount of revenue, it was just to recover staff costs," said Cathy Winquist and president of historic preservation company Legacy 106.

The designation is a prerequisite for a Mills Act program in 1995, but recently needed to look for ways to pay for the program while keeping certain amount of revenue; it was just to recover staff costs," said Cathy Winquist and president of historic preservation company Legacy 106.

The George White & Anna Gunn Marston House, located at 3525 Seventh Ave. just inside Balboa Park's northwest boundary, is an Arts & Crafts-designed historic home built for civic leader George W. Marston in 1905.

The building used to be called the Balboa House when it was erected his saltbox-style home for better regulation works to keep the historic ambience of some 885 homes in the city’s Mills Act program.

"It's truly foolish to penalize this" community and the city butted heads over the proposed changes, at least one homeowner good historian said a formula involving more fees for better regulation works to keep the historic ambience of some 885 homes in the city’s Mills Act program.

"The fees would probably reduce some of the demand for the program, but the tradeoff is [that] we get it under control over the properties in the program," said Bruce Coons, SOHO executive director.

University of San Diego economists and real estate professors concluded in a report issued this summer that a historical designation can raise the value of a home as much as 16 percent. "Some economists call it an externality, or the "hobo effect," but the idea is simple. Having those [historical] houses in the neighborhood increases the values of all the houses in the neighborhood," Coons said.

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Downtown San Diego’s only Religious gift shop

Little Italy’s Calendar of Events
1/09, Fri. – Kettner Nights
Held from 6:00 to 9:00PM. In downtown San Diego’s Little Italy the art has as much flavor as the espresso and pasta. The art and design district, modeled after New York City’s trendy Soho and Chelsea districts, offers art-lovers and design patrons diverse resources. Come explore this ever-growing distinctive neighborhood with an art walk through the businesses and studios on Kettner Boulevard and beyond. For more information, please call Perry Meyer Fine Art at 619-358-9512.
shop receipt, and even Metcalf said it looked like his handwriting. “They got the right guy. The issue is why did it happen,” said Metcalf’s attorney, Gary Gibson, to a reporter.

The guy tried to rape him. He was in shock. The issue isn’t who killed Mr. Jackson. It’s not a who-done-it from 1971. It’s a ‘Why did it happen?’” Gibson said.

Gibson said Metcalf was homeless in 1971 when he met Jackson and went home with him for that reason. Metcalf is not gay, Gibson said, and he says he acted in self-defense.

Metcalf is now an “old, sick man,” the attorney said, adding, “He is on a liver transplant list.”

“I was amazed at the quality of the investigation (in 1971),” Gib- son said. “It is the oldest case I’ve ever handled. It takes you back to a different time, different place.”

“Tefft asked Metcalf about the 1984 murder case brought against him because he owned a baseball bat. Metcalf said the weapon he handled. It takes you back to a different time, different place.”

“He is on a liver transplant list,” the attorney said, adding, “That night, Jackson met a for- mer sailor who was down on his luck, cold, hungry and tired. The man agrees to go with Jackson to his Pacific Beach apartment in the 1500 block of Hornblende.”

Jackson offered the man scotch, fed him, and told him he could spend the night.

“I was amazed at the quality of the investiga- tion... It is the oldest case I’ve ever handled. It takes you back to a different time, different place.”

“When Jackson failed to show up at his post office job several days later, two friends of his showed up at his apartment on Jan. 2, 1972. They apparently forced their way inside and discovered Jackson’s nude body in his bedroom. He had been stabbed at least 55 times, court records say.”

Police investigators and techni- cians looked for clues in the apart- ment. Investigators submitted the fin- gerprints of Jackson’s friends and acquaintances and checked at gay bars and bath- houses, but no real lead was ever found. A list of military men on unauthorized leave was request- ed along with their fingerprints, but this produced no suspects.

The fingerprints of Jackson’s friends and acquaintances were taken, and they were eliminated as suspects in the crime since they didn’t match the fingerprints found at the scene and on the stereo.

At the time, computer finger- print analysis did not exist in 1972. Eventually, the police department inactivated the case.

It took 37 years for technology to catch up to the investigation. When, on Jan. 20, 2008, Gabrielle Wimer, an intern assigned to the San Diego Police Department homicide cold case team, request- ed the department re-examine the evidence collected from Jackson’s apartment.

Investigators submitted the fin- gerprints to the FBI’s database, and on April 30, the FBI notified San Diego police. Pawn shops in Calexico were checked, and amazingly, Jackson’s stereo receiver was found. On it, in dried blood, was a palmprint. The fin- gerprints and palmprints were preserved.

The person who pawed the stereo used Jackson’s stolen iden- tification. Because of that, police issued a warrant for the arrest of anyone using the identification of Gerald Jackson.

Police detectives interviewed Jackson’s friends, acquaintances and checked at gay bars and bath- houses, but no real lead was ever found. A list of military men on unauthorized leave was request- ed along with their fingerprints, but this produced no suspects.

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About Club Motivate

Challenge the assumption that a workout should consume a lot of time. At Club Motivate, centrally located in San Diego’s dynamic East Village, workouts reshape lives in just a few minutes. Club Motivate’s principles behind its two distinct machines are simple: Put every major muscle group through its full range of motion to activate more muscle cells than traditional exercise programs do. As a result, total muscle aerobic capacity increases exponentially. Workouts gain efficiency, and exercise durations shorten significantly. Ten minutes on the painless, impact-free Reflex Disk detoxifies and tones bodies of all sizes on an oscillating platform while four minutes on the ROM machine aerobically works multiple upper and lower body muscle groups. Expert staff train and precisely monitor Club Motivate members within the 3,500-square-foot light-filled facility, adjoining Club Motivate’s raw juice bar that serves 25 organic smoothies and shakes. Club Motivate gives us a few minutes. Located at 1060 J St., Downtown. Hours are Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays from 8 a.m. until noon. Reach us by phone at 619-550-1240 or visit our Website at clubmotivate.com. Email us at minutes@clubmotivate.com

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In fact, if you call our office by January 31st 2009, I will provide you with a full exam for only $47. And when I tell you I mean complete! I’ll see what’s wrong with you, take any x-rays that might be needed, go through your exam with you, and provide you with a detailed report on what is the cause of the problem, and what is the solution. Other chiropractors charge as much as $275 for the same exact exam that I am offering you for only $47.

And don’t worry, you won’t be obligated for any further care. The only thing that I’ll do is find out what is causing your problem, and what you can do about it. If you decide to stick with me for further care, I’ll let you know about how long it will take to correct the problem, and how much it will end up costing.

Also, I accept most insurance plans. But even if you don’t have insurance, that’s okay. I keep my fees low enough that it won’t be a financial hardship. I’m not just trying to lure you in with a $47 initial visit, and then hit you up with ridiculous fees – I want to be able to help you with your health problem.

When you call, I will have my staff do everything possible to get you in the same day even if they have to work you in during a busy time.

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So right now, pick up the phone and call me at (619) 222-8885. I’ll set up an appointment for you to come in and see me. Sooner than you think, you can be enjoying life without pain and being able to do what you love to do.

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Dr. Henry Wong, DC

P.B. When accompanied by the first, we’re also offering the second family member this same examination for only $27 – What a great offer!

P.B. Don’t forget, this offer ends at noon on 01-31-2009 so call right now!
Winter Skin Care

By Melanie Vassuer

Winter is without a doubt the hardest season on the skin. The dry winter air, along with wind and an extreme drop in temperatures all rob our skin of moisture, often contributing to intense dryness, flakiness and roughness. This is mainly caused by a decline in blood circulation as well as lowered sebaceous secretions. Because the skin's natural barrier is often insufficient against these conditions, the skin is often left feeling dry and dehydrated. This condition is further compounded by interior central heating, which aggravates the dehydration.

Proper removal of that dead, dry skin is essential to keep your skin softer and more hydrated. Exfoliation an important part of your home care regimen to keep up on in the winter. Applying moisturizer to unexfoliated, dead skin can create a barrier blocking your moisturizer from really penetrating through to the new skin underneath. Proper removal of that dead, dry skin will allow your moisturizer to hydrate better and penetrate deeper.

Exfoliation doesn't need to be aggressive; but “booty-full” ends up in everyone's rear end. If working out with others sounds more fun to you (I'd like to call it “peer pressure” workouts), then get into a cycling or group fitness class. Many clubs offer all kinds of booty-kicking classes from kickboxing and ballet barre to weight training workouts and boot camp. There are also booty-shaking classes like hip-hop and cabo, cardio spin and capoeira, which is really not a dance class, but it is frighteningly (and shaken) everything. The opportunities are endless. There are classes for everyone, so there are no more excuses!

Once you get into your workout groove, it's time to work back from the table and start all over with a clean slate. You will never look, feel or be any better than the food you choose to put into your body. Period. It's that simple. Get with a registered dietitian who can guide you to the right food choices for your individual needs and work with you to meet your goals. They have educational and professional requirements they have to meet and can create wellness plans based on your health history and future goals. Don't guess or take for heart other's opinions. I'm always as good a guess as anyone; all my clients are different and quick fixes don't exist. Do it all on your own, you won't have to use this weight again in a few months down the road. Remember “Baby's got Back,” Sir Mix A Lot's anthem to face rear ends? Well “Booty” may be the only of the beholder, or “booty full” ends up in everyone's rear end. Your official 2009 “booty call” is officially here! Get up, get in the gym, get with a trainer, get into a class, get good food and get it in gear!

C Squared – Stayin’ Fit in EV

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Tighten Your Behind in 2009!

Now that you've realized that definition of “getting booty” over the holidays equated to a 10 pound weight gain on your backside, then it's time to reverse those rear-end blues and tighten your behind in 2009.

Getting back into “booty-licious” shape is going to take some effort — much more effort than you put into smashing down those delectable holiday cocktails snickers and libations. Fitness clubs are used to it. We get descented in December and homed up in January. As you make your way back into the gym this New Year, just remember we know where you've been — we know what you've been up to and we know how to help.

The 10 pounds so we that you think mysteriously lumped onto your body during the holidays came not actually get there by way of mouth, and you are going to get rid of them by way of blood, sweat and tears (well, tears only if you are a little crybaby, but I'm going to make an exception for you and allow a little water to come out).

There are two basic scenarios for gym goers. You are either getting back into your groove or trying to get into a groove. Either way, the first step has been taken. You are in the club. Good for you! Now let’s move on…

So what do you do? My first piece of advice to everyone is to get with a personal trainer. If you're getting back into your groove a trainer can create a whole new workout program for you and revitalize your enthusiasm. If you are trying to get into a groove, then you should hold yourself accountable to another person who agrees the size of your bum is too big and knows what to do about it. Time spent with a personal trainer can quickly move you toward your fitness goals with a plan, a program and a positive outcome.

If working out with others sounds more fun to you (I'd like to call it “peer pressure” workouts), then get into a cycling or group fitness class. Many clubs offer all kinds of booty-kicking classes from kickboxing and ballet barre to weight training workouts and boot camp. There are also booty-shaking classes like hip-hop and cabo, cardio spin and capoeira, which is really not a dance class, but it is frighteningly (and shaken) everything. The opportunities are endless. There are classes for everyone, so there are no more excuses!

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Diego Multicultural Festival runs Saturday, Jan. 17, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Culture is the byword, and Martin Luther King Jr. Promenade is the place. The San

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BPC urges nonprofit to assist in Balboa Park management

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The Balboa Park Committee (BPC) has submitted a report to city officials containing something everyone and everyone alike will be interested in reading. It’s likely the city will never find the resources to fill Balboa Park’s growing needs and to take care of the current $238 million deficit in deficit management projects. The last part is particularly irksome to me because the figure represents only a repair bill – the amount it would take to set crumbling infrastructure and attractions right, with nothing left over for new construction. And according to the report, the city (which in effect owns the park) probably won’t see substantial improvement in its capacity to fund the venue through 2014.

But “The Future of Balboa Park: Funding, Management & Governance,” issued last month, doesn’t leave it at that. In fact, at 30 pages, it’s a pretty thorough follow-up to 2006’s privately funded “The Soul of San Diego: Keeping Balboa Park Magnificent in Its Second Century,” which included breakdowns on who exactly uses the park and for what. As such, it recommends the formation of a nonprofit agency to assist the city in managing and fundraising.

On paper, the city’s Department of Parks and Recreation is the park’s operator – but “The Soul of San Diego” noted that the park administration is essentially rudimentary, with numerous public and private agencies involved in its day-to-day affairs. The BPC, a citizens advisory committee appointed by the mayor, has rejected privatization as the answer to the park’s problems. The committee report cites St. Louis’ Forest Park as a success story, with a public-private partnership under the City of St. Louis’ parks department and since 1986, has raised millions toward the park’s maintenance.

The city, as the new report recommends, should retain ultimate authority over park policies so as to limit potential losses of public control under the conservancy model. A discussion meeting on the new report was held Dec. 18. The study will go to the Park and Rec board later this month, eventually making its way to City Council.

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Apollo

Continued on Page 3

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The Challenger and Columbia disasters. A Martian orbiter that managed to disappear. The messy Lisa Nowak love-triangle case. Last year’s 3.2 percent budget cut by Congress. A massively overexpensive shuttle program. NASA is feeling some real-world effects unheard of a generation ago. And Michael Griffin, its administrator, has responded accordingly.

In a Dec. 11 letter Anders turned in to Downtown News, he lauded NASA’s Apollo-era brass for its independence in its project decisions, expressing doubt that today’s political climate would inspire the same commitment level.

“I really don’t think,” Griffin wrote, “that NASA’s current leaders, people who in my judgment are every bit as capable as those of the Apollo era, would be allowed by our various [ congressional] overseers to make...equivalent decision[s] today. And until and unless we as a nation can again understand why it is necessary that great enterprises be executed in this fashion, I fear for our nation in this tough and competitive world.”

Sobering talk from the agency that put men on the moon, undermined Venus’ persistent cloud cover, put two cantankerous little rovers on Mars and in effect charted man’s path to interstellar travel. But Jim Lovell, Frank Borman and Bill Anders are part of history in spite of it all. The world stopped in its tracks amid their Christmas eve readings from The Book of Genesis during lunar orbit; it covets the breathtaking earthrise photos that are forever a part of popular culture. And it chuckles at Borman and Anders’ little flap about the pix’s places in our consciousness. Borman took the first photo, in black and white, with the Earth peeking over the lunar horizon, Anders followed with a color shot of a much more prominent home planet.

“[Anders deadpanned.] ‘Little unsteady. You’ll notice mine waving dismissively in Anders’ direction. ‘That’s what we all do.’

“Go ahead and call him ‘dipshit,’” Borman snorted, waving dismissively in Anders’ direction. ‘That’s what we all do.’


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Culture is the byword, and Martin Luther King Jr. Promenade is the place. The San Diego Multicultural Festival runs Saturday, Jan. 17, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
A survey conducted this month by the American Kennel Club shows that despite a tough economy, pet owners are willing to sacrifice many daily luxuries to provide for the needs of their canine companions.

The survey of over 1,000 people on akc.org found that more than 96% of respondents with a taste for gourmet coffee would give up their latte habit to save money for their dog’s expenses. Ninety-seven percent also said they would forgo massages or spa treatments in order to afford a vet bill, and nearly 79% would sacrifice many daily luxuries to provide for the needs of their dogs.

In general people are more dedicated to their dogs than ever before. No doubt dogs bring comfort and stress relief to many people during this difficult time,” said AKC spokesperson, Lina Peterson. “This is reminiscent of what we saw during hurricane Katrina. With people facing great hardship, many remained so loyal to their pets that they were willing to risk their lives. Our survey demonstrates that they are also willing to forgo some of life’s luxuries for the welfare of their pets.”

The survey also found that with the holidays coming up, most dogs can still be assured that they will find a bone under the tree. More than 69% of respondents would cut back on gifts for their friends or extended family before they would skip on holiday gifts for their dog. Nearly 98% would even scale back on gifts for their spouse before cutting back on presents for their dog.

Healthcare is another area that dedicated pet owners seem to be consistent about. PetPartners, Inc., provider of the AKC Pet Healthcare Plan, says that sales rates are holding up and owners are renewing their policies in consistently high numbers. This shows that pet owners view pet insurance as a way to manage their pet’s health care costs. Some dog owners have even opted to purchase health plans for their dogs over themselves. One survey respondent admitted, “My Cavaliers have health insurance, however, I do not.”

Holiday Gifts
81% of respondents purchase gifts for their pups during the holidays. 69% spend up to $50; 24% spend $50-100; only 3% spend more than $150. 59% expect to spend the same amount on gifts for their dog as they did last year.

Giving up Like for Like
67% would cancel their travel plans if they could not afford to pay to board their dog. 65% would regularly eat Ramen noodles before they would skip on their dogs high quality food. 59% would perm or color their own hair in the kitchen sink in order to keep Fido’s appointments at the groomers.

CutBacks Owners Are Willing To Make For Their Dog
Eat more meals at home. (97%) Cancel gym membership. (72%) Cancel Television service. (50%) Carb spending on new clothes. (94%) Push back plans for home remodelling. (89%)

In general people are more dedicated to their dogs than ever before. No doubt dogs bring comfort and stress relief to many people during this difficult time,” said AKC spokesperson, Lina Peterson. “This is reminiscent of what we saw during hurricane Katrina. With people facing great hardship, many remained so loyal to their pets that they were willing to risk their lives. Our survey demonstrates that they are also willing to forgo some of life’s luxuries for the welfare of their pets.”

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Healthcare is another area that dedicated pet owners seem to be consistent about. PetPartners, Inc., provider of the AKC Pet Healthcare Plan, says that sales rates are holding up and owners are renewing their policies in consistently high numbers. This shows that pet owners view pet insurance as a way to manage their pet’s health care costs. Some dog owners have even opted to purchase health plans for their dogs over themselves. One survey respondent admitted, “My Cavaliers have health insurance, however, I do not.”

Holiday Gifts
81% of respondents purchase gifts for their pups during the holidays. 69% spend up to $50; 24% spend $50-100; only 3% spend more than $150. 59% expect to spend the same amount on gifts for their dog as they did last year.

Giving up Like for Like
67% would cancel their travel plans if they could not afford to pay to board their dog. 65% would regularly eat Ramen noodles before they would skip on their dogs high quality food. 59% would perm or color their own hair in the kitchen sink in order to keep Fido’s appointments at the groomers.

CutBacks Owners Are Willing To Make For Their Dog
Eat more meals at home. (97%) Cancel gym membership. (72%) Cancel Television service. (50%) Carb spending on new clothes. (94%) Push back plans for home remodelling. (89%)

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Third sewage treatment waiver appears to have the green light

By SEBASTIAN RUIZ | DOWN TOWN NEWS

With local experts and politicians claiming the city imports too much water, treating and reusing sewer water for irrigation—or even drinking—takes on a new meaning. Meanwhile, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency is verging on granting the city another five-year pass in upgrading its sewage treatment processes to the next level of cleanliness, called secondary treatment.

At least one local environmental group has met with the mayor and city staff in an effort to tackle the problem of rethinking the city’s water and wastewater infrastructure. “We’re trying to reach an agreement [with the city] over the next month or so … to really lay the groundwork for long-term planning for our sewage and water infrastructure in San Diego,” San Diego Coastkeeper executive director Bruce Reznick said.

The city applies for a permit every five years, allowing the city to empty treated sewage about four miles off the Point Loma coast. San Diego is one of the last big cities to keep applying for the waiver, Reznick said. This is the third waiver the city has applied for since 1995.

A public comment process for the waiver will continue over the next several months, requiring approvals from agencies such as the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Coastal Commission. The first public hearing takes place Wednesday, Jan. 21 at the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board offices, 9174 Sky Park Court, at 9 a.m.

Environmental groups such as Coastkeeper have traditionally opposed the city’s application for the waiver. They sued the city in 2000 because, Reznick said, the suit partly resulted in a water recycling report to the city, released in 2005.

Though another lawsuit is “not off the table,” Reznick said, now is the time to work with the city “hand in hand” to plan for future water recycling. Environmental groups have advocated for an upgrade to cleaner treatment processes at the Point Loma wastewater treatment facility for environmental reasons. However, mayoral spokesman Bill Harris said upgrading to secondary treatment processes would cost too much and does too little for the environment.

“There are options that do not involve spending $1.5 billion that have to be raised in fees to cram a facility into Point Loma in order to achieve very little additional benefit. It’s exorbitantly costly, almost physically impossible to construct and provides very little additional benefit to what we’re currently doing,” Harris said.

Mayor Jerry Sanders announced his decision to apply for the waiver in 2007 after he gathered a team of UCSD scientists to study the impact of the treated wastewater on the ocean. While the report stated that more data are needed to fully understand the environmental impact, the Point Loma sewage outfall presents no impact to the ocean environment.

Reznick said the dearth of accurate assessments of environmental impacts is part of the problem.

“I don’t think we have that data,” Reznick said, “but there is a lot of information that is required for [determining] overall ocean health.”

The public comment period for the waiver closes Jan. 28. The Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant treats about 175 million gallons a day of the city’s sewage, according to the city’s Web site.

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The 31st Pacific Life Holiday Bowl, the main attraction at Qualcomm Stadium Dec. 30, was as high-scoring as these things usually get (the Oregon Ducks defeated the Oklahoma State Cowboys 41-32). The game was hard-fought, too, as you can see from the photo at left. Even better, the Oregon Duck (below) has braggin’ rights through almost all of 2009, and he’s posing accordingly. Qual-comm added its own finesse to the evening, with an eye-popping fireworks dis-play (lower left). Oddly enough, Oklahoma State scored the highest point total in Holiday Bowl history in 1988, when it beat hapless Wyoming 62-14. That was the year Heisman Trophy winner Barry Sanders ran for 222 yards and scored five touchdowns. The lowest score total occurred with the first bowl in 1978, when Navy beat BYU 23-16.

Bowling ‘em over

Recycling and Waste Reduction Tips!

How to Recycle at Home.

1. Make recycling an easy part of your daily routine with these simple guidelines.
2. Select storage locations – Collect recyclables where they’re generated by con-viniently placing bins in the kitchen, home office, and garage.
3. Select storage containers – Make sure that your recycling and trash containers look different from each other. Stackable plastic bins, crates, boxes and grocery bags make good indoor containers. When full, empty them into your City-issued blue bin.
4. How to prepare items – Remove lids. Flatten cardboard. Although rinsing containing-ers out is not required, it may deter bugs.
5. What to do with…?
   - Donate clothes and household items – If in good condition, these items can be donated to local thrift stores and non-profit groups to be repaired and reused.
   - Recycle paper and plastic shopping bags – Most grocery stores in California have bins for recycling plastic bags, and paper bags can be recycled in your blue bin. Avoid single-use shopping bags altogether by using durable bags, and pre-vent tons of unnecessary paper and plastic bags from being produced and dis-carded.
   - Renew Styrofoam Packing Products – Try reusing Styrofoam for packing at home. If you can’t use the peanuts, many shipping stores will reuse them. Some do not accept molded Styrofoam.
   - Recycling Household Hazardous Waste and Universal Waste
   - It is against the law to dispose of house-hold hazardous waste (HHW) or univer-sal waste in any refuse container. HHW includes used motor oil, antifreeze, oil filters, and later paint. Universal Waste includes consumer bat-teries, electronic devices, fluorescent bulbs, and items containing mercury.
   - Proper disposal and recycling options vary.
   - For More Information
     Help is Close By – For help on starting a recycling program, disposal options for hazardous waste and universal waste, or more waste reduction tips, call Environmental Services at 858-694-7000 or visit www.sdrecyclingworks.com

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Darren Sproles may not get the notoriety of other backs in the NFL, but he doesn’t seem too concerned about that. Sproles rushed for 105 yards on the evening, while scoring the game-winning touchdown (22-yard run) some six minutes into overtime, as the San Diego Chargers scored a 23-17 win over the Indianapolis Colts last Saturday evening in the AFC Wild Card Playoff at Qualcomm Stadium. The win sends San Diego (9-8) to Pittsburgh for this Sunday’s AFC Divisional Playoff at 1:30 p.m. PST. Pittsburgh defeated San Diego 11-10 earlier this season at Heinz Field. Tailgating 17-14 late in the game, with the Colts only a first down away from running out the clock, the Chargers made their move. San Diego’s Tim Dobkins sacked QB Peyton Manning back to the Colts 1-yard line for an eight-yard loss on third down to set up a fourth-down punt, which Sproles returned into Indianapolis territory. San Diego QB Philip Rivers moved the Chargers down into scoring territory, where Nate Kaeding delivered a 26-yard field goal to tie it at 17-17 with under a minute left. The Colts were unable to move the ball in the final seconds, setting up Sproles for his heroics. After winning the coin toss, the Chargers were the beneficiaries of some defensive foul calls against the Colts, giving San Diego several first downs, and allowing the home team to move farther into Indianapolis territory. Sproles, who along with kickoff and punt returns saw more time on this evening as a result of a groin injury to running back LaDainian Tomlinson, then capped off the comeback. The former Kansas State star emerged from the pack and raced 22 yards into the end zone, sending Indianapolis home again courtesy of the Chargers for the second straight January. While Sproles got the most notable play of the night, it was also the efforts of punter Mike Scifres that kept San Diego, a 23-20 loser to Indianapolis (12-5) in the regular season, in the game. Scifres landed six punts inside the 20-yard line on the evening, including a 67-yard boomer, to force Manning and Co. to go long on drives. One drive where the Colts went long was when San Diego’s defense appeared to fall asleep. With nearly eight minutes remaining in the third quarter, Manning caught the Chargers in a defensive switch, leaving defensive back Antonio Cromartie in the dust. Manning hit wide receiver Reggie Wayne for a 72-yard strike, giving the Colts their final lead of the night, 17-14. San Diego’s defense, however, bottled up the Colts for the most part the remainder of the night to set up the Sproles heroics. “When I got the hand-off, I saw the end slant in,” Sproles said. “Once I saw the end slant in, I saw the green grass outside and I just went for the score.” The score set off a wave of celebrations at the Q, and sends San Diego off to battle the Steelers. “The Chargers made the plays when it counted. Give them credit,” said Manning (25-of-42 for 310 yards, 1 TD). The question is: Can the Chargers do it two weeks in a row? * * *
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100% Two-Year Financing – The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

By John Olbrich, President of American Security Mortgage

During the early part of 2001, a married couple, who was given my name from one of my clients, approached me and, after exchanging pleasantries, asked, “We have found the most wonderful house that we want to try to buy. We have dreamed and prayed of owning our own home, but we just have never been able to afford a down payment. Is there any way you can help us to obtain a loan for us to buy this home?”

If you had seen this couple, your heart, like mine, would have been touched. You could not help but be moved by this dream; a dream that millions of Americans... had... the American Dream, owning your own home. There are many advantages for our society to help people own their own home. Many first-time homebuyers find that once they have bought a home, many other aspects of double life seem to fall in place. The security and piece of mind that comes with owning a home is a great accomplishment in many people’s lives. Once they achieve this accomplishment, many find that other goals they had set out to achieve become much easier to attain. Home ownership can provide a great feeling of pride that can carry over into every other area of a person’s life, helping them develop a greater sense of responsibility and belonging to the community, a greater sense of stability with their family, a greater desire to be involved in local events, a greater sense of commitment, a greater sense of freedom, a greater sense of value, and, if they have children, they also find that their children feel more secure when coming home to a house that is owned by someone else. There are no worries that the children will be suddenly forced to leave the house if they are not being cared for. There is no fear of change schools and reestablish their lives at the decision of someone else. They can also get to know their neighbors, and if their neighbors have children, lifelong friendships can be formed because every-

one knows that they may be around each other for years and years. Overall, our society can be greatly benefited by the stabilizing affect that home ownership can bring to people. In some sense then, any prudent lending policy that helps people, especially first-time buyers, purchase their own home is a good policy for our society. Such was the case with the creation of the 100% two-year fixed rate interest-only mortgages. This lending option enabled me to create a financing package that allowed this wonderful couple to have an opportunity that they would not have otherwise have had. This financing package was the perfect loan for the young prospective homeowner that had not yet saved a large down payment, but saw income growth. This financing package enabled them to participate in the American Dream. This was the good.

As my clients that know me well will attest, I do not advocate rate lending unless I believe it is in the client’s best interest. However, the good lending policy that enabled people to purchase their first home was easily turned into a bad lending policy in certain situations. I would not dare to disservise my clients if I encouraged anyone to acquire the lending package to which I was easily sold. This was the ugly. I felt that the market was over leveraged. I became concerned that if prices dropped, borrowers would not be able to refinance to the fixed rate before their payments on such loans would increase. Although I lost many of my clients moved to other brokers to obtain the riskier loans, I held firm to the conviction that those loans were too risky for my clients. However, other brokers and lenders failed to recognize the risky market conditions and continued to offer those loans. That was the bad.

Unfortunately, for the real estate market, soaring real estate prices combined, along with a number of other factors, with the continued practice of providing 100% two-year fixed rate interest-only mortgages created the “perfect storm.” Starting in July 2007, lenders realized that prices were dropping and lowered the maximum loan to value on Stated Income Loans to 90%, then to 80%, then later to 70%, and now have all but eliminated them. The lending industry literally imploded, as homeowner could no longer refinance their loans at the 2-year mark, having their payments increase in many cases, double. The homeowners were stuck without the proverbial chair in the game of musical chairs that they were playing with their home loans. Foreclosures became common-place, families, families collapsing. This situation became the ugly.

Thankfully, I am in business today because of my convictions that good lending practices should not be used in bad situations. When you are seeking a loan for a purchase, make sure you get the right advice. The best loan for you will depend on all of the circumstances at the time. Good advice can help you avoid the bad and the ugly.
Many people are hearing about loan modifications and most have questions about what exactly they are. First off, a modification is not a refinance, it is a renegotiation directly with the lender. Typical outcomes include rate reductions, lowered payments, balance reductions, and foreclosure agreements. Anyone can go directly to their lender and attempt to get the modification done themselves. The catch is that the average borrower has no idea of what the criteria is for an investor when okaying a loan modification. This is why Loss Mitigation Specialists are popping up everywhere. Lawyers, negotiators, and former bank employees are using their “inside” knowledge to package loan modification files to fit each lender’s criteria perfectly. A loan modification specialist will make sure that the modification that is offered is the best possible outcome. When a bank does a modification for you directly, there ideal modification is to get you a payment that is the maximum that you can still afford and keep the home. With a specialist, they attempt for the lowest possible payment available and assure that the borrower does not accidentally ‘shoot themselves in the foot’ by giving too much or too little information. The key is to find someone that you trust and have them do the work for you. Some companies even offer 100% money back guarantees if they cannot achieve a modification. If you have any questions or would like a list of approved Loan Modification companies please don’t hesitate to give a call to 888-656-8666.

I’ve been in real estate sales and management since 1992 and specialize in the Downtown area exclusively with over 140 properties under my management.
As the year comes to a close everyone is looking towards first quarter real estate sales for signs of a market change. After Fannie Mae’s announcement, November 11th to support a streamlined modification program where by suspending foreclosure sales on occupied single-family residents & placing a halt any scheduled evictions from November 26th 2008 to January 9th 2009 there has yet to be a decline in active foreclosure listing during the end of the year. However what most people are unaware of with the foreclosure listings process is the amount of time it takes to get the listings active on the Multiple Listing Service (MLS). Due to the legal eviction proceedings, the “Cash for Keys” program & the rehab that has to be done on certain property, the average time it takes to get a listing from Pre-MLS to active MLS is around 35 days (this number will also vary depending on the Bank Client). That being said we cannot focus on the active listing from November, December or even January. The direct results will not show themselves in the active MLS inventory most likely until February. We spoke with Weichert, Realtors-Elite’s foreclosure division to see if they have experienced any listings reductions internally. Erik Weichelt president of Weichert, Realtors-Elite took time to share if his company has seen a direct reduction in inventory, “our company handles over 150 bank clients across the country so when Fannie Mae dedicates time towards a streamlined modification program you can bet we will see slow down in inventory. In September and October we would get anywhere from 40-60 new foreclosure listings per month. This inventory is still coming through the pipeline to MLS and I am sure the same is true with other real estate offices. We did see that in November and December our bank assignment where cut 50%, now we are receiving between 20-30 pre-MLS assignment per month.”

It has been said that Fannie Mae’s loan servicers are prepared to work with borrowers until January 9th even if they had previous ly been unsuccessful with the other modification programs. Fannie Mae’s “Second Look” program will help delinquent borrowers by scrutinizing all options. This leaves me asking, will this streamlined modification program be the answer to keeping people in their homes & will we see signs of a normal real estate market if foreclosures dry up as direct effect of the modification program? Things are not likely to change so quickly due to the fact that very few delinquent borrowers that will even qualify for the modification program. Qualifications include but not limited to borrowers who are at least 3 months behind on their payments, have not filed for bankruptcy & own-occupy their residences. Borrowers who meet the modification requirements will have three steps to reduce overall payment per Brian Montgomery, the Federal Housing Commissioner:

1) Terms will be extended (Ex: 30 year to 40 year)
2) If extending the term isn’t enough to meet the 38% threshold, the interest rate could be reduced. (Ex: 6.5% or 3%)
3) Finally, if those two steps don’t get the payments down enough, part of the principal will be deferred, “with the balance added to the back of the loan” Montgomery said.

Now that the Holiday’s have passed are borrowers willing to take any of the above options or will they qualify to stay in their homes? That is the lingering question that borrowers will have to evaluate based on what they have invested into their homes. Weichert of Weichert, Realtors-Elite feels that, “if these borrowers bought in the height of the market with little or no money down it is very unlikely that steps 1 & 2 will work. Step 3 which is the principal deferment is really the only option if the bank and the borrower are willing to work together. We hope that this modification program will help borrowers looking to stay in their homes. In fact we have been having classes on the modification programs for our sales associates because we know that we need to offer our clients all the options available.”

Representatives for Weichert, Realtors-Elite confirmed that although they saw an initial inventory reduction in November & December, they are expecting that the first quarter of 2009 will not show the same slow down in foreclosure inventory regardless of the current streamline modification program. In fact they hinted that the faucet in not even half open.
First Scripps Mercy fashion fete was also the Nth

“Dressed to the Nth Degree” was hosted by Scripps Mercy Hospital Auxiliary at the U.S. Grant Hotel on Nov. 21. This first fashion show and awards presentation began with boutique shopping, a silent action and a VIP Champagne reception. Linda Masters chaired the event. Merle Lutherington was co-chair and Sally B. Thornton was honorary chair.

Leonard Simpson, the “Style Guy,” presented his selections for the Best-Dressed List of 2008. The listees included Valerie Cooper, Daran Grimm, Mary Beth Kelley, Michala Lawrence, Ferne McCuen, Esther Jane Paul, Sally B. Thornton, Natalie Darla Walter, Islene Yohannes, Barbara Zollell, Michael Butler, Harry Cooper, Todd Figi, Bertrand Hug, Scott Johnston, Jessie Knight Jr., Rurben Poon, David B. Reich, Jannatif Chir and Dean Spanos. Simpson announced his winners at a press party held Nov. 5th at Mr. A’s.

Simpson, founder of Fashion Forward, produced this show. The runway highlighted fall and winter fashions and left the audience wanting more. Proceeds support minimally invasive robotic surgery programs at Scripps Mercy. For more information on this program, call 636-3530.

Brief subhead: Adorn Gallery launched Body. Adorn Gallery held a premiere event on Nov. 21. This high-end gallery is located in the San Diego Diamond Building, 501 Sixth Ave. Adorn specializes in custom designs, rare gems, pearls and advanced property appraisals. Alexandra Hart, Mirella Rigg’s and Arturo Rigg’s were on hand to greet the guests and showcase their award-winning designs. Sahine & Julius Walters catered the event.

Butz-Brown launched her new line of Adoring Attachments. This line allows the customer to tailor and design her own earrings. The attachments can be changed each day for a different style and a different look. What an innovative way to wear earrings! Butz-Brown also put together a new website for the business: adorngallery.com. Rigg’s spearheads Rigg’s Apraisals & Gemological Services. She has moved this service into Adorn Gallery, and customers can come in to update assets and insurance. Hart has developed a new expanding line for the gallery.

This event was a wonderful opportunity to see these incredible works of art and gems up close. If you’re wondering what to do in these fluctuating markets, this jewelry would make a perfect investment. For a truly remarkable experience, let Adorn capture the essence of you. Call for an appointment at 238-1053 or e-mail info@adorngallery.com.

Missoni hits San Diego

Missoni, the iconic fashion house, brought the 2009 Missoni Summer Collection to San Diego for two days. The first included a private event on Wednesday Dec. 10, chaired by Joan Waitt and the evening culminated in an elegant cocktail party at Waitt’s home. An on-site boutique was set up for shopping for all the guests. The tent was filled with a sea of vivid colors and designs, as many of the shoppers were decked out in Missoni. This event was a wonderful opportunity to see these incredible works of art and gems up close. If you’re wondering what to do in these fluctuating markets, this jewelry would make a perfect investment. For a truly remarkable experience, let Adorn capture the essence of you. Call for an appointment at 238-1053 or e-mail info@adorngallery.com.

For your information...

Saturday Jan. 17: Winter Bridal Bazaar and fashion show, presented by Gretchen Productions at the Fashion Valley. Five shows presented throughout the day. For info, call (760) 334-4344.

Thursday, Jan. 22 and Friday, Jan. 23, 2 p.m.: ASR’s runway show, featuring the hottest trends, underwritten by Nordstrom. The show, featuring the hottest trends, underwritten by Nordstrom. The show, featuring the hottest trends, underwritten by Nordstrom. The show, featuring the hottest trends, underwritten by Nordstrom. The show, featuring the hottest trends, underwritten by Nordstrom.

For more information, visit www.ccssd.org.

Diana Cavagnaro is a national award-winning milliner. She has been operating a fashion business for 27 years, the last 17 in San Diego’s Gaslamp Quarter. She has been teaching in the Fashion Department at Mesa College for 17 years. Diana is an active member of the Gaslamp Quarter Association, the American Sewing Guild, the San Diego Costume Council and the Fashion Group International. www.asheb productions.com.
Going green is an easy, vital step

By SANDRA SIMMONS

Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.

—Thomas A. Edison

In this time of hope and despair, the new year certainly ushered in change. The nation will inaugurate a new president and many members of his Cabinet. Pundits unanimously predict the next administration will hit the ground running, imaginously predict the next administration will hit the ground running, giving immediate attention to the challenges facing our nation. With visions of an economic recovery package that includes the largest infrastructure-construction program since the 1950s, the idea is to stimulate growth by offering a new type of work to the middle-class sector. This package includes rebuilding highways and bridges and investing in the future—green technology and manufacturing. Thomas Edison rame from humble beginnings, his early life was filled with a variety of work that led him to revolutionize the way we see the world. As a prolific inventor, he gave us electricity, phonographs and motion pictures of the fluorescent tubes in the common areas and replacing the remaining tubes with LED light-}

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GREG BERNAVE 619-696-9935

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I’ve been in real estate sales and management since 1992 and specialize in the Downtown area exclusively with over 140 properties under my management.

As your area specialist, I spend a good deal of my time keeping an eye on what is happening in the Downtown community. This allows me greater efficiency when it comes to keeping you informed, as well as helping you with all our real estate needs. In addition, I own rental properties in the area myself so I can identify with the concerns of other owners. It pays to work with someone who is familiar dealing with management companies, homeowners associations, CC&R’s, condo bylaws, and other particulars related to condominiums.

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Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.

—Thomas A. Edison

In this time of hope and despair, the new year certainly ushered in change. The nation will inaugurate a new president and many members of his Cabinet. Pundits unanimously predict the next administration will hit the ground running, giving immediate attention to the challenges facing our nation. With visions of an economic recovery package that includes the largest infrastructure-construction program since the 1950s, the idea is to stimulate growth by offering a new type of work to the middle-class sector. This package includes rebuilding highways and bridges and investing in the future—green technology and manufactur-

Thomas Edison rame from humble beginnings, his early life was filled with a variety of work that led him to revolutionize the way we see the world. As a prolific inventor, he gave us electricity, phonographs and motion pictures of the fluorescent tubes in the common areas and replacing the remaining tubes with LED light-

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Neuman & Neuman does not guarantee the accuracy of square footage, lot size or other information concerning the condition ... to independently verify the accuracy of the information through personal inspection and with appropriate professionals.

For full details in a recorded message,

dual terraces, and common area amenities of the
Reminiscent of an East Coast brownstone, this upgraded, two-story, 
Sold for $785,000!

Enjoy almost 1,500 square feet of upgrades in the area's landmark
Dual pools and common amenities par excellence!
—Downtown's only brick development with an East Coast flair!

New on the market, you'll want to see this warm and inviting loft in
Location includes granite kitchen and a real, working fireplace! Dual 
For full details in a recorded message,

One of the Marina District's original, five popular mid-rise communities boasts dual pools, a pool, waterpark, and lush, tropical landscaping. This spectacular 2-bedroom, 2-bath residence in a prime location includes granite kitchen and a pool, and is located steps from world-class public parks and a multitude of guest parking, too!

For full details in a recorded message,

Enjoy the hip urban lifestyle at this popular loft community near Petco Park, complete with a flexible interior to furnish and/or modify to meet your personal needs! You’ll enjoy high ceilings, distressed hardwood floors, a private balcony overlooking the scenic urban canyon, and a granite/stainless kitchen!

For full details in a recorded message,

Change from one of two new 2-bedroom, 2-bath residences on the 12th and 13th floors of Little Italy’s most desirable luxury high-rise! The bay facing 2-bedroom, 2-bath southwest corner unit offers a desirable location overlooking the iconic skyline, and includes an oversized, 180-degree corner terrace with unobstructed views

For full details in a recorded message,

This spacious studio left on the terrace level features one of the few remaining original units in the historic Gaslamp Quarter! A modern kitchen, a price below market as part of a lender SHORT SALE! Walk to everything downtown from this prime Gaslamp Quarter location! Did we mention the
closest outdoor pool area with a fitness center, and pool!

For full details in a recorded message,

This stunning northeast corner residence boasts amazing urban views, an appointed and pristine interior and a prime location steps to the
cathedral of shops and restaurants in the village! Did we mention the
closest outdoor pool area with a fitness center, and pool!

For full details in a recorded message,

This unique listing in one of the Marina District’s landmark, luxury communities presents an opportunity to live in a classic, newly-reconstructed building on 12th streets Patricia Park and a short walk to Seaport Village! Enjoy a private terrace, gleaming hardwood floors, and elevator access building! For full details in a recorded message,

For full details in a recorded message,

For full details in a recorded message,

For full details in a recorded message,

This super listing in one of the Marina District's landmark, luxury communities presents an opportunity to live in a classy,
You’ll love this perfect pied a terre in the Marina District’s premier, luxury high-rise community! This residence boasts
closest outdoor pool area with a fitness center, and pool!

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This listing in the heart of Golden Hill’s historic Victorian +

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RESTAURANT WEEK RETURNS JANUARY 11-16

Enjoy three-course, prix fixe meals at 130 of the county’s finest restaurants for only $20, $30 or $40 per person.

San Diego’s most delicious tradition is coming back, offering extraordinary food at bargain prices. From pizza to prime steaks, San Diego Restaurant Week offers a wide range of mouth-watering cuisine for every craving and budget.

SanDiegoRestaurantWeek.com
Avast ye, mateys! The 21st annual San Diego Boat Show sails into town today, Jan. 8, through Jan. 11 at the San Diego Convention Center. Show manager Jeff Hancock declared that the event is for “everybody and anybody — people who own boats, people who want to own boats and people who just want to look at boats.”

And this year, like no other, it’s also for the eco-minded.

Hancock added that the show, largest of its kind on the West Coast, features hundreds of vendors and local dealers, showcasing the latest in boats, gear and accessories — at the best deals — from kayaks to mega-yachts and everything that goes with them.

“Think of the show like a super-market,” said Hancock. “If you went to all these dealers individually, it would take a month of Sundays to see everything (offered in the show). It would be impossible.”

The show takes place at the convention center and behind it at the Marriott Marina, featuring outdoor events, including free sailboat rides and the Big Bay Kids Area (sponsored by the Port of San Diego).

This area features interactive boating safety puppet shows, boat painting and a chance to meet Skipper, the show’s dolphin mascot.

Among the new features is the eight-to-be-power Wakeboard Stunt Show, from Florida. “It’s a spectacular show of professional wakeboarders and skiers doing tricks on an impressive indoor set-up featuring a pool, rails and ramps,” Hancock said.

He added that “they perform jumps, flips, nose-presses. And there’s something called the Kickin’ Skier, a jump that launches riders 20 feet and propelling them up to 40 feet across the pool.”

The Green Boating Zone, another first for the show, promises to help water enthusiasts discover eco-friendly boating. Featured are the latest eco-friendly boats and engines to hit the market; West Marine’s “Go Green” display outlining the best eco-friendly practices; and the Green Accessory Center, previewing the newest green boating accessories.

Former mega-yacht captain Russ Grandinetti — in his new role as Knight & Carver Yacht Center’s “eco-detective” — will hold a seminar entitled “Trends Toward Greener Boating.”

The seminar will address what’s new in green marine products and highlight the most effective procedures that make boating more environmentally friendly.

Knight & Carver, based in National City, invited Grandinetti to shift careers and help form a new division of the company called Eco Solutions — the first green division in the shipyard industry.

“I’m trying to bring people in there all the time,” Grandinetti said. “When they asked me to come...Left, it looks like Skipper, the San Diego Boat Show’s dolphin mascot, has found a first mate. The show’s Big Bay Kids’ “Go Green” features puppet shows on boating safety and a lesson or two in boat painting.

Making major changes to a boat can be costly, but Grandinetti explained that every little bit helps. “Take a look at systems on a yacht, they’re managed, bottom paint, cleaning products, how you dispose of things, exhaust emissions,” he listed. “You switch those out — and there’s plenty of technology to replace those things — then you’re working in that environment as best you can. It’s a practical approach.”

The best and perhaps easiest issue to deal with in a more environmentally friendly manner is wastewater.

“This is the most important thing, because that can be the most toxic,” Grandinetti emphasized. “It’s the most important thing in the marine environment. It’s the most familiar thing, because that can be the most toxic.”

His own concern prompted him to get involved. “I went to school for marine science, I’m passionate about. I just want to look at boats.”

Grandinetti’s concern is that people will have to go further. “The more you get tuned in to using different, more eco-friendly chemicals and different systems — or, better yet, pump out at the dock — that’s really a great way to start,” he stated. “Another important issue is bottom paint. Copper-based bottom paint is becoming more affordable.”

Grandinetti will be available throughout the show at the Green Zone display as well as at the Knight & Carver booth. For more, check out the boat show website, or Eco Solutions, knightandcarver.com/ecosolutions.

Also premiering at this year’s San Diego show is the new Affordability Pavilion, highlight pricing options and showcasing boats that can be financed for $250 or less.

The Discover Boating Center & Information Pavilion’s resources center features seminars for the experienced boater or the new enthusiast and lets you learn more about the sport and lifestyle. Topics include cruising (both local and Mexican waters), sail handling, Mexican waters), sail handling, navigation.

The event takes place at the San Diego Convention Center and Marriott Marina, 111 West Harbor Drive, Thursday through Sunday. It’s open Thursday and Friday from noon to 8 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Each night, the marina portion of the show closes at 6 p.m.

Adults (16 and above) are admitted for $10; youth (13-15) for $5; and children (12 and under) for free.

Tickets can be purchased online at SanDiegoBoatShow.com. For more information, visit the website or call (858) 274-9924.
Casbah doesn’t look a day older

By BART MENDOZA

Ask former Beat Farmer Joey Harris if The Casbah — Downtown San Diego’s popular music venue — looks a day older, and he’ll say, “is the zig-zag corridor that leads from the front room to the back hall. We’ve got a little bit of space between here and the wall, just like a stop off along the way from the front to the back and make out in the hallway. These are special memories for me.”

Him and the jillions who’s passed through The Casbah’s doors at both its Kettner Boulevard locations since 1989. The venue has been at the center of San Diego’s music scene, helping promote local music and put the city on the map among touring bands. The club moved to its current location at 2501 Kettner in 1994 and has never looked back.

This month, the club celebrates its 20th anniversary with several special concerts and events, including headlining sets from local major label artists and reunion shows from many top area artists. The reunion shows include ‘80s pop legends The Nashville Ramblers (they performed on Jan. 2), who have recently seen their classic song “The Trains” reissued by Rhino Records and alternative rockers Three Mile Pilot (Jan. 18). The reunion shows will be mounted by The Casbah and on its patio. An artist reception is planned for Jan. 10.

In addition to music, an exhibit of photographs by Sean McMullen will be on display, with images taken between 2002 and 2008. The exhibit will include 25 large-format images, located inside the club and on its patio. An artist reception is planned for Jan. 10.

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He sums up the appeal of the club in one word.

“Innunacy,” he said. “There are things I can do at the Casbah that I can’t really do, or get away with, anywhere else.” Flash comes to mind immediately. “95 percent of venues won’t allow it, let alone when I shoot music festivals, where it will get you kicked out of the club if you use a flash.”

McMullen credits a show by Stiff Little Fingers as his catalyst for his 20th anniversary. “I am literally shooting at the club and on its patio. An artist reception is planned for Jan. 10. I'm going to always remember those times when there’s an amazing band on stage and your friends are around you. You just know that it’s cool to be there at The Casbah and that you are experiencing something special.”
Roppongi Restaurant & Sushi Bar

Conveniently located on Prospect Street, it’s obvious why Roppongi is Zagat-rated “One of the Top Five Most Popular Restaurants in San Diego” and is a recipient of Wine Spectator Magazine’s “Award of Excellence.” Executive Chef Stephen Window continually finesses the extensive menu of tapas, salads, sushi and seafood, delighting guests with fresh, exotic fare prepared with traditional European gourmet cooking techniques.

Visit Roppongi during Restaurant Week and try its inventive prix fixe menu, which includes selections such as Pan Roasted Salmon with Curried Cauliflower Puree, Cilantro Pesto and Candied Cashews, and Meyers Natural Flat Iron Steak with Sake Braised Shiitake Mushrooms and Chinese Broccoli.

Roppongi is open daily for lunch and dinner with an ever-popular happy hour from 3 to 6 p.m. Spend an evening dining around the firepit, cozy up around the indoor fireplace and aquarium, indulge at the stunning sushi bar or just have fun watching the scene from the covered/heated patio.

U-31

Located at the corner of University and 31st Street, and open Monday to Sunday, U-31 is an active ingredient in the growing North Park social scene. Happy Hour is served seven nights a week from 5 to 9 p.m. and there’s something to have, see, do – or each and every night. Lady Dottie & the Diamonds, local favorite and 2008 San Diego Music Award winner, calls Monday night home, while Tuesdays welcome a mechanical bull in lieu of the pool table and just the right amount of western scandal. Live music is performed every Wednesday, and Thursdays are now owned by ‘80s and ‘90s mash-ups and an attractive but unpretentious crowd. Locals in the know are definitely no strangers to DJ Gabe Vega’s Feel the Noise, set to continue Fridays in ‘09. And anyone with an ear for reggae should make it a point to check out Tribe of Kings, Reggae Vibes on Sundays. U-31 is at 3112 University Avenue.

Modus Supper Club

Modus Supper Club is touting its French dip as the best in the city. Conclusion: Agreed. It starts out with slow-roasted, thinly sliced New York steak and Oaxaca cheese; it’s then stuffed it in a La Brea baguette and topped with spiced fried leeks. The jus is a veal stock reduction with a hint of truffle. When owner Scotty Johnson set out to create San Diego’s best, he didn’t cut any corners. But don’t take our word for it, head over to Bankers Hill and give it a try.

While you’re at it, don’t forget to try this season’s newest libations: The Revolution just made its return along with the Sour Flower, both making great use of winter’s blood oranges. The Revolution transforms the margarita, replacing sweet and sour with blood orange juice and a float of pear liqueur. The Sour Flower reinvents the classic Pimm’s Cup with Pimm’s No. 1, kumquats, blood orange juice and soda. The best days to stretch the dollar are Happy Hour Wednesdays and 2 for 1 Sundays.

Taste & Thirst

2009 is here and with it a new breed of bar and grill comes to the Gaslamp. When you go downtown you expect some things: great service, great product and high prices. Taste & Thirst on Fourth brings you these things minus the negative of the high price plus a commitment to a higher standard of excellence in service. When you go to T&T expect a happy hour like no other, every day from 3 to 8 p.m. 2-for-1 drink prices. Speaking of great deals T-bone Tuesday comes to mind every Tuesday you can get a T-bone steak dinner, each dinner comes with homemade mashed potatoes, veggies and your choice of a draft beer or beverage, all for $9.99. If that is not enough T&T has the best breakfast in San Diego Friday through Sunday from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. No matter how late you get up come start your day the right way at Taste & Thirst on Fourth.
The Palm Restaurant

For over 80 years, The Palm has been renowned for its aged USDA prime steaks, jumbo Nova Scotia lobsters, Italian entrees, warm smiles, outstanding service and an atmosphere like no other. The Palm is the oldest family-owned steakhouse in the United States (since 1926). General Manager Danny Cosenzi and Chef Miguel Martinez invite you to experience the ongoing celebration of timeless tradition, lively spirits and legendary taste. Experience The Palm Restaurant...The Classic American Steak House.

Rainwater’s on Kettner Introduces Executive Chef Simon Lynn

by Angie Harman

Rainwater’s on Kettner invites you to meet its new Executive Chef, Simon Lynn. A native of England, Lynn has a rich history of experience in some of San Diego’s finest restaurants. Focusing on the highest quality ingredients and a passion for the culinary arts, Lynn has added even more excitement and flair to Rainwater’s menu. Now you can mingle with Executive Chef, Simon Lynn each Friday night at Rainwater’s “Meet the Chef” event in the bar area.

Experience new light appetizers and entrees that are both affordable and delicious. Rainwater’s on Kettner, a classic in downtown San Diego for over 20 years, is where everyone is coming for special occasions or an after-work get-together. Whether you’re celebrating, sharing a romantic dinner for two or just hanging out with friends over drinks and great food, Rainwater’s is the ideal choice.

Visit Rainwater’s during San Diego Restaurant Week, Jan. 11 through 16, for special menu items like Mini Crab Cakes with California Citrus Salsa, Pan-Sautéed Midwestern Pork Chops and Short Ribs of Beef Osso Bucco Style. And don’t miss one of Rainwater’s specialty desserts, the Chocolate Lasagna with thin layers of white and dark chocolate, peanut butter and chocolate ice cream. If you can’t make it to Restaurant Week, stop in for the “Fighting the Recession” prix-fixe menu currently offered everyday and featuring a choice of appetizers, entrees like the Filet Mignon with Bearnaise or Bacon-Wrapped Scallops, and a choice of delectable desserts. Honored with the “Best of Award of Excellence” since 1988 by Wine Spectator Magazine, Rainwater’s has one of San Diego’s most extensive wine collections, both by the bottle and the glass.

Make every day a special occasion at Rainwater’s at 1202 Kettner Blvd., Downtown. (619) 233-5757. rainwaters.com.
Jimmy Carter isn’t president anymore, but Bonfire hasn’t seemed to take notice

And here you thought 2009 was under way. Well, you’re right. It is. That’s until you hit Downtown later this month. After that, you basically won’t know what hit you. When Bonfire takes the stage, you’ll insist it’s 1979, when Jimmy Carter was president. Aida Rose was only 17 and AC/DC was on its rocky road to stardom. Bonfire, in fact, is an AC/DC tribute band, and, from all accounts, “Highway to Hell” and “Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap” have nothing on these guys. Leave it to the legendary House of Blues to stage the event — and leave your calendar open on Jan. 10 so you can see it. The House of Blues is located at 1055 Fifth Ave. For further information, call (619) 299-2583 or visit www.portofsandiego.org.

Jan. 16: Guy Danny Weller’s a family man. Not only did he join San Diego’s iconic Weller Family Band after picking up the bass guitar in his teens, his 2006 album “Tree of Thorns” features his parents, pianist Bob and saxophonist Ellen. Amid that kind of unity, you knew they had to grace us as a family sometime — and that’s just what they’ll do at Dizzy’s, where, it’s said, the music matters most. Danny, late of the New England Conservatory, will join his parents as well as Berklee College of Music’s saxophonist Charlie Weller on drums in a rare collaboration on some of the finest jazz to grace the area. The Weller Family Band performs Jan. 16 at Dizzy’s, corner of Second Avenue and J Street. Further information is available at (619) 270-7467 or www.dizzyssandiego.com.

French sculptor Bernar Venet doesn’t care what you think. He’s going to take any ol’ material he chooses, configure it into a mass of straight lines and make up whatever he wants. He’s going to take any ol’ material he chooses, configure it into a mass of straight lines and make up whatever he wants. He’s going to take any ol’ material he chooses, configure it into a mass of straight lines and make up whatever he wants. He’s going to take any ol’ material he chooses, configure it into a mass of straight lines and make up whatever he wants.

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But Bonfire hasn’t seemed to take notice. Since its Broadway opening in 2005, “Doubt” has been called the most celebrated American play of the 21st century — and even though the 21st century isn’t that far along, the script holds itself out as an arbiter of moral certainty in an age where nobody knows what is that. Sister Aloysius, the fierce, regal principal of a Catholic school, battles for her children against an upstart priest who wants to bring a revolutionary gust of fresh air to teaching. The stand-off will end the way Sister would prefer — or will it? “Doubt,” a San Diego Repertory Theatre production, opens in previews Jan. 10 at The Lyceum space, 79 Horton Plaza. For further information, call (619) 244-1000 or see www.sdrep.org.

“Man is the only animal that blushing,” Mark Twain once said, “or needs to.” That’s a very adult notion — the kind of thing that fuels serious thought about those adults’ more innocent days. For that reason, the grown-ups will probably like San Diego Junior Theatre’s “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer” as much as the kids do when they accompany them. Twain’s story about pre-Civil War life along the Mississippi features such iconic characters as Tom, Huck Finn and Becky Thatcher and indelibly charts their coming of age. The show runs through Jan. 18 at Balboa Park’s Casa del Prado Theatre, 1800 El Prado. Details are available at (619) 239-8355 or www.juniortheatre.com.

Pluto was demoted to non-planet status in 2006, so that means we have eight such bodies left in our solar system. You probably don’t think about the fact that four of those are colossally larger than Earth — and that’s where the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center comes in. Its “Giant Worlds” exhibit explores the extraordinary planets orbiting our sun and illustrates what scientists tell us about the formation of our planetary system and the conditions necessary for life. Twenty interactive displays illustrate the role gravity plays in how planets behave. The exhibit opens Jan. 31 and runs through May 3 at the Fleet, 1875 El Prado in Balboa Park. For more info, call (619) 238-1233 or see www.rhfleet.org.
The Local: Food, Beer, Heart & Soul

By Tony Clarke

The Local Eatery & Drinking Hole represents the quintessential San Diego laid-back beach-front bar… right in the middle of downtown. Owned and operated by Mina Desiderio, The Local may lull you into the notion that you are steps away from the sand and surf, complete with your fish tacos and Mexican beers. Do not be fooled. “Most people don’t realize that we aren’t just a bar,” says Mina, “We put our heart and soul into our food.” Food isn’t The Local’s only passion. True to its namesake, it also celebrates premium local and soul. True to its namesake, it also celebrates premium local craft beer. Sean McNeil, Bar Manager, has assembled a fine list of locally made beers from Green Flash and Alpine to Airdale and Ballast Point. Paired together, the food and beer create a culinary experience that screams of “heart and soul.”

Probably one of the venue’s signature dishes is the Lobster Tacos. A generous portion of lightly seasoned and breaded lobster tail covered in pico de gallo, shredded cabbage, cheddar and jalapeno lime sauce on a flour tortilla. The spice and citrus flavors of the white sauce are the first thing to hit your palate followed by the cool crunch of the cabbage. The texture of the cabbage contrasts nicely with the warm lobster meat, seasoned perfectly. This dish begs for something cool to refresh, but can still complement the many flavors present here. How about Lost Abbey’s Devotion Ale? One sip of this beer and you know you made the right choice. Pouring a deep golden copper, you get the smell of Belgian candi sugar and spicy hops as you raise the glass. Flavors of peach and malt dominate, helping to bring you back to earth after the big bold flavors of the lobster taco. The spicy hops flavors pair perfectly with the hint of jalapeno in the taco sauce. Truly a perfect pairing if there ever was such a thing.

Another signature item on the menu would have to be the Coconut Calamari. Created by Mina herself, the calamari is light and flaky, not oily to the touch or taste, and possess a hint of coconut sweetness. The calamari strips are large compared with most and the meat is very tender, not chewy. Served with honey mustard and cocktail sauce, you get a sensation of dining in the Caribbean with every bite. Moist and flavorful, the coconut provides a smooth hint of exotic sweetness. This dish paired well with Alpine’s Mandarin Nectar. Served right off the tap, this beer has a deep sweet orange aroma that melds well with the residual sweetness from the coconut. The flavors of sweet orange and coriander dominate, but don’t go overboard. Mandarin Nectar is a honey beer, and the honey is definitely a positive when paired with the calamari. You finish craving more of each.

Food paired with the right beer can be a divine experience, but what about food made with the right beer? Just as exceptional. Great craft beer lends itself to cooking as the flavors of sweet malt, bitter hops, and over a thousand different esters and phenols are ideal kitchen tools. Take something as simple as cheese. The Local has turned this kitchen staple into a decadent treat worthy of praise. Made with Stone Brewing’s Smoked Porter, gouda and cheddar are melded with some heart and soul creating a smoky, smooth cheese dip that complements any savory dish with its mouth-coating flavors. Served a number of different ways, with soft pretzels, on a cheese steak, for breakfast on a Steak & Cheese Benedict, you can’t go wrong with the flavors here. Most any beers go with cheese, as beer and cheese are a natural pairing in every way, so I decided to go with Coronado Brewing’s Winter Brew. This medium-bodied beer is full of sweet malts and winter spicing. Earthy overtones also come forward as the spice and hops mingle. A clean taste of vanilla, fruit and sweet sugars work well with the earthiness of the beer cheese. Also, a high level of carbonation helps to cleanse the palate after the mouth-coating cheese. Beer paired with beer, what could be better!

With all this great food, one would think that if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it. Then again, it’s that kind of thinking that keeps you in a box, afraid to try new dishes. The Local has been working on a new menu and will be adding some crafty new additions to the table soon. How about a tender Filet Tip Sandwich made with only the best cuts of filet mignon, caramelized onions, fresh-roasted jalapeños, passilla peppers, sauces from local producer Sauce Goddess, shredded jack cheese, all served on a warm ciabatta roll. This is just one of many new creations coming soon. Can’t wait that long? the crew at The Local are always experimenting with new and exciting culinary creations. Daily specials are put out on the Grab List that can only be had if you sign up and are in the know. Great beer and great food go hand in hand, just like the heart and soul that it takes to make it all happen. Such a culinary combination wrapped the truly San Diego locale makes The Local a can’t miss for anyone who is looking for that local gem. Cheers!

Tony Clarke and his wife Liz own Airdale Brewing Company, located in San Diego. airdalebrewing.com

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 Cheers! The Local is located at 1065 Fourth Ave., San Diego, CA 92101 thelocalsandiego.com. 

Tony Clarke and his wife Liz own Airdale Brewing Company, located in San Diego. airdalebrewing.com
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You were number 43 at Kansas State and received the number when you were drafted by the Chargers. Is there any significance to the number?  
"My dad wore 43 in high school so I've always worn it since I started playing football. I chose it because of my dad."

Your teammates sometimes call you “Tank” or “Scooter.” Do you have a nickname that you prefer?  
"My family and friends from back home always call me ‘Tank.’ That’s been my nickname my whole life. My teammates started calling me ‘Scooter’ because I am a shifty runner. I like them both."

You’ve accomplished so much on the football field. Is there one thing in football or away from the game that you are most proud of?  
"I’m proud of making it to the NFL, but earning my degree is the thing I’m most proud of. That’s why I didn’t leave school early. I wanted to finish my degree and I did. I’m real proud of that."

Who is the funniest player in the Chargers’ locker room?  
"Antonio Gates. He’s always messing with somebody and making people laugh."

What is one movie you could watch over and over again?  
"Don’t Be a Menace."

If you could have dinner with any celebrity, who would it be?  
"Probably Muhammad Ali. I’d like to hear him talk about everything he accomplished."

Who was your favorite team and player when you were growing up?  
"My favorite team was the Chiefs because I grew up outside of Kansas City and watched them all the time. My favorite player was Barry Sanders."

What’s your favorite meal?  
"I love the holiday meals like Thanksgiving and Christmas; turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and all of that stuff."

What’s one TV show that you never miss?  
"I watch the wire on HBO."
Diners can enjoy fine food and stay within their budget as San Diego Restaurant Week, the popular semi-annual culinary event, returns Jan. 11 through 16.

About 150 restaurants across the county are participating in this year’s event. Each will feature a special three-course menu for $20, $30 or $40 depending on location (tax, beverage and gratuity not included, wine and spirit pairings available at some locations for an additional fee).

The $20 menu is an addition this year and is offered by restaurants such as Mr. Tiki in the Gaslamp Quarter.

“Our hope is to inspire guests to walk through our doors and into the South Pacific,” said Christopher Penta, general manager of the island-inspired eatery. “Enjoy a steak and a salad at a price that can’t be beat.”

Mr. Tiki will feature pan-seared Barramundi, rum-glazed pork tenderloin and wasabi-crusted filet medallions as its main course selections.

Last year, about 250,000 persons participated in restaurant week activities, designed to promote the local dining industry.

Many use the opportunity to try new restaurants that normally would be too pricey. From Chula Vista to North County, restaurants and all varieties participate in this event.

“We’re adding a new level for our participation this year,” said Alicia Grassi, president of the San Diego Restaurant Week Association website. “This allows participants to create their own menus or offer specials to enhance the overall experience.”

The website for the event, www.sandiegorestaurantweek.com, lists all participating restaurants by price and region. A fall restaurant week is scheduled for Sept. 13 to 18.

‘Take Out’ scores amid immigration issue

By MARTIN JONES WESTLIN | Downtown News

Your underwear is the most important part of your wardrobe, because it says so much about who you are. Eat too many carrots, the whites of your eyes will turn orange. And above all, always remember and never forget: Elevators can be really dangerous places, especially if you’re outnumbered 2 to 1 in a bad neighborhood and one of the other guys has a gun to your head.

Such wisdom may have a place in urban lore, but can often be pretty unforgiving. Nonetheless, “Take Out,” an independent film from New York’s Cuvo Productions, is all about the color that shapes that real world and, ultimately, the solidarity that keeps it eminently livable. It’s also an excellent look at the lives of the people who live it, work in the real world, which can be an uncomfortable place for those of us who owe their smugglers. The Cavu Productions film, made for $3,000, is an excellent depiction of life among the working displaced.

Illegal immigrant Ming Ding (Charles Jang) takes his life in his hands every day as a New York deliveryman in “Take Out,” an independent film that recently played at the Gaslamp 15 cinemas Downtown. Ming, an illegal Chinese immigrant, is under the gun (literally) to come up with the money he owes his smugglers. The Cuvo Productions film, made for $3,000, is an excellent depiction of life among the working displaced.

“While they are getting a three-course meal for just $40 per person, they can expect the exact same quality, preparation style and service they would expect on any other night dining,” said Leslie Araiza-Lorenzo from Nine-Ten restaurant in La Jolla.

Araiza-Lorenzo also said Nine-Ten will offer $2 valet parking during restaurant week.

Sam Kim at Blee, in the W Hotel, said the eatery will be hosting celebrity guest chef Kevin Harry from New York and will showcase a special menu specifically for Restaurant Week.

Other local restaurants participating this year include Phil’s Bistro and The Brigantine in Point Loma, The French Gourmet in Pacific Beach, the Marine Room in La Jolla and the Gaslamp’s Nohu at the Hard Rock Hotel.

There are nearly 7,200 restaurants in San Diego County, with $4.2 billion in annual taxable food and beverage sales, according to figures on the California Restaurant Association website.

Many of these are feeling the pinch in the current economy as San Diegans struggle with rising unemployment rates and home foreclosures. Many potential patrons have put their fine dining habits on ice as of late.

A special partner of this year’s restaurant week is the Girl Scouts of America, which will promote its trademark cookie sales campaign that begins at the end of January. Several restaurants will feature special dessert recipes integrating Girl Scout Cookie favorites like Thin Mints and Samoas.

The Girl Scouts are partners in Restaurant Week. Above, Grant Grill executive chef Mark Kroczynski shows Brownie Brija Payton some trade secrets.
FOOD & DRINK

BONDV

Great Australian Food, Cold Australian Beer.

Relaxed by day and bustling at night, Bonds Australian beer and food brings the contemporary flavors, sights and sounds of Australia to the historic Gaslamp Quarter. Bondi is all about top-quality Australian products and people. It’s also about the relaxed and casual Aussie attitude to life. Named after Sydney’s famed Bondi Beach, Bondi brings you ice-cold Aussie beer on tap, along with a large range of Australian and international bottled beer and the longest and strongest Australian wine list in the US. The food menu is fresh and contemporary, relaxed enough to nosh on but substantial enough for a long dining experience, and served with the friendly casualness that makes the Australian lifestyle famous the world over. Live DJ’s every Friday and Saturday night. No cover charge and no dress code.

Winner - Lamplighter Award for Best New Gaslamp Restaurant 2007, CitySearch Editor’s Choice - Best Bar in San Diego

Richard Walker’s Pancake House

Richard Walker’s Pancake House, an upscale fusion of traditional and gourmet breakfast favorites, is now open in the Marina District in downtown San Diego. Serving classic-style griddlecakes, crepes, omelets and other specialties, this pancake house is certain to become the “premier” breakfast destination for San Diego’s residents, employees and the tourist community! Open 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. 7 days a week, and if you are unable to stay and enjoy the atmosphere, take Richard Walker’s with you as we prepare orders to go.

POKEZ Mexican & Vegetarian

Welcome to Pokez! We make our food with love. We cook with vegetables (we are vegan) and use the freshest ingredients including organic produce when possible. Our beans and rice are 100% vegetarian, low in fat and sodium (no artificial coloring, no MSG).

Royal India

Experience the finest Indian cuisine in the Gaslamp Quarter. Royal India offers impeccable service, a friendly wait staff and some of the most authentic North Indian cuisine in the city. Offering a full bar and a selection of wines and beers, Royal India makes for a perfect place to relax over cocktails. In fact, the restaurant boasts the largest outdoor patio in the Gaslamp Quarter. Royal India’s extensive menu includes tempting appetizers, warm decanted breads, baked fresh in the tandoor, and a tasty selection of vegetarian, chicken, lamb and seafood curries. The ambience of the restaurant alludes to grand Indian palaces, with its large open spaces, mosaic tiled arches, a custom carved wood bar, and 10 foot calming waterfall. Voted “Best Indian Cuisine” by San Diego Downtown Readers Choice Awards in 2008. Royal India serves a gourmet buffet with over twenty items to choose from (Monday through Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and on Monday evenings).

Hot New Winebar: Wet Stone

Chef Christian Gomez has opened an exciting new contemporary wine bar in Bankers Hill. Located in a Historic 1896 Building at 1927 4th Avenue (between Grape and Fir), Chef Gomez is serving his POWER LUNCH daily from 11a-2p Tues-Fri and his SMALL BITES & BIG GLASSES menu from 5p-10p Weds-Sun. Try some of his favorites such as Macadamia-crusted Ahi with mango and habanero salsa, or his famous market greens with fava pimientos, pomegranate seeds, Danish Bleu cheese, carmelized walnuts and a toasted coriander seed vinaigrette. Having trouble finding parking? Not at The Wet Stone. After 7pm there is AMPLE FREE parking directly across the street in the parking lot.

Beach City Market

(See our coupon)

Beach city Market is your locally owned and operated neighborhood market. We offer weekend table service for breakfast 7:00 am- 1:00 pm. We are located in Horton Plaza across from 24 hour fitness. We feature a New York style deli, gourmet salads, a salad bar, sushi, smoothies, coffee, and dessert. All of our sandwiches are made with Boars Head deli meats and cheeses. We also offer a large selection of prepared meals for dining in or take out. If you are looking for an effortless holiday season please see our catering menu and holiday menus online at beachcitymarket.com or call us at 619-232-2491. Thanks to the readers of the Downtown News for voting us one of the Best Delis in San Diego.

Valentine’s Mexican Restaurant

Valentine’s Mexican Restaurant is family owned and operated and conveniently located at 844 Market Street in the East Village. Valentine’s offers downtown San Diegans quality traditional Mexican breakfast, lunch and dinner (also OPEN LATE for the bar crowds). In addition to the excellent burritos, tortas, tacos, and homemade salsa at the salsa bar, you can also choose from a selection of Mexican beers and fine wine when you visit Valentines. Call ahead to pick up your orders “to go” 619-234-8256.
Location, location, location: Art is where the heart is

By CHARLENE BALDRIDGE

Art produced in places not created for art is common in today's world. Art has an illustrious history of cropping up wherever it happens to bloom—anywhere, in fact, that provides a platform, including parks and street corners.

Over recent decades, San Diego audiences have seen theater and dance in storefronts, at trolley stops, at the beach, in hotel banquet rooms and in converted spaces of all kinds, including the decks of ships in San Diego harbor. Art manages to survive even in places with bad acoustics, bad pianos and execrable sight lines. Because The Old Globe Theatre converted The San Diego Museum of Art's (SDMA) Copley Auditorium into theater space for its use during the raising and reconstruction of its smallest venue, programs and artists normally booked into Copley are as homeless as gypsy theater companies.

“Jazz in the city” was set back decades by the shuttering of SDMA's monthly Jazz in the Park series, booked by the extraordinary Holly Hofmann. In fulfillment of an odd, cosmically aligned alliance, Jean Isaacs San Diego Dance Theater— longtime producer of a yearly series titled “Cabaret Dances” at SDMA—has moved this season's installment to Anthology, one of San Diego's newest commercial supper clubs, where it continues Sundays at 5 throughout January.

The supper club would seem an ideal venue for dance, with its super-slick art deco ambiance, excellent sound system, in-tune piano, platform made for musical groups and a dance floor—usually covered with tables—just waiting for Isaacs’ appealing troupe over many seasons of “Cabaret Dances,” much appreciated for its humor, elasticity and emotive movement. Alas, the dance floor is long and narrow, and with the eye spread so far, nuance of personality is lost despite excellent videography that allows sight of what cannot be seen.

Smaller pieces were performed on the stage at the end of the room, which also held hardworking vocalist Rachel Drexler (more applied “style” than substance or musicality) and talented arranged pianist and singer Steve Baker. Two world premiere sections were presented — “The Eyes of Love” and “Canned Goods,” so named because it is accompanied by recorded music.

Dramatically most affecting among these were set on Diamante Gulas’ “Time,” danced and choreographed by John Diaz, and Damien Rice’s “Sleep, Don’t Weep,” choreographed by Isaacs and performed by a dynamite duo, lanky and luscious Liv Isaacs-Nollet and her diminutive and voluptuous foil, Veronica Martin Lamm. The concluding section comprised Isaacs’ 2005 “Sippie,” set on the music of Sippie Wallace. Perhaps because this work was seen before, the piece seemed a better showcase of the humor and personality one has come to love and expect from San Diego Dance Theater.

The internationally renowned Isaacs taught technique, choreography and improvisation at University of California, San Diego for 25 years. “Cabaret Dances” is seen at 5 p.m. (doors open at 3:30 p.m. for cocktails and dining before or during the show) Sundays Jan. 11, 18 and 25 at Little Italy’s Anthology, 1337 India St. between A and Ash. Tickets are $15 to $35. For further information, see www.sandiegodancetheater.org or call (619) 225-1803.

The Patté Awards for Theater Excellence, the annual tribute to San Diego’s theater community and those within it, is set for Monday, Jan. 19 at the Westin Gaslamp Quarter Downtown.

The gala, created in 1997 by host and longtime theater critic Pat Launer, is one of the theater community’s most highly anticipated events. Attendees include a range of local theatermakers, theatergoers, board members, business leaders and the social elite. The awards will also be broadcast on San Diego’s Channel 4, airing Feb. 6 at 8 p.m.

The second annual Patté Scholarship will be presented in honor of the late Dr. Floyd Gaffney, who spearheaded African-American theater in San Diego. Newly named the Dea and Osborn Hurston Scholarships, the award will be presented by the Hurstons and a member of the Gaffney family.

Launer has reviewed and supported San Diego theater for nearly 25 years. In addition to her weekly reviews on KUSI-FM and her monthly appearances on KUSI-TV, Launer is a weekly online theater critic at www.sandiegotheaterreview.com.

The celebration begins with a pâté and Champagne welcome at 6 p.m., followed by dinner, the awards show/presentation and a dessert reception. Tickets for the event are $75, VIP tickets, which include preferential seating and valet parking, are $150. Special $55 tickets for theater artists are available; tables go for $750, $1,250 and $1,500. Table sponsorship opportunities are available. For further information, see www.patteawards.org or call (619) 225-1803.

12th Patté Awards set for Gaslamp Westin

San Diego Symphony mounts Beethoven fete

The San Diego Symphony is staging two Beethoven concerts at Symphony Hall and breaking the routine with a Qualcomm Hall entry in the middle.

The first event, Jan. 9 to 11, will feature Beethoven’s Symphony No. 1 in C Major, with pianist Jessie Chiang. From there, the orchestra moves to Qualcomm Hall Jan. 14 for the composer’s Moonlight Sonata, relocating to Symphony Hall the weekend of the 16th for a program featuring his Symphony No. 4.

Symphony Hall is located at 1245 7th Ave. Further information is available at (619) 235-0884; you may also visit www.sandiegosymphony.com.

--- from staff reports ---
ANNOUNCEMENTS 100

SHARE YOUR WARMTH DAY Sat., if you don’t like the weather, San Diego Homeless Outdoors will be gathering, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the University of San Diego, and from 3 to 6 p.m., at the University of California, San Diego. Call (619) 454-4151.

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