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Weekend picks for party people (5/5-6)

[Friday May 5, 2006]

Well, what do you know. **Cinco de Mayo** falls on a Friday this year. You can down Coronas and tequila all night without having to explain feebly to your boss that you were celebrating an important holiday with your Mexican brethren. We've got **tons of listings** in our annual guide. And here are a few others ...

▪ Downing margaritas is equivalent to wearing a nametag proclaiming "Gringo!" Why not play it cool with a wine tasting at the **Cask Room**? Though Georgia (the country) is widely believed to be the birthplace of wine, in North America we have Mexico to thank. Today our friends to the south actually produce more wine than Georgia. Gracias, Mexico! For \$15, sample vino between 6 p.m. and midnight.

▪ The Cinco de Mayo party at **Canes** features **Agua Dulce**, Stranger, The Mayan Kings, DJ Buddha and Yo Flacoat. Ten bucks gets you in. Seven local musicians make up Agua Dulce, or "sweet water." You can shake your junk to Latin rhythms mixed up with jazz, reggae, funk and soul.

▪ Other Cinco stuff: San Diego Mixmasters and DJ Scooter bring the beats at **Stingaree**; Smokestaxx plays live swing and soul at **Tio Leo's**; the **Bitter End** offers \$4 Coronas all night; **the W** hosts a Friday social with deep Latin house; and **Confidential** hosts Cinco di Drinko.

▪ Who wants to play dress-up? Check out the Duchess Vintage fashion show at **Beauty Bar** with DJs Gabe Vega, Saul Q, Corey Biggs and special guest Vaughn. Take a gander at colorful '50s housedresses, '60s mod minidresses,

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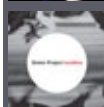
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 **Gnarls Barkley**
"Crazy" (single)

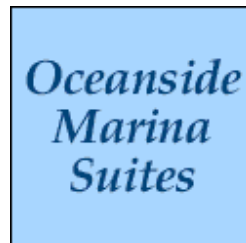
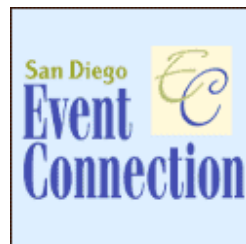
 **Apollo Nove**
"Res Inexplicata Volans"

 **Gotan Project**
"Lunatico"

 **Tiga**
"Sexor"

 **Jamie Lidell**
"Multiply"

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- Happy Hour of the Week
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slinky '70s disco gowns and ruffly '80s prom dresses. Think Carrie from "Sex and the City" or Sienna Miller (two ladies with major fashionista cojones).

- The first three Fridays of the month, Timeless Takeover brings the sounds for getting down at **Kadan**. A live band and two DJs play soul jazz, hip-hop and funk.
- It's the return of Kollektiv at **Kava Lounge**, featuring Karsh Kale, Janka Selektá and SRI 420, as well as a performance by Urban Tribal Dance Co.
- Mmmmm, skater boys. We liked you when we were 13; we like you now. Ahem. If you're looking for an alternative to drinking, catch the premiere of the skate film "**Word**" and a talk by guest speaker and skate legend **Christian Hosoi**. (7:30 p.m.; 627 Genter St., La Jolla)

[Saturday May 6, 2006]

- Twenty bucks is a little steep for a club cover, but it just seems less painful when it includes complimentary drinks and nibbles. **Turntables on the Hudson** brings together New York DJs **Nickodemus** and **Mariano** with **Nappy G** on percussion. The party also showcases art by Beau Kitchens, John Brooks and Alex Contreras, and DJ sets by Damon Bell, Sergio, Saul Q, Shige, Morgan Young, Gary Shuffler and a live set by Diablo Dimes. The venue is Little Italy's **Urban Renewal Project Warehouse** (1342 India St.) and the night kicks off at 7 p.m.
- We are so insanely stoked about the **Beauty Bar's** new photo booth. Nothing better than a black & white strip of souvenir photos from your drunken adventures. Tonight catch DJ sets by Kid Lighting and Notorious R.U.G. and a live set by L.A.'s Dommin.
- Beware of San Diego's **Plot to Blow Up the Eiffel Tower**. Not because they're terrorists (they're not). Not because we love the French and worry about their important monuments (we don't). No. We say "beware" because these locals kick down a seriously ear-shattering jazz-punk sound. Bring your earplugs to the Casbah. Or ... swing by the **San Diego Sports Club** to witness one of our favorite new local bands, **Grand Ole Party**. We have such a big crush on these kids. They're hot and they can actually play.
- You know by now that beer, wine and sake are super passe, so don't you owe it to yourself to celebrate Liquor Launch night at **Kava Lounge**? Yep, they finally have a full license. Now you can drink a vodka tonnie with your drum

Photo galleries

Sound off

Weekend picks for party people

RECENT ENTRIES

Weekend picks for party people (5/5-6)

Drunk Mofos and Other Tales

A night without a burrito

Red Circle's patrons don't like me

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RECENT COMMENTS

Good looks prove not enough at Pacific Beach's Tower 23 (32)

Babysitter4Adults wrote: After surfing the net, and typing i...
[more]

Single in San Diego (116)

Smart wrote: My name is Smart Hey, it's been a w... [more]

Red Circle's patrons don't like me (1)

Senor Dingo wrote: im pretty sure the favored anthropo... [more]

Gogol Bordello at Brick by Brick (3/23) (64)

J wrote: Hun get the damn facts straight ok... [more]

Weekend picks for party people (4/28-29) (1)

adam wrote: Coachella alternative. Good cause....
[more]

Not headed to the desert? Me neither. (2)

Alessandro wrote: If there is anyone interested in vi... [more]

High times and mellow music at Bar Dynamite (2)

Mike wrote: bar dynamite is, indeed, a tiny pla... [more]

Happy Hour of the Week: The Prado (4/24) (1)

patricia wrote: Hi, I went to the Prado for the fi... [more]

'n' bass. Sweet. Pocket LIVE! plays acid jazz and DJ Alien Tom spins some sweet beats.

▪ Obviously, y'all like the Stills. The boys aren't back in town, but you can at least enjoy their music at Transport's listening party at the **Whistle Stop**. After that, DJs Gabe Vega and Saul Q bring all your favorite indie, Britpop and electro.

Posted by AnnaMaria Stephens on **May 05, 2006** | [Comments \(0\)](#)

Drunk Mofos and Other Tales

I just got back from **Sin City**, but I'm not talking. My silence has nothing to do with that familiar, old tagline, because actually, I don't mind discussing my **Las Vegas** exploits. However, I'm focused on the here and now, since San Diego's **Cinco de Mayo** is in effect, and lookout, it's on a weekend night.

What I'm getting at is this: There are going to be some especially drunk "motherfathers" rolling around town the next 24 hours and beyond. If you've never experienced "**crunk and disorderly**" behavior, then pre-Lil Jon, you're at least aware of its cousin, "drunk and disorderly." Get ready to see it again, because this weekend will feature party people -- perhaps even you -- coloring the spectrum of insobriety with varying shades of silly and serious.

Interestingly, legitimate, historic occasions (and nightlife holidays) like Cinco de Mayo and **St. Patrick's Day** answer our mothers' figurative question: "If Little Jimmy jumped off a bridge, would you jump too?" **When I'm out DJ-ing**, I can confirm the answer is "yes" many people "jump." Inspired by others around them, they go the extra mile, downing extra yards of beer, and quaffing larger quantities of wine and spirits than normal. It wickedly exemplifies aspects of **contagion theory**, I suppose. Fortunately, I imbibe at a fairly disciplined pace, and thus, remain a sober, and alternately amused and bemused observer of the intoxicated masses.

Exactly what alcohol-induced scenery awaits us scenesters over the next 72 hours? It's a mystery. Hopefully, the consequences aren't tragic or **King-sized** in severity, but more comedic -- like a couple months back after I'd finished spinning at **Visions**. I was walking outside **Park It on Market** and nearly run over by a drunk driver -- of a Ralph's shopping cart containing a heavily-impaired, partially-dressed guy being pushed by an equally-impaired guy. The nearby policemen weren't laughing.

MAY 2006

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Or maybe I'll get a scene like last Friday, when I was at a bar talking with a friend I'll call "Amy." Her date was taking forever in the men's room. Amy used his absence to tell me she was "totally finished with him." He was even more "finished" once security awakened him from a deep, drunken slumber atop the throne. When he rejoined us -- his chances with Amy blown -- he proceeded to **blow chunks**. Thankfully, they missed us -- barely.

Similarly strange happenings may await you Velvet Ropers. And surely, you've already got a few brief, humorous tales of your own -- so let's hear'em. Or in advance of this weekend (and as a public service) perhaps you've got a hangover remedy you can offer? Sharing is caring, you know -- that is, when it's the remedy not the **sickness**.

Posted by DJ Dex on **May 04, 2006** | [Comments \(0\)](#)

A night without a burrito

I'm all for immigrant rights. Always have been. I like to think that I have a pretty good appreciation for the extent to which the U.S. economy — and especially that of Southern California — is fundamentally dependent on the all-too-often underappreciated efforts of undocumented workers.

But I don't think I fully grasped my own reliance on immigrant labor until 2:30 a.m. on **May 1**, when on the way home from an evening of local swilling I discovered to my ultimate chagrin that not one of my neighborhood's all-night Mexican eateries was open for business.

"Black Monday," as I have since called it, was truly the drinking man's nightmare. Not an open taqueria nor burritoria nor panaderia to be found. Drive-thrus were shuttered, kitchens were dark, plastic chairs were gloomily stacked atop orange tables. I've never wanted a bean and cheese burrito more in my life.

While I before considered myself sympathetic to the cause, that evening I vowed to the gods of late-night burrito cravings that I would never again take for granted the toils of my neighborhood chefs, no matter what their status in the eyes of the INS.

Whatever the **cumulative effect** of the May 1 boycott turns out to be, protest organizers can at least take solace in the fact that they reached one registered voter. One with Amstel Light in his stomach and visions of refried beans in his head.

Somehow I doubt I was the only one.

Posted by Doug Wagner on **May 03, 2006** | **Comments (0)**

Red Circle's patrons don't like me

After dark, the Gaslamp is crawling with hot young professionals dressed to the nines and walking speedily toward some unknown sophisticated location. I always have conflicting feelings of envy and pity toward their flawless hair, designer shoes, and deep pockets. Okay, mostly envy. Somehow, I've mentally connected these people with **Red Circle**, probably because of the visibility of its trendy logo on E Street. My Friday night mission: infiltrate their territory and collect whatever findings I could on the way of life of these extra-fancy mammals through the favored anthropological method of *becoming* them.

Applying an extra layer of makeup and gathering a respectable entourage were good first steps, but my cover was almost blown when the bouncer checked my I.D. and exclaimed "You're a baby!" At 22, I didn't feel like I was especially young compared to the rest of the crowd, but there it was. Once inside the vodka bar, I did not find a swinging hotspot full of beautiful people. Instead there was only a handful of beautiful people, and they were looking awfully awkward huddled around the bar.

Regaining our composure through the power of alcohol, my friend ordered a delicious white chocolate concoction in a martini glass while the rest of us broke character with pints of Guinness. The décor was impressive, at least. High ceilings with big murals and columns adorned the lounge area, yet the space stayed cozy thanks to comfortable white couches, pillows, and warm lighting.

As the bar began to fill up, it became more and more evident that everybody was staying strictly within the group they came with. My first feeble attempt to talk to strangers was on the dance floor, where I tried to dance with a girl who was grooving by herself. I seldom get rejected by girls, so I was confused by her reaction -- abject horror. She scurried off to find her friends immediately. All of my subsequent attempts at socialization ended similarly. The only new person any of us met was an English bloke who didn't look like he had come with anybody and was pretty well sloshed by the time we got to him. I can only imagine how harsh this scene might be for guys.

The people weren't the only aspect of Red Circle I found lacking. **DJ Matty A** and **MC Wordbond** played so many Top 40 hip-hop songs more than once that the night was

musically equivalent to a high school dance. Who knew the supposedly sophisticated atmosphere I'd been missing out on would seem so familiar and so immature?

Posted by Janice Fitch on **May 01, 2006** | [Comments \(1\)](#)

Weekend picks for party people (4/28-29)

What's up lil Ropers? We're heading out of town this weekend. Friday night, we might scoot up to L.A. for a free **Gnarls Barkley** show at the **Roxy** (the MySpace-hosted show is first come, first served -- it's gonna be insane). Saturday we'll be partying with **Anthem** magazine at Frank Sinatra's estate in Palm Springs. And Sunday we'll be dancing to **Madge** with thousands of gay men at the **Coachella** festival. It's hard work but somebody's gotta do it. We hope to see y'all out in the desert. If not, have a good weekend back here in the 92101 and surrounding 'hoods.

[Friday, April 28, 2006]

- Cowboys and cowgirls, mosey on over to **In Cahoots** where you can learn the jitterbug swing with a free dance lesson from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Swig \$2.25 Miller Lite longnecks from 5 to 8; dancing's always more fun when you're good and sloshed.
- Gosh, we miss **RE:UP** magazine. We were always so proud that it was local. What's so darn great about Brooklyn, anyway? Well, at least we can go to the mag's dance party tonight at **Kava Lounge**. The password to get you in free before 11 p.m. is "F**k Coachella" (without the asteriks), or pay \$5 if you don't like to cuss. Plus CD giveaways if you're nice. (For more on Kava and its scene, check out this month's **Scenemakers**.)
- We're diehard fans of local band **Matt Curreri and the Exfriends**, so we most def recommend the band's CD release party at the **Whistle Stop**. Curreri was a high school math teacher before moving to Carlsbad and now gives private music lessons and teaches at the Winston School in Del Mar. That's so adorably geeky. The title of his new album is so great: "Exercise Music for the Lonely." Awwwww. Curreri's lovely girlfriend, **Joanie Mendenhall**, leads the Exfriends. And Matt's brother **Paul Curreri**, a seasoned country-blues performer, will also be playing. The release party happens to fall on the date of **South Park's Spring Walkabout**, so all the shops are open late and offer special sales, food and live music.

- **DJ Motiv8**, Black Eyed Peas producer and DJ since the early '90s, is spinning at **Side Bar**. Motiv8 is part of the Universal Scientists Crew, a hip-hop and drum-and-bass collective of DJs, MCs and visual artists. Dope.
- When Irish eyes are smiling ... they've probably had a beer or two. You can sample an Irish Beer Trio at the Disneyland version of Irish bars -- downtown's **the Field** -- from 9 to 11 p.m. For \$5.50, sample Guinness, Smithwicks, a red ale, and Harp, a lager. Plus you get to keep the tasting glasses. Or for the same price, just get a pint of any of the three. But no, you can't keep the pint glass.

[Saturday, April 29, 2006]

- There aren't any undead at the **Zombie Lounge**, but there are some bands. The Buzzbombs, The Monsters from Mars and Teenage Talking Cars all play.
- Got mad skillz? Maybe you should prove it at the **2006 MC Battle 16 Shots** with **Jin Tha MCee**, DJ Fingaz and T.L. at SDSU's **Montezuma Hall**. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tix are \$11 presale or \$16 at the door. Call (760) 888-4246 for more info, or e-mail illuminarientertainment@hotmail.com. You can also register at the door. Jin is probably best known as the Chinese-American rapper who came out on top in seven battles in seven weeks on BET's "106 & Park," which led to a deal with Ruff Ryders. Interesting tidbit: In 2005, when New York's Hot 97 DJ Miss Jones aired a song mocking Tsunami victims ("And all at once, you hear the screaming chinks... You can hear God laughing, 'Swim you bitches, swim.'") Jin responded with a song of his own bashing her show: "Since when was hip hop about being racist and being ignorant?" So even after BET, Jin uses his battling skills for good, not evil.
- Who likes watching people beat each other senseless? We do! Especially when we can drink at the same time. **Valor Fighting** makes its S.D.debut at **4th & B**. For \$35 (or \$100 VIP) you get to watch eight big fights in the cage. Doors open at 7 p.m. (get tix at Ticketmaster). Fighting icon Kimo will make an appearance to take pictures and sign autographs. We want to see some blood!

Posted by AnnaMaria Stephens on [April 28, 2006](#) | [Comments \(1\)](#)

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