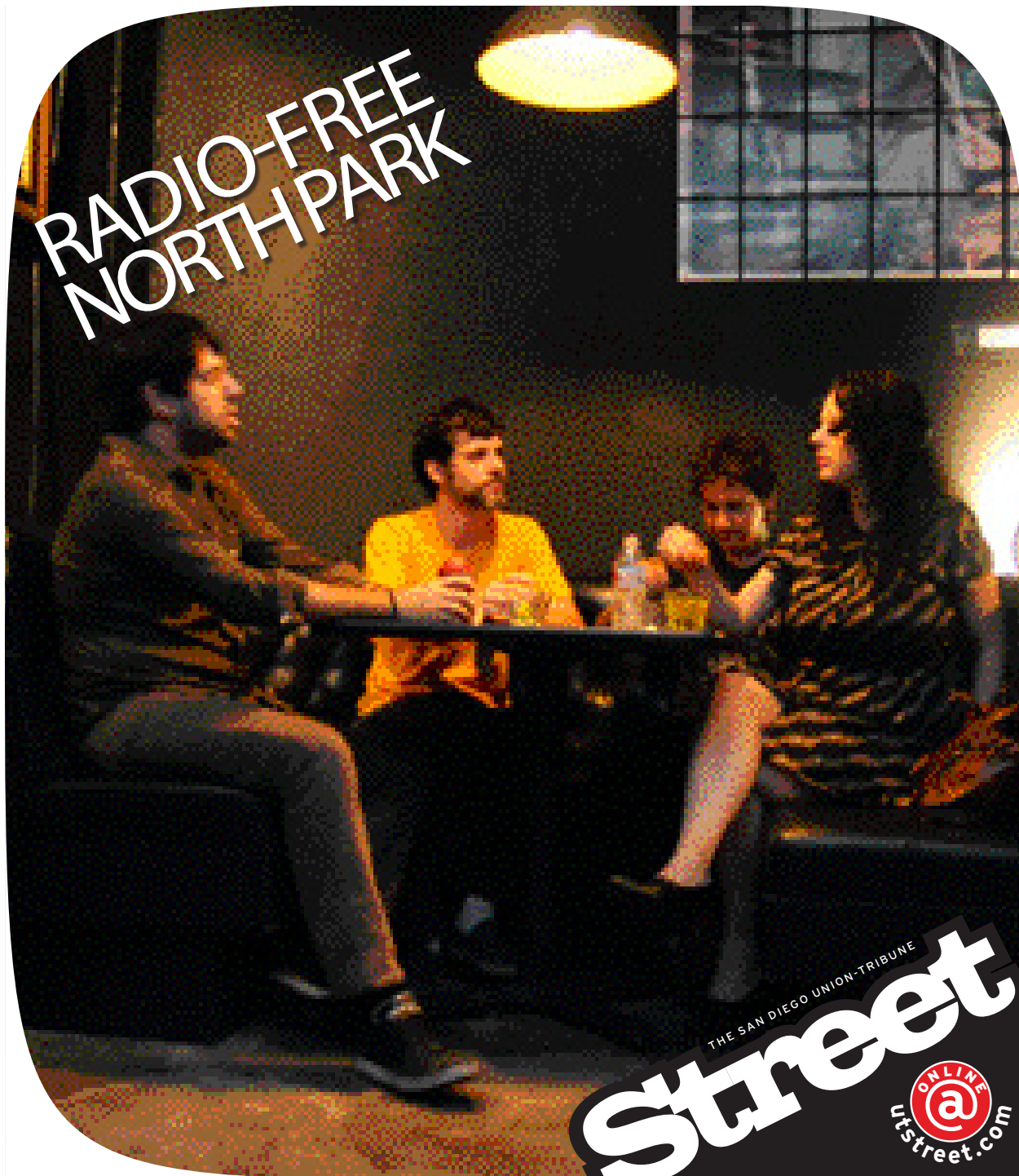


RADIO-FREE NORTH PARK



David Brooks

By **Derrick Chinn**
UTSTREET.COM

Everyone knows a zombie is impossible to kill because it's already dead. But that doesn't mean you can't give it a makeover and a name that doesn't immediately make you think of rotting green skin.

Formerly the Zombie Lounge, the Radio Room no longer feels like the closet of Satan's weekend hideaway. It's more like a living, breathing rendition of a dimly lit Dogs Playing Poker painting; just swap the mutts for cool kids with ink under their skin and an unquenchable thirst for cheap drinks and obscure bands in their blood.

With its bare black walls, black-leather booths and black-and-white tiled floor, you might call it the little black dress of San Diego's live music venues. On the hanger, it may look plain, simple and maybe even a little void of personality. But, on the right body, it never fails to steal the show.

Responsible for the bar's resurrection is Kadan owner Chris Heaney, who beefed up the sound system, widened the stage, nixed the pool table and the jukebox and carved away every dusty item of kitsch that lined the walls.

He decided to hang onto one of the Zombie Lounge's original mission statements, however: to provide the people with no fewer than four bands or DJs a week at a cost that's often nonexistent.

There's plenty of fluffy house and hip-hop to be heard in San Diego's bigger bars, but if you're in the mood for something a little grimmer, you'll find a pulse at the Radio Room.

THE RADIO ROOM, 3519 EL CAJON BLVD., NORTH PARK; (619) 284-3323; 8 P.M. TO 2 A.M. DAILY

WE HEARD ON UTSTREET.COM

Politics? Lots of folks joined the discussion on the vice presential debate, but the most interesting comments this week were about our look at the Washington Street Skatepark. Join the conversation at UTStreet.com:

From Hessians Bro: "whoever wrote this is a complete fool. You should really get your facts straight and learn to write."

From mom: "My kids are there everyday and all the guys who work down there are awesome people. This guy is a complete fool."

From this is worthy editorial?: "I cant believe the UT/SOSD keeps posting Alex Garin's nonsense. There are many, many qualified Action Sports writers in your backyard UT, those whom can write and have something productive to say about the lifestyle that is so integral to our SD culture. Cut this guy off please."

From hessian: "we teach these 'groms' good work ethic by showing them if you work for your skate park this is what you

get, a perfect park hand built by skaters with our own money. if you haven't noticed we have been working really hard to clean up the park, when was the last time you were there alex? if you were there and knew anything about what we do you would have noticed we cleaned up all the bum's garbage and bedding they leave behind. we were also out there sanitizing the park and surrounding area on our saturday for 'free' so next time before you say anything why don't you learn a little bit about where your going and keep an open mind!"

From obviously your not a golfer: "Everyone is entitled to their opinion but you can't just pull it out of your (behind) and pretend to know what your talking about. You did nothing but recycle past negative issues that have already been dealt with. I suggest you actually speak with 'THE HESSIANS' and the kids and do something worth while. Get off the 'Google' and actually talk to someone. The gate is open, come on by and educate yourself on something positive."