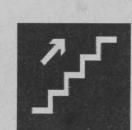


# WEEKEND CONNECTION













Espresso Roma:
Ask Papa. A Clean, Well Lit Place is Hard to Find.

The Coffeehouse by the Campus Awaits You

Page 3A





# Aloha Sharkeez:

See What Happens When Photographers Write Stories After Discovering Thursday \$1.50 Wells





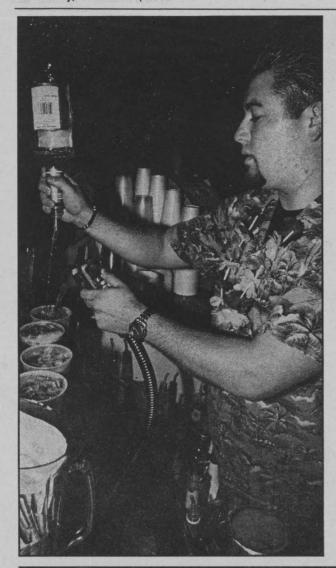
Page 2A





FIND THE

all of the rogues and win a free pitcher of beer and pizza compliments of the Weekend



# Dinner With a Foreigner While Drinking Like a Fish

Nexus Photog Gets Paid Double for Writing Review and Taking Pretty Picture.

By Alex Ward Photos by Alex Ward

My associate is a foreigner with a penchant for red meat, alcohol and liberalism. I am an impartial observer, sent from a secret underground bunker, to explore, on your behalf, the nightlife of downtown Santa Barbara. With our expense account and our appetites at the ready we descended on Sharkeez (416 State Street). Considering they had two bands playing, impressive for a Wednesday, a five-dollar cover wasn't too much to ask.

IDs checked and access gained, my associate and I had to let our eyes adjust to the minimal lighting, think tropical island after sundown. The crowd was friendly and seemed

to be enjoying itself. I introduced myself to the bartender. The way I see it, you want to know where your doctor went to medical school, you want to know your pharmacist's not an amateur, and you want to know your bartender's name.

Oscar is a good man and his drinks are stronger than a bull on speed. My bourbon and water was a masterpiece, considerably less of the latter than the former. Doctor Daniels would have been proud, and for the record, I drank it like a trooper. My associate's gin and tonic was made with Bombay Sapphire, one of the finest gins available. My associate attempted to convince me it was her exotic accent that hypnotized Oscar into the good stuff, but I maintain that it was my huge press pass and close ties to the management.

Through my newfound booze—induced vision, I began to take real note our surroundings. The most thrilling feature of Sharkeez is the bar-length aquarium. My associate speculates that it contains 12 million gallons of water and 70,000 species of "erotic" fish, but then my associate is prone to exaggeration. All I can tell you is that the tank is large and the fish are pretty.

Most of the patrons (average

age around 23) were drinking beer, which Oscar was pouring out of his 17 taps. Beer prices are considerate, 2.75 for a 33 oz. tank. And what goes better with a tank of beer than a fish taco, and Sharkeez fish tacos are fish-alicious. Between the four locations (around SoCal) they sell 4500 of them every week, take my word, if fish can fly, you should eat a fish taco.

As for other edibles, burritos and burgers round out the 'bar food' genre. But keep in mind that the kitchen closes at eleven every night. The food, however is not the star of the show, the star is the atmosphere.

My associate and I, now feeling warm with adult-style beverages, continue our exploratory. The management insists that there are 62 televisions, but my associate counted 124, including, "the ones in the floor, man." I looked. They aren't there. There is a smoking patio. There is a dance floor. The bathrooms are immaculate.

But now we are back in our secret lair and Professor David Upsen Downs insists that I wrap up my missive to you, dear reader. Obligatory last plug: at Sharkeez, you will get lei'd. They guarantee it.

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### A Pizza, Some Guinness and

## You: A Roma Retrospective

Roma has been my main coffeehouse since that hazy day I first came to Santa Barbara. Walking down Pardall Road and surveying the ghetto fabulous style of Isla Vista, my overwhelmed freshman brain needed to stop for some coffee and a cigarette. I passed up Java Jones — something about the back-ally ambiance of their porch seating did not sit right with me — and I kept walking in search of a little Java and a lot of atmosphere.

Enter Espresso Roma, home away from home. Little did I know that first day as I ordered a café mocha and picked up a copy of the Nexus strewn across the counter that Roma would become a sort of rendezvous point for many adventures in the years to

Espresso Roma has a lusciously big patio with numerous moveable tables and chairs for optimal seating arrangements. There's nothing worse than trying to form a discussion table only to realize the desired table is bolted to the concrete. Corporate coffeehouses like Starbucks pride themselves on their rigid following of protocol but Roma throws all that nonsense to the wind. Move the table around, get comfortable, it's your coffee house.

In addition, Roma has installed a gas powered fire pit chock full of cement logs that glow with warmth on these cold Isla Vista nights. Many other coffeehouses try to make warmth concessions to their customers by installing gas-powered heaters that fry any patron unlucky enough to sit to close. Not at Roma, the warm flames lick up through the logs giving the eye a pleasant fire to stare at and to warm your hands over.

And I haven't even mentioned the food yet.



Espresso Roma serves breakfast lunch and dinner and their menu is fabulous. Taking a cue from the Roman forefathers, Roma serves only most crispy succulent pizzas with the freshest toppings, Also serves are calzones sandwiches, salads and other foods. All of them are prepared according to Roma's distinct quality standards which just blow away most of the rest of Isla Vista's food. Take my word for it, I've done time in Rome and the pizza

couldn't even compare to I.V.'s own taste of Italy.

Did I mention they bake their own pastries, muffins and other baked goods twice a day? Always make sure to sample whatever they have handy, you will not be disappointed. Yesterday I had a sugar doodle that would put a humming bird in diabetic shock.

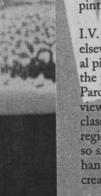
God bless Roma's appreciation for sugar.

God bless Roma's appreciation for sugar.

Of course, no decent coffeehouse is complete without the requisite cup of Joe and Roma does not disappoint. The house blend puts most other Java in town to shame and their lattes, mochas, and other combos cannot be beat. In addition, Roma has a wide variety of tea include Chai and chamomile to sooth the savage beast of a student in all of us.

Roma does not stop there though. The lovely shop next to campus carries a wide variety of imported and domestic beers. Happy hour is actually 3 full hours of fun stretching from 3-6 p.m. where pints are 75 cents off and pitchers are \$1.00 off and pitchers of Budweiser are 4 bucks even. I'm somewhat of a beer snob and I stick the Guinness. The easiest way to tell a classy joint from a dive is how they pour their Guinness.

You're average run of the mill liquor joint just sloshes in a pitcher of Guinness and slides it across the table with the thick head running down the sides and getting everywhere. All Roma employees are trained in the art of pouring Guinness and will bring a beautiful pitcher of pitch black goodness topped with a caramel head so thick and luscious you're significant other will keel over in jealousy. The only thing left to is pour a



pint and watch the world go by.

And that's what Roma has over everyone in I.V. — Ambiance. Sure you may find cheaper food elsewhere but Roma is all about style. Order a personal pizza and pitcher of Guinness and take a seat out in the patio. Roma's strategic positioning along the Pardall corridor allows its patrons an ever-changing view of bicyclists and students heading to and from class along the most heavily trafficked road in the region. Whether you're a guy or girl, eye candy rolls by so slowly you'd swear Willie Wonka had taken your hand and was escorting you through the whipping cream room.

"There's no such thing as a snozzberry," screams a Java Jones regular, to wit an Espresso Roma employee will remind, "we are the music makers, and we are the dreamers of dreamers, taste for yourself."

And of course, the Roma employee is right. It is a dream. I often lose entire afternoons drinking my Guinness and talking with friends and watching the lovely student bodies roll by. The Italians have always a had a good sense of what's important in life — wine, friends, big meals, sex — and I thank them for the archetype from which Roma is derived. In fact, I'm heading back there right now.



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Fri-Sun - (1:15 4:00) 7:00 9:40 Mon-Thur - (4:30) 7:00 9:30 **\* HOW THE GRINCH** 

STOLE CHRISTMAS (PG)
Fri-Sun - (1:00 3:45) 6:45 9:20
Mon-Thur - (4:00) 6:30 9:00

THE 6TH DAY (PG-13)
Fri-Sun - (1:30 4:30) 7:45
Mon-Thur - (4:45) 7:45

Mon-Thur - (4:45) 7:45

MEN OF HONOR (R)

Fri-Sun - (1:30 4:45) 8:00

Mon-Thur - (5:00) 8:00

CHARLIE'S ANGELS (PG-13) Fri-Sun - (1:45 4:15) 7:15 9:35 Mon-Thur - (4:15) 6:45 9:10

LITTLE NICKY (PG-13) Fri-Sun - (2:00 5:00) 7:30 9:45 Mon-Thur - (5:00) 7:15 9:20

### FAIRVIEW TWIN 251 N. FAIRVIEW - GOLETA

\* 102 DALMATIANS (G) Fri - (4:45) 7:15 Sat/Sun - (2:00 4:45) 7:15 Mon-Thur - (4:45) 7:00

RUGRATS IN PARIS: THE MOVIE (G) Fri & Mon-Thur - (5:00) Sat/Sun - (2:15 5:00)

THE LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE (PG-13) Fri-Sun - 7:30 Mon-Thur - 7:15

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Sneak Preview - Sat. Dec. 2nd ★ PROOF OF LIFE (R) 7:30 only

★ 102 DALMATIANS (G) Fn - (1:45 3:00 4:20 5:40) 8:00 Sat/Sun -(12:30 1:45 3:00 4:20 5:40) 8:00 Fri-Sun - Playing On 2 Screens Mon-Thur - (2:15 4:40) 7:00

RUGRATS IN PARIS: THE MOVIE (G) Fri-Sun - (1:00 3:15 5:30) Mon-Thur - (2:40 4:50)

BOUNCE (PG-13) Fri-Sun - (2:30 5:15) 8:00 Mon-Thur - (2:30 5:15) 7:45

CHARLIE'S ANGELS (PG-13) Fri-Sun - (5:00) 7:30 Mon-Thur - (2:30 5:00) 7:30

Mon-Thur - (2:30 5:00) 7

RED PLANET (PG-13)

Fri-Sun - (2:15)

Mon-Thur - (2:00)

THE LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE (PG-13) Fri-Sun - 7:45 Mon-Thur - 7:00

PAY IT FORWARD (PG-13) Fri & Sun - 7:30 Sat - No Show Mon - (4:30) 7:15 Tues-Thur - (4:30)

#### RIVIERA 2044 ALAMEDA PADRE SERRA - S.B.

BILLY ELLIOT (R) Fri & Mon-Thur - (5:00) 7:45 Sat/Sun - (2:15 5:00) 7:45

#### PLAZA DE ORO 371 HITCHCOCK WAY - S.B.

**BOUNCE (PG-13)** Fri & Mon-Thur - (5:30) 8:00 Sat/Sun - (2:45 5:30) 8:00

MEET THE PARENTS (PG-13) Fri & Mon-Thur - (5:20) Sat/Sun - (2:30)

BEST IN SHOW (PG-13) Fri & Mon-Thur - 7:45 Sat/Sun - (5:15) 7:45

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7:00 8:15 9:40
Sun-(1:30 2:30 4:15 5:20)
7:00 8:15

Mon-Wed -(2:30 4:15 5:30) 7:00 8:00 Thur - (2:30 4:15 5:30) 8:00 Playing On 2 Screens

Robert De Niro
MEN OF HONOR (R)
Fri-Sun - (2:40 5:30) 8:30
Mon-Thur - (2:15 5:10) 8:00

Ben Stiller
MEET THE PARENTS (PG-13)
Fri/Sat - (1:45 4:30) 7:10 9:45
Sun- (1:45 4:30) 7:10

#### METRO 4 618 STATE STREET - S.B.

Mon-Thur - (2:45 5:20) 7:45



THE 6TH DAY (PG-13) Fri/Sat - (1:45 4:45) 7:45 Sun-Thur - (2:15) 7:45

LITTLE NICKY (PG-13) Fri/Sat - (2:15 5:10) 7:30 Sun-Thur - (5:10)

★ THE GRINCH (PG)
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Sun-Thur - Plays at Metro 4
(2:00 4:45) 7:30

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★ HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS (PG) Fri/Sat - Plays at Arlington

Fri/Sat - Plays at Arlington (2:00 4:45) 7:30 Sun-Thur - Plays at Metro 4

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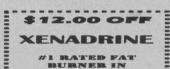
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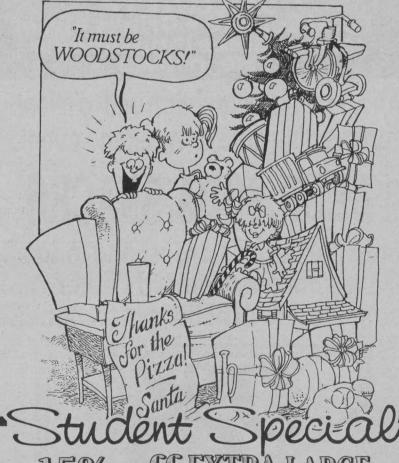
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