

da, president of the San Pedro Bay Historical Society. "I remember Seaside Pharmacy very well, and the soda fountain at La Rue's where lots of com-

gone."

Admission to "Drugstore Days" is free. For special tours, call (310) 832-3189.

## Keep a Y2kool head about the millennium bug

Most computer-lovers are aware that the Internet is crammed with naysayers who equate double-zero dates with the end of the industrialized world.

But two South Bay computer wizards, each an expert at PCs and Macintoshes, respectively, say "nay" to conventional Y2K panic and offer practical advice for small businesses and home computer users.

Dave Nathanson, vice president of the South Bay Macintosh Users Group, said the most important item for Mac users to understand is that while there may be few system hiccups, there will be no rioting in the streets. Small business owners can easily set up automatic backup systems that provide plenty of peace of mind and less wear and tear on the computer.

And even though Nathanson advises Mac users to check with manufacturers of accounting software that may be date-sensitive, he said the creators of Apple computers "have always known the end of the century was coming."

"Mac operating systems and Macintosh computer hardware have always been Y2K-compliant," said Nathanson, a Redondo Beach resident who is better known on the Internet as South Bay's "MacMedix". "I advise everyone to save (data) and save often. And don't neglect to have a strategy for backing up your data."



Additionally, the Mac maestro warns of what he describes as panicky doomsday criers, like the Web site garynorth.com and Art Bell's Y2K survival page, as the worst cases of Y2K hysteria. Their ilk, Nathanson alleged, offer solutions simply by linking users to commercial businesses, to sell them wood-burning stoves, action manuals, water tanks and solar panel systems.

"Southern Californians are used to being ready for earthquakes," Nathanson said. "Preparing for Y2K is similar to preparing for an earthquake."

Ted Vegvari, technical director

for Palos Verdes On The Net, has similar advice for PC users.

"Get the latest version of Windows 98," he said. "Microsoft is not going forward with Y2K certification on Windows 95 to the extent they are with Windows 98."

More information on their position is available on Microsoft.com, he said.

Like Nathanson, Vegvari also advises PC users to back up information on computer systems daily, not weekly or monthly. To a business owner, this step is imperative, he said. And he reminds users that many upgrades are free, simply by contacting program manufacturers.

"Make absolutely certain you don't have an old motherboard, and try to update the BIOS — the basic input and output system," said Vegvari, who oversees the most advanced nonprofit technical center in Southern California. "The closer you get to the year 2000, the more likely (popular programs) are going to raise their little heads and cause bugs."

— Deborah Paul

# The Art of Noise

Susan  
of clay

STEFANIE FRITH

South Bay Weekly

Up above the Korean Bell in San Pedro, in a small studio in an old Army barracks, the sounds of the jungle can be heard: A hyena, monkeys, trees rustling and the wind blowing.

Then the sounds slowly settle down to a soft hum and disappear. Susan Rawcliffe lays down the tiny ball and tube flute she has been playing and raises her eyebrows.

"You can really hear the spirit coming through," she says.

Rawcliffe has heard it for more than 25 years, when she discovered she had a unique talent for designing and making her own musical instruments out of clay. She had been using a friend's ceramic studio in Paris and playing with the clay when she designed her first "ocarina" — a tiny, whistlelike instrument. Then, she says, things just went from there.

"It was just on a whim," Rawcliffe says. "I started making even more instruments and taught myself to play them. I began to study pre-Columbian wind instruments, and what I make now is inspired by that art."

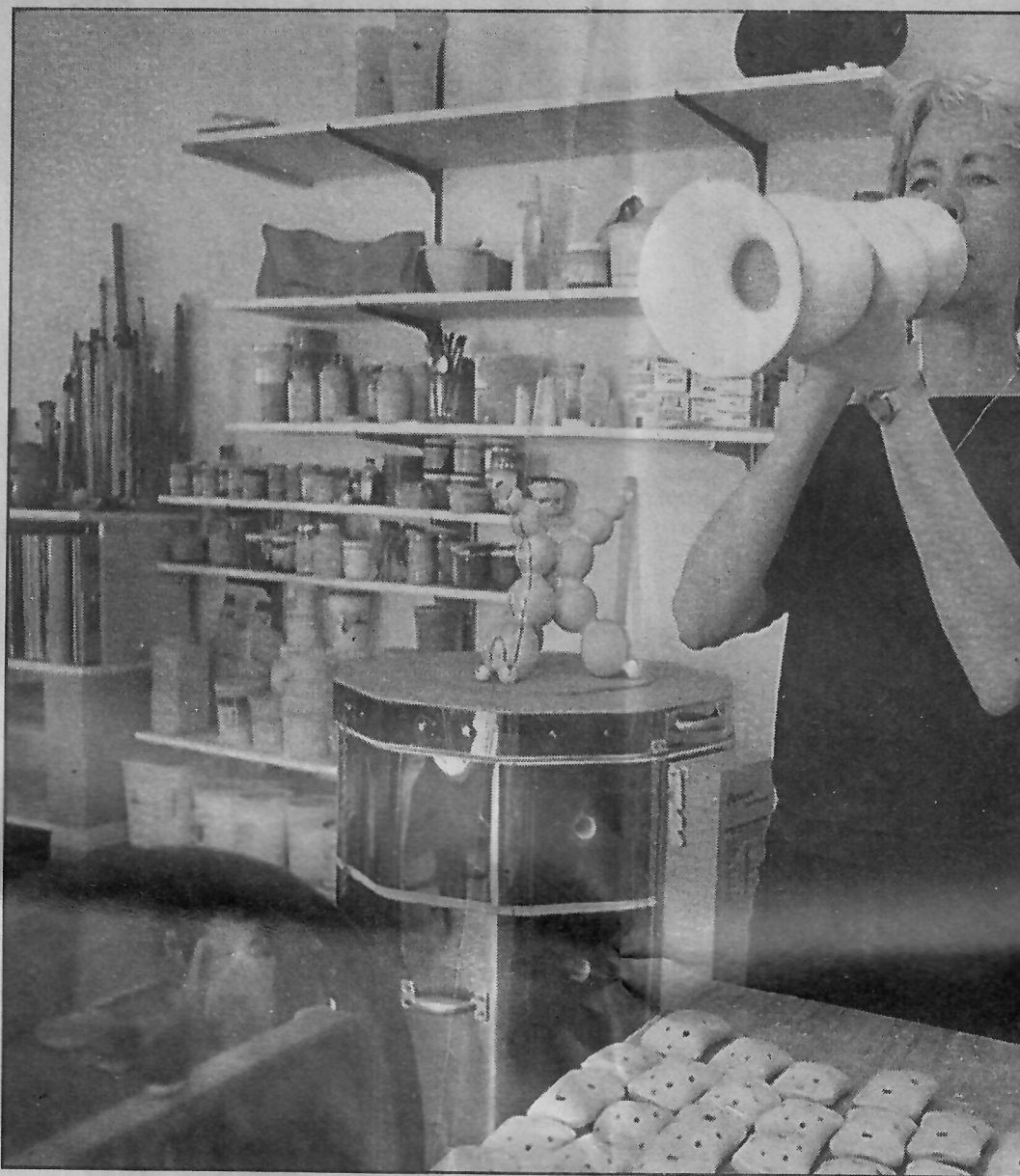
Working on and off as a teacher (she has a Bachelor of Arts in English), Rawcliffe began to give lectures on — and performances of — her newfound art in places like the Smithsonian Institute and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She has done craft fairs and workshops. And has even performed on Broadway. And Europe, too.

"You have to practice with

these instruments to see which ones sound good together," she says. "I started playing with other

people and designing instruments that a couple of people could use at one time," she says, pointing to

a three-person whistle she made. "You study these things making them."



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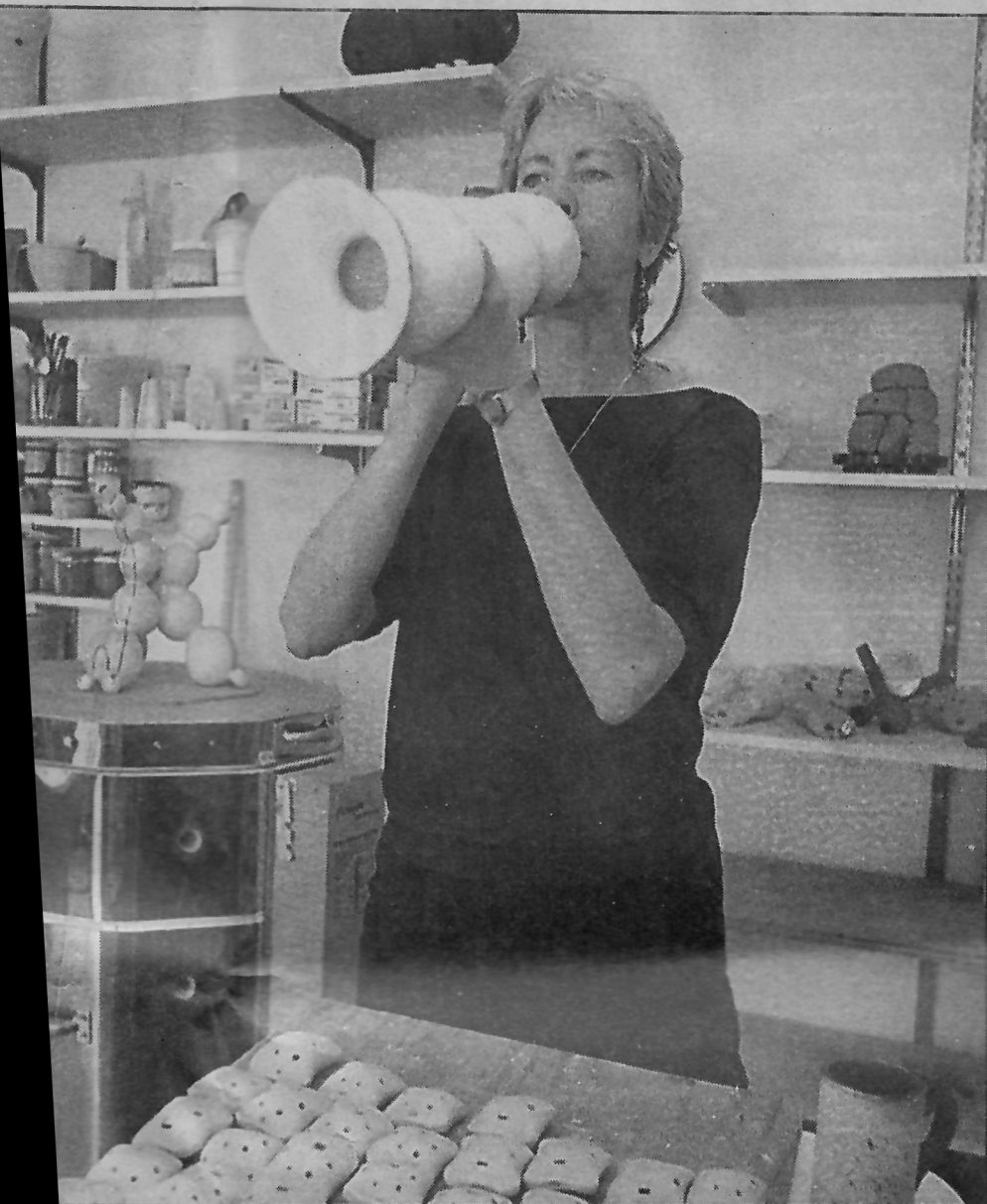
STEFANIE

South Bay



# Noise

Susan Rawcliffe sculpts artwork out of clay — and then turns it into music



**San Pedro artist Susan Rawcliffe practices on the ceramic polyglobular trumpet that she made in her studio. Her current project is making the ocarino whistles below her on the table.**

CARL HIDALGO / SOUTH BAY WEEKLY

group about four years ago.

That's when she started "Many Axes," a wind-and-percussion trio that performed June 17 at the James Armstrong Theatre in Torrance. Rawcliffe and Scott Wilkinson played her pre-Columbian wind instruments, while Brad Dutz played percussion. The trio put out an album about six months ago.

"We have tried different combinations of people, but we are the three that click," says Wilkinson, who works for the *Stereophile Guide To Home Theater* magazine. "That is the key, because when we perform, we are almost entirely improvisational. We play until we find something we like, and then look at each other and nod, 'Go!'"

Because Rawcliffe lives in San Pedro and Wilkinson and Dutz live in the San Fernando Valley, it makes it difficult to practice as much as they would like. But Rawcliffe says she tries to play her creations as much as she can, either in her apartment or in the studio with her cat Brindle.

"It's invigorating to practice, and I really like to play," she says. "Brindle likes some of the instruments I play and will come over and listen.

But others, she just runs away from."

and designing instruments a couple of people could use me," she says, pointing to

a three-person whistle she had made. "You study these things by making them."

Rawcliffe's desire to play her instruments with other people inspired her to form a musical

## A LOOK BACK

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