

International, a computer consulting firm, explained that he has a split personality. While part of Richard's life is being an adult business professional, the other part of him is a Nintendo and rollercoaster loving twelve-year-old kid. He explained, "There's a part of me that knows how to be a business person, but doesn't dress like one, and there is another part of me that is nothing like that. Half of my personality is twelve and the other part is actually really, really old, but the twelve-year-old part gets to have a lot of fun. When I want to have a fun day, I do things like go down to Paramount's Great America or Six Flags Marine World and ride rollercoasters. I do all kinds of twelve-year-old stuff. My favorite hobby is Nintendo games. There's a part of me that doesn't behave like an adult, which is very cool because that means that the adult part can go out and run a business and make money. Then I can use the money for the little kid part of me and go crazy with it. I have more money than most twelve-year-olds."



FastForward reporters in front of the "Disembodied Princess."



The girls get into one of the cars at PlayLand.

When it came to deciding what to do with his money, the choice was easy for Richard. Growing up, he had a difficult childhood. As a kid, he would beg his parents to take him to an amusement park called Playland at the Beach. All year long he looked forward to his rare trips to the amusement park on Ocean Beach in San Francisco. Richard loved the games, the famous roller coaster called the

Big Dipper, unbelievable sideshows, penny games, fortune tellers, and a memorable character named Laughing Sal. Playland was an amusement park for everyone. Families could stay and play for three or four hours with only a quarter. Because of its low cost and availability to the public, it was very important to a lot of people. Many people have fond memories of Playland and were devastated to see it torn down in September, 1972 and heartbroken when it was replaced with apartment buildings and a Safeway supermarket. That is why 32 years later, Richard is recreating the amusement park in the back of his office in El Cerrito.

Best of all, when it is finished, Richard's wonderland will be available to everyone — and it will be completely free. The amusement park/museum will cater to anyone who is sick, young, old, poor, or unhappy. Food,

games, and fun will be unlimited and the visitors will have a great time. Richard hopes that the museum will be able to open this year. Today, Richard is working to complete the museum filled with goodies and mementos from the original amusement park. Every weekend, volunteers help make Richard's dream and the dreams of hundreds of people who will someday visit Playland come true. Richard and the volunteers paint, decorate, build, nail, and glue to finish Playland. Richard plans to open Playland as soon as the construction is finished. The more volunteers who come out to help, the faster the work will get done and the sooner Playland will be able to open. After questioning people about their favorite parts of Playland, he is rebuilding the favorites.

continued on page 33



Richard Tuck shows a jacket from the original Playland At the Beach.

GOOD EARTH NATURAL FOODS

**OPEN EVERYDAY 9-8PM • 1966 SIR FRANCIS DRAKE BLVD. • FAIRFAX
454-0123 OR 456-3418 • GOODEARTHNATURALFOODS.NET**

**Where great
tasting food
is organic!**

