

Express check-in

Gossip, hot topics and other news you'll use

FOLLOW THAT STAR

IT'S been a while since we heard from **Alanis Morissette** — possibly because she won't stop traveling. The

wandering minstrel tells contributor **Lisa Arcella** that for her, it's all about **Asia**. "I adore it there: **Japan, India, Tibet, Nepal**. In general I feel like I must have been from there in another life. One of my favorite places on the

planet is **Dharamsala** in northern India where all the Tibetans are in exile and where the **Dalai Lama** lives."

Comedienne **Rain Pryor** (daughter of Richard) was making attendees of a Jewish Women's Archive benefit

laugh at the **Copa** a couple of weeks ago. When she's not working, she tells **Laurie Heffetz** that she can be found at the **Hana Ranch Hotel, in Hanalei, Hawaii**. "We go there often. It's the one place I went when I was a little kid



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Aidan Quinn
(below)
hearts Turks
& Caicos.



with my dad all the time — he used to have a house in Hana. It's the one place I have a lot of fond memories. When I reach Hana, everyone's like, "Welcome, home." I know a lot of the people there from when I was a kid."

Over at the **GLAAD Media Awards**, **Billy Crystal** copped out with "every day's a vacation," but **Bruce Vilanch**, donned in a T-Shirt that pronounced him a "Porn Scene Investigator" (oy, our sides are splitting), the corpulent comic told us that he once smoked so much weed, he woke up in Bermuda, where he'd been for 10 days, without knowing it.

The stars shone a little brighter over at the Food Bank For New York City benefit, where **Aidan Quinn** was raking up a storm about the **Turks & Caicos**, the sunny island chain south of the Bahamas that are the new hotness. "Every couple of years I get away to some Caribbean island with my wife for five days — we lay on the beach and read novels. I love doing that. We stayed at **Parrot Cay** — that was some years ago." Earlier on, he had more of a sense of adventure — I went all over **Ireland** and all over **America** when I was younger, hitchhiking and that."

BEACH BOOM

NEARLY a half-dozen major resorts have debuted on the **Southern California** coastline in the past five years — now, a series of small hotels are going head to head with such luxury powerhouses as the **Montage Resort & Spa** in **Laguna Beach**. The kitsch **Barnabey's** hotel in **Manhattan Beach** was gutted and relaunched this month as **The Belamar** — an aggres-

hammer away on their laptops. Just how that all pans out remains to be seen — the hotel is located on unsexy **Sepulveda Boulevard**, a bit far from the beach. On **San Diego's Pacific Beach**, the **Tower23** hotel is being positioned as the "first luxury beachfront hotel in **San Diego** in a decade," and has a cool location directly next door to a lifeguard tower. The property has 44 suites, and looks a bit stark, but this "urban beach resort" will definitely boost the area. Up in **Santa Monica**, the **Radisson** is going upscale, relaunching as **The Huntley Hotel**. What was once a dependable, business-like property has been overhauled by the designer responsible for the trendy **Koi** nightspot. The 188 rooms and 21 suites are v. sleek, echoing the best of 50's and 60's style. A spa debuts this summer.

by NYPT staff

