

# Piatti prices prove a pity

## Four Dots

Ed Addeo

**WHO SEZ LAUGHTER** ain't the best medicine? Claire Rubitsky, 101 years old and legally blind, was sorting out her assortment of pills the other day at the Redwoods retirement center when she accidentally swallowed her hearing-aid battery along with her meds! Aghast when she realized what she'd done, this beautiful doll just shrugged and said, "Oh well. If my eyes light up, you'll know it's working!" We should all have people like Claire in our lives.... Ace editor Tom Stern wonders whether anyone's seen the Giants' Tim Lincecum and Lily Tomlin in the same room.... He also notices that Anthony Hopkins is morphing into Don Rickles, Dustin Hoffman is morphing into George Gobel, and Maria Shriver's morphing into Abraham Lincoln.... More baseball: Do the A's really have a pitcher named Outman? Reminds me of the guy explaining Lou Gehrig's disease to the Marin liberal. "They call it that because it's the disease that killed Lou Gehrig." "Wow," sez the liberal, "What are the odds of THAT happening?"

**LOOKS LIKE THE FOLKS** at Piatti still aren't getting it. Glass of house wine, \$7.09. Huh? What's the 9 cents all about? A harried bartender explains the tab: \$6.50 plus 59 cents tax. Nothing like making your bar help run back and forth counting pennies. Right out of Chapter Six of "How to Keep Both Patrons and Help Unhappy".... Also this: no self-parking. Dropping in for a drink? Add a valet tip to that \$7.09. Is this really a Polish restaurant? Try Saylor's Landing or Benissimo's instead.... Add Happy Hour news: the terrific new Tavern at Lark Creek (nee Lark Creek Inn) still hasn't decided on one, so my loyal legions of readers get to make suggestions. Like, how about \$4 wine and well drinks with tasty bar snacks? Give 'em a call.... Also, someone suggests a Happy Hour of 10-11 p.m., owing to the average age of Larkspureans, or whatever they're called.... Final HH item: the Martini Lounge at the Sheraton Four Points in Terra Linda has a good one, 4-7 p.m., \$4 well drinks, \$3 draft beer, \$5 house wine (oh, well)....

**GLAD TO SEE** the next generation is as responsible as it claims. Hike up to Cascade Falls in Mill Valley and take in the grand view of discarded beer cans, cigarette butts and assorted other, uh, teenage garbage.... Some statistician sez there are more French restaurants in NYC than in Paris. Hello? Aren't ALL restaurants in Paris French restaurants?... All-time great movie line, seldom quoted: It's from "Ace in the Hole," starring a young Kirk Douglas and almost-star Jan Sterling. In it, Sterling sez, "I don't go to church. Kneeling bags my nylons".... And Mike Morrison saw a luxurious yacht on the bay with its name writ large: "Sorry, kids!"....

**THIS COLUMN LOVES** tips about those out-of-the-way shops around the county that harbor unique and fascinating items you won't find anywhere else. One such is Something/ANYTHING at 20 Princess St. in Sausalito. Richard Driskell will show you "the weirdest kaleidoscope you'll ever see," among other spiffy executive toys.... Incidentally, the shop's owner qualifies as our newest NamePhreak: He belongs to the Sausalito Yacht Club and his name is — John WOODHULL!... Perennial San Anselmo Baseball Ass'n. all-star and all-around great kid Josh Zwick, now a West Marin all-star, missed last Saturday's tournament game in Fremont because he's a blossoming Shakespearean actor, to boot. He's the only kid among the Actors Equity pros in the Marin Shakespeare Company's production of "Julius Caesar," playing Lucius the page in several scenes. I've always said he has a helluva change-up....

**R.I.P. Bob Winskill.** Going his way at 84, longtime columnist in this very blatt, Rotarian par excellence, engineer, world traveler, a gentle man who left the world a better place than he found it....

**AND FINALLY.** I'm humbled by the warm response to my "LDLs" column, and touched by the thought that it may have saved a few lives (cue melodramatic drum roll). No, I can't reveal the name of the prescient ophthalmologist here, but maybe I can in a private e-mail. I'll ask him. Suffice to say a few guys with my own erroneous mindset are now born-again as well. Good on youse! Take your statins! You want motivation? Forget your stroke, paralysis, drooling in your wheelchair, slobbering in your food, fainting in your soup.... Remember THE CATHETER!

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# ABC stings boating club

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**THE SHADOW NOSE:** Watch out, local yacht clubs! My usually correct spies tell me a perennially unfriendly neighbor of Sausalito's Cruising Club in Dunphy Park gave the Alcoholic Beverage Control boys a tip that the club was serving the public — a no-no for private yacht clubs. The ABC boys sent a few female decoys to the club, claiming they were "friends of the band," and were served a coupla beers. Result: the club was closed for 25 days as a fine. In fact, the club does NOT serve the public, but does honor guests of musical performers. So they had no chance to escape such an unfair sting. But I hear it's a common practice for the ABC.... The Batteries Plus store on the San Rafael-San Anselmo Miracle Mile is the latest version of an adult toy store. Owner Bill Perin will solve your battery problem no matter what — even watch batteries.... (Adult toy store? Doesn't sound right, does it?)

**READERS CHECK IN:** Jeanne Zanzi sez the "Brooklyn Bridge" song by Frank Sinatra is from a 1947 movie, "It Happened in Brooklyn," with Peter Lawford, Jimmy Durante, Kathryn Grayson, Gloria Grahame and a very young Francis Albert.... Mike Nickel also remembers it well and sent in the lyrics as sung by Mel Torme on a CD called "Songs of New York".... And Renne Junker, who was born in Flatbush just a few blocks from me and also raised in an Italian Catholic family, reminds that his book "Subway Music" is all about growing up in Brooklyn and the music of those days. Give it a read....

**ADD FOODIE NEWS:** I must repeat: the best sandwich you'll find in Marin is the braised pork (with a nifty green salad) at Piccolo Teatro in Sausalito. And for only nine bucks, to boot.... And for a class-A quickie, you can't beat the Classic Italian at Quiznos.... Also a best-kept food secret: the veal cannelloni in porcini sauce for lunch at Fabrizio's in Larkspur. At \$10.50, can't be beat.... And across the street at 444 Magnolia, the Magnolia Avenue Salon is relocating from 1133 to a larger space. Good time to enlarge a business? Amanda Davis, daughter of owner Karen, sez, "Even in bad times, you still have to look good." Tip to single guys: she should know — she could be the best-looking woman in town!...

**ANYBODY AGREE** that Robert Downey Jr. is the greatest actor since Brando? Who's better?... Cougar Alert! A "cougar" is a single, older woman who is looking for younger men for fun and — well, you know. Anyway, a first-ever meeting of cougars in Marin is being held at the Spinnaker Tue., March 10, 7-9 p.m. I guess younger men are invited, too. Call Rich Gosse at 507-9962 for details....

**FAIRFAX COMES THROO:** Amazing how the town rallied around 19 Broadway and its peripatetic owner, Garry Graham, after the place almost burned down Feb. 7. Live music was back in only a few days. Curious tidbit: On the night of the fire the two headliner acts were "Mamma's Cookin'" and "Hillside Fire." Hey, Garry! Don't book any acts with the words "quake" in them!... Everybody's favorite bartender, Bob Robertson at Marin Joe's, went to a high school reunion and was told "You look just like you did back then!" "Omigod," he reports. "Did I really look this bad?".... Congrats to Susan and Dennis Gilardi on their first grandson, Rio James. Dennis calls him "River." Do they know there's a James River in Virginia and a Rio Jaime in Argentina?...

**YOU DON'T USUALLY** find good advice on restaurant bathroom walls, but the men's room at Saylor's in Sausalito has some: "Take life with a grain of salt ... plus a wedge of lime and a shot of tequila".... Speaking of advice, Jim Schock sends two pieces of same from military service manuals: "Remember that tracers work both ways" and "Any ship can be a minesweeper — once."

Hasta pronto!

Send Ed advice at  
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# Cops visit PC smasher

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**THE REAL HARDWARE:** Why did two cops appear at the door of a certain Mill Valley man and threaten to arrest him? The Shadow Nose! The guy bought a computer at a certain San Rafael store and when he couldn't run the software he brought it back, and they couldn't run it, either. But they wouldn't let him return it. So the frustrated guy goes out to his pick-up and gets a 5-lb. sledge hammer, comes back into the store and sez he's going to smash the useless thing to pieces. "Why not, it's mine," sezze. The panicked store guy manages to steer the guy outside, then locks the door and calls the cops. The guy splits and when he gets home, the cops appear and when he tells them what really happened, the cops just laugh. "We have the same problems with our own computers," one of them sez, driving away.

**MUSIC ALERT:** Mark your calendar for Jan. 31, 9 p.m. That's when my fave guitarist, the amazing Dave Shapireau and his West of Next is playing at 19 Broadway in rockin' Fairfax. I've always thought the greatest guitarists who ever lived were Django Reinhardt and Les Paul, and Dave isn't far behind. Actually Les Paul is still alive, but twice as old as Dave, so there's time to catch up....and remember Bill Haley and the Comets? Haley's credited with launching the rock 'n' roll age with his "Rock Around the Clock" in the early '50s. Well, Haley has burned out, but the Comets are still streaking and will be on the same bill as Shapireau. Should be a memorable night for all....

## ADD BEST KEPT SECRETS:

Bogie's Café in San Rafael. Warm, funky ambience with excellent food served cheerily by owner Leslie Freed. Egg McStupid breakfast, mit egg, sausage/ham/bacon, cheese on English muffin, \$3.95; a 1/3-lb. beef burger lunch for \$4.95. Could use larger wine portions, though. It's tucked into that corner on the right as you turn left to get to the Civic Center. (Bonus points if you can guess Leslie's age).... Add ditto: The "paper pizza" at Mulberry Street on Smith Ranch Road. Yes, pizza served on paper, for you carbo-watching dudes and dudettes. I can't explain it further....and BTW, what's the real name of Smith Ranch Road?... Only in Mill Valley? A "Seven layers of heaven" desert at the Sequoia Theater. Whatever happened to Almond Joys and Mars Bars?... reader suggests I rename Happy Hour to "Attitudinal Adjustment Time".... Did you know that banks can't be closed four days in a row? Law passed during the Depression.... Friend sez he's discovered the mating call of blondes: "I'm soooooo drunk!".... There's no connection, I'm sure, but Leslie Butori earned a degree in criminal justice and now works at Bank of America in San Anselmo....

**CHALET BASQUE** owner Roger Minhando, who is, yes, a Basque, has the secret to a happy marriage: compromise. He's married to an Irish girl, so his sons are named Patrick and Pierre....Cliff Waldeck is certain the Honorable Hilda Solis got named P-E Obama's secretary of labor because she signed a petition with him about raising the minimum wage in California. Mebbe so. Cliff's a magnetizing guy....Mergers to look for in 2009: Hale Business Systems, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Fuller Brush and W R. Grace Co. will become Hale, Mary, Fuller, Grace....and Victoria's Secret and Smith & Wesson will become...ready?... TittyTittyBangBang!....

**WEIRD STATISTIC:** Four out of 5 people suffer from diarrhea. Does that mean that 1 out of 5 enjoys it?...Can any of you females say you've dated 100 men in a year? Jeannine Kaiser can, and sez her 101st was the person of her dreams, as we now say. To hear her secrets, Oh ye single persons of the other three persuasions, go to the Marin Singles Convention, the largest annual gathering of romantic eligibles in Marin, Fri., Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m., at Servino's in Tiburon. Call Rich Gosse, for more info: 507-9962....

Hasta Pronto!

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