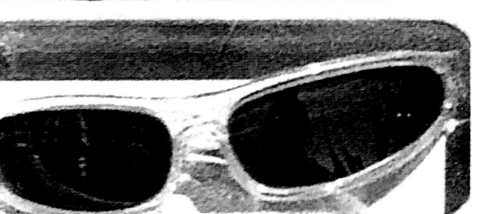
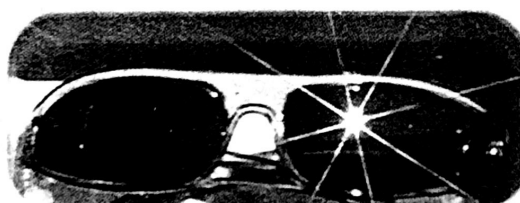
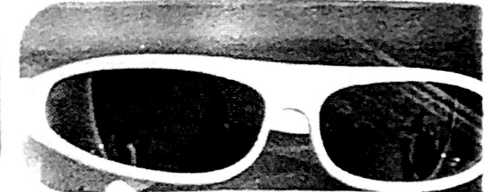
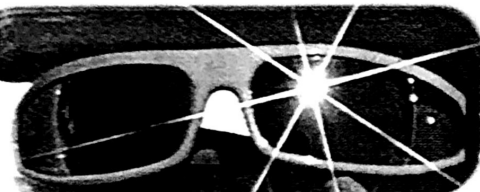
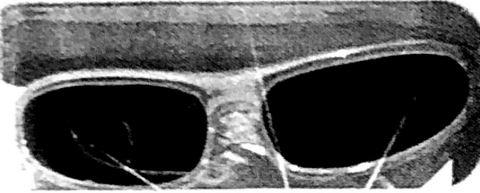
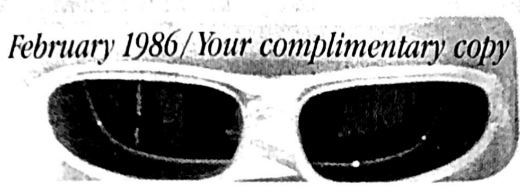


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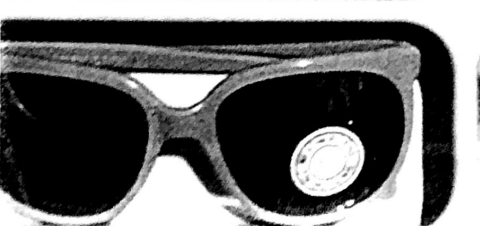
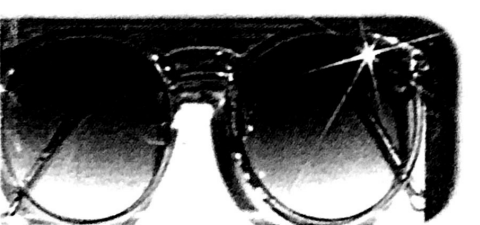
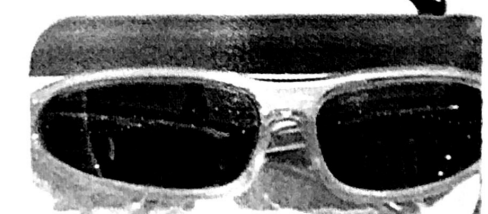
February 1986/Your complimentary copy



HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU,

L.A.

101 SPECTACULAR THINGS
TO SEE AND DO



EAST WEST NETWORK INC.

REPUBLIC MAGAZINE/101 SPECTACULAR THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN L.A. FEBRUARY 1986 ONLY

Why Visit L.A.?

We've got 101 excellent reasons.



When we set out to assemble a definitive list of Los Angeles's most singular attractions, we consulted the experts. For advice on which museums and galleries to spotlight, we called upon Hunter Drohojowska, who covers the art beat for Los Angeles and national art publications. Larry Gordon, a *Los Angeles Times* bureau chief, shared with us his favorite one-of-a-kind landmarks and musical venues. Janice Wald Henderson, a national food writer, dished up ten exquisite restaurants. Tom Johnson, a contributor to several L.A. publications, divulged his lists of hot spots and memorable Hollywood experiences. *Esquire* travel writer Jane E. Lasky checked in with ten luxury hotel touts. Joe Levy, a *People* person and renowned bibliophile, told us about his special book haunts. Catherine Seipp, who explores trendy topics for L.A. newspapers, contributed her lists of not-to-be-missed strolls, views, rides and shopping sprees. Her sister, Michele Seipp, a comedic actress, delivered her line on the city's best comedy clubs. Richard Stayton, the *L.A. Herald's* drama critic, reviewed the theater scene. And *Herald* society editor Jeannine Stein made us privy to Hollywood's celebrity hangouts. Here is their list of 101 reasons you should see their city for yourself. Enjoy!

ONE-OF-A-KIND SIGHTS

Los Angeles's main industries are devoted to fantasy. So don't be surprised to find a hot dog stand that looks like a giant hot dog or houses that resemble Roman villas or medieval castles. The best L.A. landmarks all share the same air of wonderful unreality, as if all the world were a movie studio lot.

1. MANN'S CHINESE THEATER. This enormous pagoda-style movie palace opened in 1927. In its front courtyard are hand-, foot-, leg-, nose- or hoofprints of 160 cinema stars, from Monroe to Eastwood, from Pickford to R2D2. Legend says Norma Talmadge began it all by accidentally stepping in wet cement. Actually, impresario Sid Grauman simply thought of a brilliant way to make his theater and himself immortal. The place is now owned by the Mann theater chain, but most inscriptions are to "Sid." Don't miss Betty Grable's leg and John Barrymore's profile. There aren't many lavish premieres here anymore, but it is a first-run house. 6925 Hollywood Boulevard; 464-8111.

2. FOREST LAWN MEMORIAL PARK. There are four now, but the original in Glendale is the one to visit. It is a Disneyland for the dead, complete with subdivisions named Slumberland and Whispering Pines, overpowering statuary, a stained-glass version of *The Last Supper* and a nifty gift shop. Many stars are buried here, like Clark Gable and Jean Harlow, but the guards are not allowed to point out their "resting places." You can search the mortuaries by yourself. Admission is free. Gate open 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily. 1712 South Glendale Av-

enue; 254-3131.

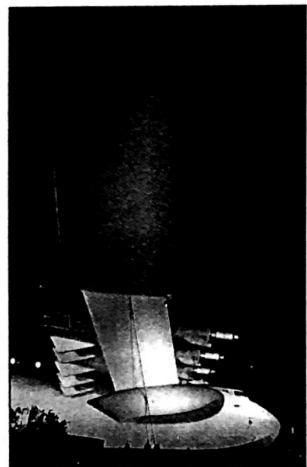
3. OCEAN FRONT WALK IN VENICE. Even in this era of new conservatism, weirdos have a home along the beach here. This is a living museum of every strange California trend in lifestyle, fashion and music. A weekend stroll in the sun will let you see beatniks, hippies,



MELBA LEVICK

punks, chain-saw jugglers, roller skaters, fire-eaters, weight lifters, mystics, masseurs and mimes. You'll also see folk, jazz and rock performers and lots of stalls selling cheap T-shirts that make swell souvenirs. It's the best free show in town, except that you probably should park in a paid lot because on-street parking is very tight.

4. QUEEN MARY AND SPRUCE GOOSE. Long Beach is home to two superlatives: the largest passenger ocean liner afloat and the largest wooden aircraft



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ever built. After thirty years of transatlantic luxury, the *Queen Mary* was docked here in 1964 and converted into a floating complex of hotel rooms, restaurants and shops. The 200-

ton Spruce Goose was the prototype of what was to be a fleet of air cargo carriers. But it made only one flight, lasting less than a minute and getting only seventy feet above Long Beach harbor. In the pilot's seat was its owner, Howard Hughes. Now, like a turkey under glass, the Goose is permanently landed under a gigantic dome. Both the ship and plane are located at Pier J. Admission to both is \$10.95 for adults, \$6.95 for children. 435-4747.

5. WATTS TOWERS. Amid a neighborhood made famous by a race riot, this extremely unusual monument to the human spirit is one man's attempt to create his own form of beauty in a rough world. Immigrant tile-cutter Simon Rodia spent thirty-three years building his graceful backyard towers out of pottery chips, broken soda bottles, seashells and a very powerful imagination. The city later wanted to demolish the spindly structures, which reach more than one hundred feet high, but protests saved them; now they are a city monument under restoration. A community arts center has been built next door. This is either a masterpiece or Rodia's folly. Judge for yourself. No admission fee. 1765 East 107th Street.

CELEBRITY-WATCHING HAUNTS

A trip to Los Angeles just isn't complete without catching sight of at least one movie star. The city is loaded with them; you just have to know where they hang out. The famed Polo Lounge at the Beverly Hills Hotel isn't the only place to see big-league celebs. Here are some other possibilities:

6. MATTEO'S. An older movie star crowd wanders in here Sunday nights to catch up on the news of the biz with their friends. There won't be any Brat Packers here, just veterans like Lucille Ball. 2321 Westwood Boulevard; 475-4521.

7. MORTONS. Those who have dined at Mortons have seldom been disappointed by not seeing anyone famous. This is definitely a hot Hollywood crowd, and patrons have included Sean Connery, Roger Moore, Rod Stewart and Bob Dylan. Bodyguards usually wait in the bar. 8800 Melrose Avenue; 276-1253.

8. IRVINE RANCH FARMER'S MARKET. Even celebrities have to eat, and sometimes they even do their own grocery shopping. While mere mortals cruise the aisles at Safeway or Ralphs, movie stars go to the Irvine Ranch Farmer's Market, a gourmet paradise that caters to the rich and famous. The best place to spot them is by the pasta salad counter weekdays, early morning or late afternoon (that's where we noticed Jamie Lee Curtis and the late Peter Lawford having a conversation once). Never venture there in the evening when the proletariats are buying mayonnaise. 142 South San Vicente; 657-1931.

9. RODEO DRIVE. Professional paparazzi know the value of hanging out on ritzy Rodeo Drive, since they almost always get their celebrity quarry. At Giorgio (273 North Rodeo Drive; 205-2400) you might spot Loretta Swit, Merv Griffin, Sylvester Stallone or Robert Wagner buying up a new wardrobe. TS Bambini, the Torie Steele boutique for children (414 North Rodeo Drive; 271-5150), is where you'll find famous moms like Pia Zadora and Jaclyn Smith snatching up Valentino for their bambini. Don't forget Gucci (347 North Rodeo Drive; 278-3451) and Van Cleef & Arpels for celebrity consumers of pricey jewelry (300 North Rodeo Drive; 276-1161). Between Wilshire Boulevard and Santa Monica Boulevard, Beverly Hills.

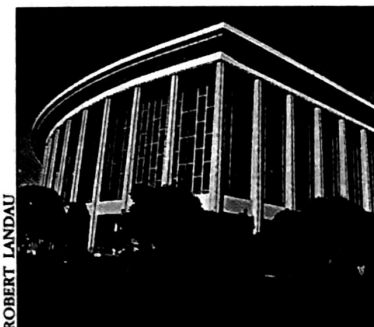
10. MORT'S PALISADES DELI. Breakfast at Mort's is unlike breakfast anywhere else, probably because you never know what star will drop in next to

order bacon and eggs in his jogging clothes. Chevy Chase just opened a charge account there, so you know he's stuck on the place. 1035 Swarthmore, Pacific Palisades; 454-5511.

CONCERT HALLS

Los Angeles used to have an inferiority complex about its range of music. Not anymore. To be sure, opera fans rely heavily on visiting troupes from San Francisco and Europe. But even a prima donna could not shrug off the nightly offerings of symphonies, chamber groups, big bands, rock and pop. Here's a sampler of the most important concert halls:

11. THE DOROTHY CHANDLER PAVILION. Named after the matriarch of the *Los Angeles Times* family, this is where the Power Establishment and the Music Establishment mix. Its 3,250-seat hall is designed to



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impress you with its marble walls and crystal chandeliers. It is home to the L.A. Philharmonic (whose new maestro is Andre Previn) and the Master Chorale, and is where visiting troupes such as the Berlin Opera aim for high-brow audiences and high visibility. Even the Academy Awards take place here. The Chandler is part of the Music Center. 135 North Grand Avenue; 972-7211.

12. THE HOLLYWOOD BOWL. With room for 17,000, this is one of the biggest outdoor amphitheatres in the world. Because of its location in the lovely Hollywood Hills, it is also one of the most beloved.

The acoustics are awesome and so is the talent. Its spring and summer season under the stars include everything from Gershwin to Bach, from Mel Torme to Kiri Te Kanawa, from the Philharmonic to the Artie Shaw band. Parking can be a hassle, so get there early. Bring a picnic dinner, a seat cushion and a jacket for those delightfully cool evenings. 2301 North Highland Avenue; 850-2000.

13. THE SHRINE AUDITORIUM. A critic once described the design of this sixty-year-old landmark as "neo-penal Baghdad." On the outside, it looks like a giant mosque; inside the 6,200-seat auditorium, a swag ceiling makes it feel like a wealthy sheikh's tent. This used to be *the* spot in town until the Chandler came along in 1964. It still hosts gospel, R&B and chorale concerts, as well as ballet and the Grammy Awards. A wintertime tradition is *The Nutcracker* à la Baryshnikov. 665 West Jefferson Boulevard; 748-5116.

14. ROYCE HALL. This jewel of the UCLA campus in Westwood has become a major showcase for acclaimed symphonies, chamber groups, duos and soloists from around the world. But the feeling in its 2,000-seat room is still intimate and far from starchy. Recent performers have included the American Youth Symphony and the brilliant Korean violinist Kyung Wha Chung. Above it all, the campus carillon rings with sweet music at noon every day. 825-9261.

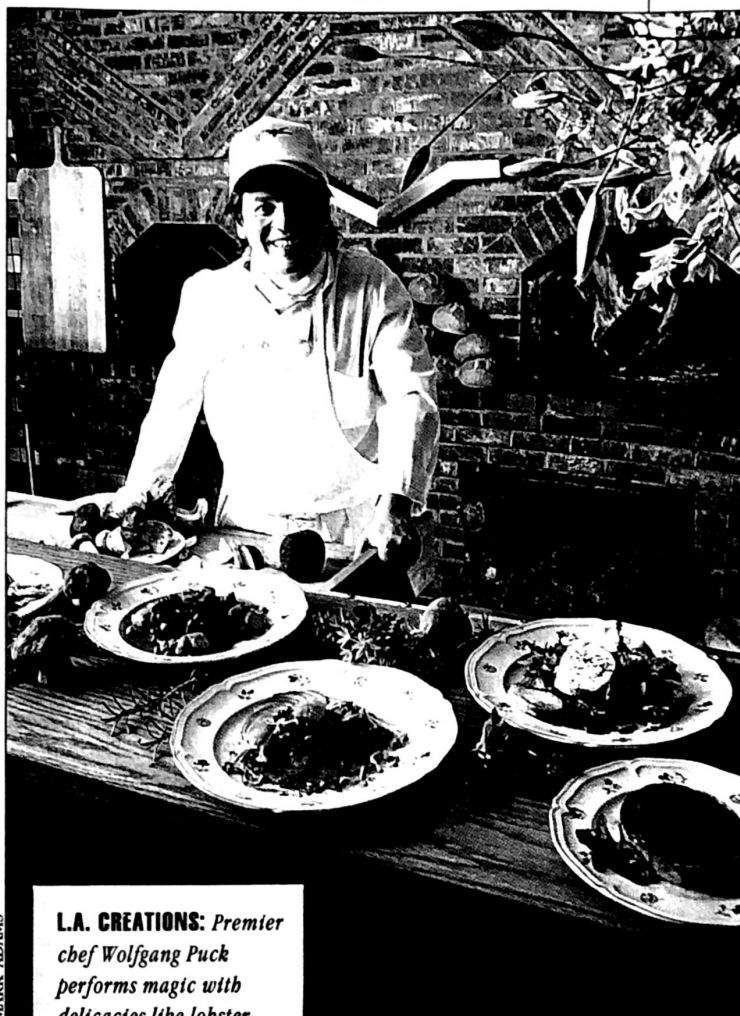
15. THE GREEK THEATRE. Now that the city has handed over the management of this Griffith Park amphitheater to the Nederlander organization, the tone is hipper. Behind the columns of the classical façade, the rock beat is likely to be heard. Last summer's guests included Aretha Franklin; Adam Ant; Sting, and Crosby, Stills and Nash. Seats 6,000 in the open air from June to October. 2700 North Vermont Avenue; 216-6666.

MUSEUMS

Just five years ago, visitors considered the concept of "art" and "Los Angeles" to be mutually exclusive. The museums displayed little interest in contemporary art, and even exhibitions of more traditional art were greeted by yawns. No longer. By the end of this year, new acquisitions, exciting exhibitions and new museum buildings guarantee Los Angeles the liveliest art scene west of New York City.

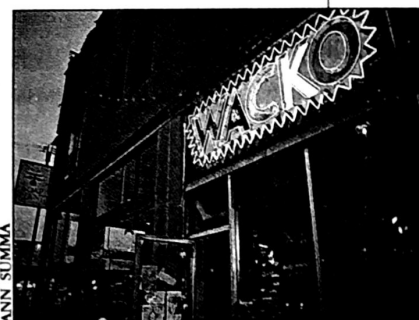
16. L.A. COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART. Since the appointment of Director Earl A. (Rusty) Powell III in 1980, this general interest museum has greatly expanded its collections of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century American and Old Master European paintings. It has also acquired Shin'enkan Collection of Edo period Japanese paintings, to be housed in a new pavilion opening in 1987. LACMA also acquired the Robert Gore Rifkind collection of German Expressionist graphic art and its library. The museum's growing collection of modern and contemporary art will be housed in the 115,200-square-foot Robert O. Anderson Gallery, which opens this November with a survey called "The Spiritual in Art." 5905 Wilshire Boulevard; 937-2590.

17. J. PAUL GETTY MUSEUM. Housed in a re-creation of a first-century A.D. Pompeian villa overlooking the Pacific, the Getty is the richest museum in the world, continually adding to its renowned collections of French decorative arts, Greek and Roman antiquities and Western European paintings. In 1984, the Getty bought more than fifty thousand fine art photographs, some of which will be exhibited this September. An unparalleled collection of medieval manuscripts was also acquired, which will be included in the exhibition "Liturgical Manuscripts" through March. 17985 West Pacific Coast Highway;



MARK ADAMS

L.A. CREATIONS: Premier chef Wolfgang Puck performs magic with delicacies like lobster-topped pizza at Spago (above); ultratrendy Melrose Avenue (right) offers avant-garde boutiques and hip restaurants; and the spacious Margo Leavin Gallery (below) presents blue-chip artists and promising newcomers.



ANN SUMMA



DOUGLAS M. PARKER STUDIO

458-2003.

18. MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART. This spunky institution opened in 1983 in a warehouse refurbished by Frank O. Gehry and called the Temporary Contemporary. This year the museum offers shows of work by Jonathon Borofsky and Red Grooms, opening in March; the Barry Lowan collec-



tion and photographs by W. Eugene Smith in mid-June. The museum's permanent headquarters, designed by Arata Isozaki, opens next December with a survey show tentatively titled "Individuals: A Selective History of Contemporary Art, 1945-1986." But MOCA will keep what they call the T.C. for a combined exhibition space of 85,000 square feet. 152 North Central Avenue, Little Tokyo; 382-MOCA.

19. HUNTINGTON LIBRARY, ART GALLERY AND BOTANICAL GARDENS. The gallery houses one of the finest collections of British paintings and decorative arts from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries outside of London, including Thomas Gainsborough's *Blue Boy* and Sir Thomas Lawrence's *Pinky*. The art is housed in the 1902 mansion of railroad magnate Henry E. Huntington. The library includes over half a million rare books and manuscripts, including one of the twelve Gutenberg Bibles. On the 220 acres of grounds, a dozen gardens are devoted to a single plant or environment, such as the formal Shakespeare Garden, planted only with flora from the era of the Bard. The new Virginia Steele Scott Gallery,

added last year, includes American art from 1730 to the 1930s. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino; (818) 405-2275.

20. NORTON SIMON MUSEUM OF ART. Simon has compiled one of the finest private collections west of New York, including six centuries of European painting, Indian and Southeast Asian sculpture, and monumental nineteenth- and twentieth-century European sculptures. A few highlights are the cache of sixty-nine Degas bronzes, the major Rembrandt portraits such as *Titus*, or Zubaran's famed *Still Life with Lemons, Oranges and a Rose*. Simon also owns major paintings by such modern artists as Picasso, Matisse, Renoir, Gauguin and others. 411 West Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena; (818) 449-3730.

GALLERIES

Since 1980, the number of art galleries in L.A. has increased from about twenty to more than eighty. When you consider that many spend \$30,000 a month just to stay in business, it is clear that there is a very active art community out there. Most of the galleries are now concentrated in the West Hollywood area, and, as most art dealers agree, the more the merrier. Now a visitor can walk from Asher/Faure to Daniel Weinberg to Larry Gagosian to Kuhlenschmidt/Simon—a remarkable feat in Los Angeles. Here are a few more important stops:

21. MARGO LEAVIN GALLERY. Here is the best of the New York blue-chip artists mixed with promising younger artists from both coasts. Leavin represents more than the usual quota of sculptors who are shown to great advantage in her massive Hilldale gallery. See Mark Lere sculpture in March, Lois Lane paintings and Dan Flavin sculpture in April. 812 North Robertson Boulevard and 817 North Hilldale Avenue; 273-0603.

22. KUHLENSCHMIDT/SIMON GALLERY. Richard Kuhlenschmidt, long known as the most avant-garde, cutting-edge gallery, partial to artists of a conceptual background, has joined forces with Joan Simon Menkis, one of the first to exhibit "functional art" (that is, furniture and ceramics by fine artists). The combination is idiosyncratic, creative and consistently provocative. See Phil Garner in February and Harry Anderson in March. 9000 Melrose Avenue; 276-9786 or 828-8200.

23. ROSAMUND FELSEN GALLERY. If there is any such thing as a gallery representing artists who seem to have their fingers on the pulse of society, Felsen has it. An active member of the L.A. art scene since the sixties, she has recruited an intense crew of highly intelligent, occasionally loony artists, many full of L.A.'s sensibility in the most positive sense of going out on a limb and not looking back. See Robert Ackerman's paintings in March and the terra-cotta reliefs of Steve Rogers in May. 669 North La Cienega Boulevard; 652-9172.

24. L.A. LOUVER GALLERIES. Owner Peter Goulds indulges his preference for fine painting with a good selection of British and other European artists, but combines them with California artists from the seminal assemblage tradition, such as Ed Kienholz. See paintings by Charles Garabedian in February, Bernd Koberling and Francesco Clemente in April, George Herms in May and David Hockney's first L.A. painting show in November. 77 Market Street, or 55 North Venice Boulevard; 822-4955.

25. BURNETT MILLER GALLERY. One of the newest additions to L.A.'s gallery scene, showing a tasteful blend of neo-expressionist and conceptual artists, from Europe, New York and L.A. See Serge Spitzer's drawings (through February 22), Ulay and Marina Abramovic's Polaroids (March

1 to April 5) and Lee Jaffee's paintings (April 12 to May 17). 964 North La Brea; 874-4757.

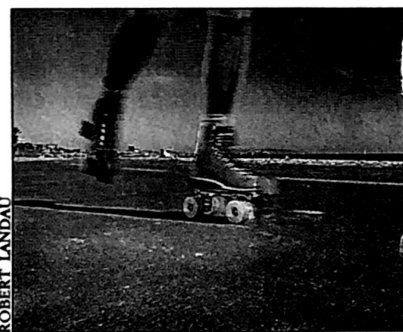
RIDES

In Los Angeles, people would rather ride than walk, and they would rather do it in style. Here's how to get around:

26. LUXURY RENTAL CARS. You are what you drive here. And although a rental sticker reduces a luxury car somewhat in status, it's still likely to impress all but the most jaded parking valet. If you want a Rolls-Royce or Stutz Blackhawk, call Rolls-Royce Rent-a-Car in Hollywood, at 659-5055. For an Alfa-Romeo, Mercedes-Benz, Jaguar or Peugeot, try Showcase Rental Cars near the airport, at 670-7002. If you're trendy, call Walker Brothers AMC Jeeps near downtown, at 733-0112.

27. PEDI-CYCLES. Driving in Westwood is a hassle, but being chauffeured around in a bicycle-powered rickshaw is a delight. If you're going to see a movie and don't feel like walking for blocks to a restaurant, treat yourself to one of these pedicycles. They're Los Angeles's versions of Central Park's handsome cabs.

28. SKATES AND CYCLES. This is the fun way to tour Venice beach. Rental places line the boardwalk, which on sunny



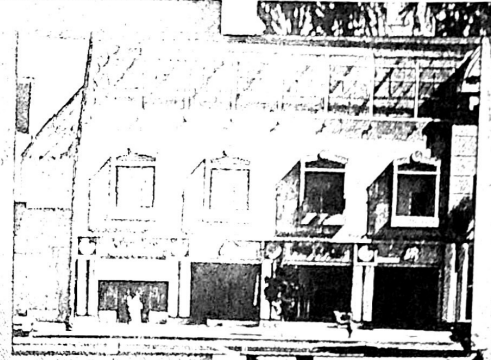
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days is crowded with skaters, bicyclists and dog walkers. If you want to be totally California, eat an ice cream cone while you skate or cycle.

29. THE FAIRFAX TROLLEY. This little trolley (actually, it's just a bus decorated to look



STYLISH DELIGHTS: Fun fashions are available at Esprit's high-tech flagship store (left); the new Westside Pavilion presents service and fashion within a pastel façade (above); the Beverly Hills Hotel creates a resort atmosphere perfect for celebrities.



like a trolley) is a godsend for anyone wanting to avoid the traffic and parking problems of the congested West Hollywood area. The route hits four major tourist attractions: boutique-lined Melrose Avenue, the decorator showrooms on Robertson Boulevard, the Farmer's Market and the Beverly Center. It runs from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and costs \$.25.

30. HORSEBACK RIDING. If you'd like an unusual, relaxing way to see Los Angeles, try the weekly horseback rides at the Sunset Hollywood Stables in Hollywood. Every Friday at 5:00, the rental stables lead a group of riders over the Hollywood Hills to a Mexican restaurant in the Valley and back. The outing takes five-and-a-half hours and costs \$17 excluding dinner. 3400 North Beech-

wood; 469-5450.

NIGHTCLUBS

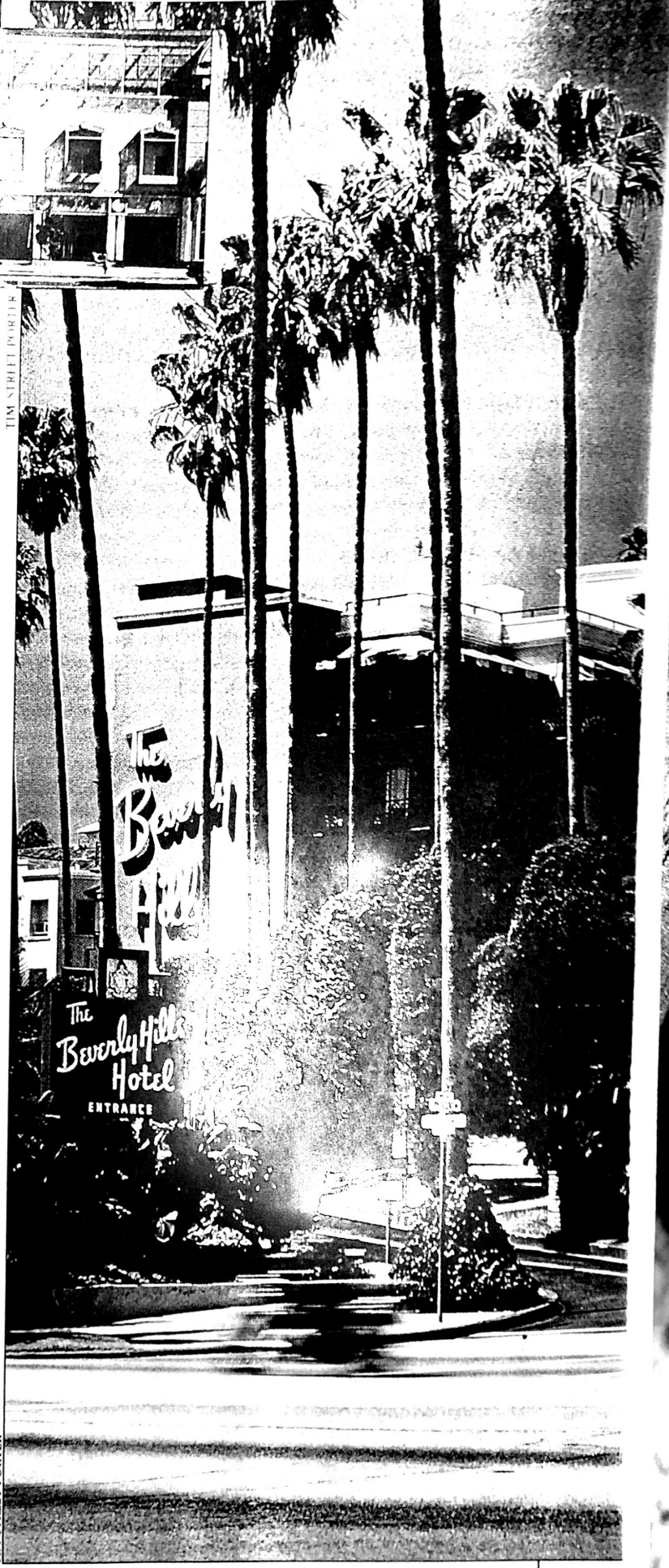
The number of musicians and performers in Los Angeles is staggering. And they are all looking to get discovered or keep on top of the heap. The record industry supports scores of heavy rock clubs such as the Palace and the Roxy. But people with more worldly tastes can have their fill too:

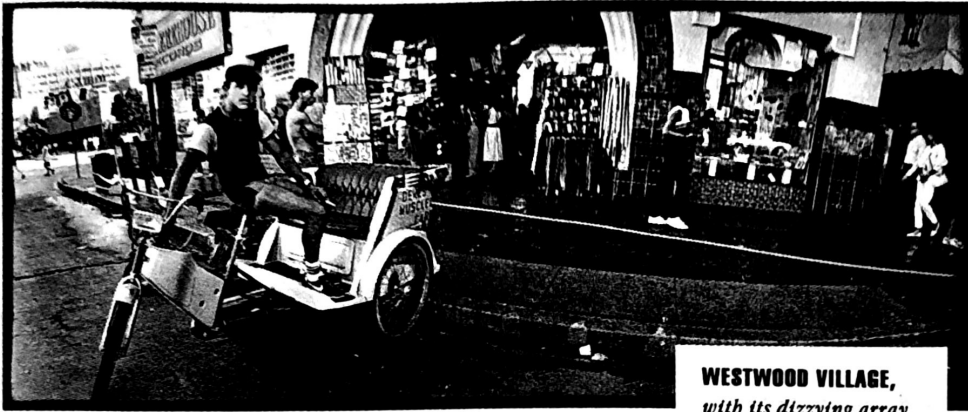
31. THE VINE STREET BAR AND GRILL. This elegant Hollywood dinner club opened only three years ago but already is one of the West Coast's best showcases for big-name blues and jazz artists. Recent performers included Eartha Kitt, Cab Calloway, Carmen McRae and Joe Williams. The dining room seats sixty, with room for forty more at the bar. The show

TIM STREET PORTER

TOSCANI

TIM STREET PORTER





WESTWOOD VILLAGE,
with its dizzying array
of boutiques,
restaurants and first-
run movie theaters, is a
fun place to stroll—or
to hail a pedt-cycle.

ANN SUMMA

is visible from both. Ticket prices vary but are usually \$10 a person at tables, plus the cost of dinner; \$7 at the bar plus a two-drink minimum. Reservations recommended. 1610 North Vine Street; 463-4375.

32. McCABE'S GUITAR SHOP. Its front really is a guitar and music shop. But in back you'll discover why this mellow Santa Monica landmark bills itself as "L.A.'s most intimate concert hall." Its 150-seat back room has long been a local spiritual headquarters for folkies and blues fans. Taj Mahal, Tom Paxton and Kenny Rankin play there regularly. In keeping with the atmosphere, no alcohol is sold. The espresso, cheese and muffins fit the venue and audiences better. Tickets are usually \$9.50; on variety nights, \$3. 3101 Pico Boulevard; 828-4403.

33. CARLOS' N CHARLIE'S. The upstairs cabaret, with room for 225, offers artists from the worlds of Broadway, pop, Nashville, Motown and comedy. (Ben Vereen, Della Reese and Joan Rivers had recent gigs, as did many hopeful newcomers.) The audience mixes celebs with just plain folks. There's disco dancing between performances, and the restaurant downstairs serves Continental-Mexican food. Cover charges range from \$5 to \$10, plus a two-drink minimum. 8240 Sunset Boulevard; 656-8830.

34. SIMPLY BLUES. In a sprawling, horizontal city, this club literally soars above the

rest. The views from its nineteenth-floor location are stupendous; being on eye level with the famous Hollywood sign is a great way to get your geographic bearings. Locally known jazz combos and vocalists entertain a lively, appreciative crowd in the lounge. No cover charge, but a one-drink minimum per set. You can also hear the music in the dining room, which has a Continental-American menu. 6290 Sunset Boulevard; 466-5239.

35. LA CAGE AUX FOLLES. This is named after the frothy French movie but predates the stage musical. It has the exuberant atmosphere of both. Lots of pink, lots of feathers, lots of glitz, lots of fun. Its female impersonators take on the likes of Diana Ross and Dolly Parton in a revue that veers away from raunchy. Management stresses sophistication and aims for a family crowd. \$10 cover, plus two-drink minimum; or dinner (French, of course) and a \$5 show charge. 643 North La Cienega Boulevard; 657-1091.

COMEDY CLUBS

Many famous comedians and sitcom stars got their start at these clubs—and they often come back to try out new material.

38. THE COMEDY STORE. The Comedy Store is the quintessential L.A. comedy club. Candles burn low in red-glassed holders, cocktail waitresses arrive with drink after drink and

famous comedians regularly drop in for spontaneous "workouts." Don't be surprised if you see Robin Williams or Martin Short suddenly appear onstage with the club's improvisation group, The Comedy Store Players. On weekends, a continuous stream of stand-up comedians barrages you with jokes. For folklore fans: The Comedy Store used to be the Italian restaurant Ciro's, allegedly owned by the Mafia. Rumor has it that gangsters are still buried in the walls. 8433 Sunset Boulevard; 656-6225.

37. THE IMPROVISATION. A sister club to The Improvisation in New York's Hell's Kitchen, The Improv, with its brick-walled showcase room, gives its stand-up and improvisational comedy an aura of hip urbanity. Amateurs and not-so-amateurs strut their stuff on Sunday's audition night, the improv group "Off the Wall" makes up situations on Monday night, and children's theater appears on Saturday afternoons. The Improv is also notable for its bar, which literally hums with talk of movie deals, contracts and other Hollywood hype. 8162 Melrose Avenue; 651-2583.

39. IGBY'S COMEDY CABARET. This new comedy club brings professional comedy to the Westside, with familiar

faces from television, film and Las Vegas. Popular *Tonight Show* regulars such as Steven Bluestein spar with the audience, while surrounded with mirrored reflections of themselves. Celebrities match wits with unknowns on Tuesday and Wednesday. Headliners appear on Thursday through Saturday. Igby's features both cocktails and dining, and the waitresses are eager and chipper. 11637 Tennessee Place; 477-3553.

39. THE GROUNDINGS THEATER. Laraine Newman, Elvira, Paul "Pee-Wee Herman" Reubens and the current *Saturday Night Live*'s Jon Lovitz all got their start with this famed improv troupe. The cozy equity-waiver theater is fully equipped with a refreshment bar and live music, and the Groundlings are noted for their skilled shtick and cleverly written sketches. Be prepared to be witty yourself, because they come into the audience and ask for suggestions. 7307 Melrose Avenue; 934-9700.

40. INSTAPLAY! Every Saturday night, director Bill Steinkellner, an ex-Groundling himself, herds his talented cast into a very impressive hour-and-a-half musical comedy. The most impressive part is that the cast constructs this musical comedy solely based on the title yelled out by that night's audience. The more imaginative your title, the better, because the cast is definitely up to par. The Cast Theater, 804 North El Centro; 462-0265

VIEWS

A few Los Angeles views—such as the spectacular vistas visible from certain freeway interchanges—are appreciated best by residents. But most tourists want to get up somewhere high and look down. Here are a few good vantage points:

41. INSPIRATION POINT. If you park your car at Will Rogers State Historic Park in Pacific Palisades and hike the

mile-long path to the top, you'll be rewarded with a view that on clear days is breathtaking. If there's absolutely no smog, and in spring there usually isn't, you can see all the way from the office towers downtown to Catalina Island. It's the best vantage point for watching the sun set. Will Rogers State Historic Park is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. 14253 Sunset Boulevard; 454-8212.

42. THE GRIFFITH PARK OBSERVATORY. Actually, this is two views in one. You can use the pay telescopes outside the observatory to look out over the city. And you can go inside to use the free telescopes to look at the night sky. (For a rundown on which stars and planets are currently visible, call 663-8171.) In addition, there are planetarium and Laserium shows planned most evenings. Call 664-1191 for program information.

43. MULHOLLAND DRIVE. Not

only is this rustic, curving street one of the great driving experiences of the world, it offers a double view—Hollywood on one side and the San Fernando Valley on the other. Don't get so entranced with the top-of-the-world feeling the view inspires that you don't watch the road. You don't want to end up like James Dean.

44. SUNSET PLAZA. This little strip of boutiques and restaurants in the 8600 block of Sunset Boulevard in West Hollywood has two big advantages: free, no-hassle parking and the spectacular view of downtown, Hollywood and Century City visible from the parking lot. While you're there, stop by the new wave dim sum café Chin Chin. It's always crowded, but the take-out section moves fairly fast, and you can enjoy the view while eating dinner in your car. You can't get more L.A. than that.

45. HIGH-RISE HOTELS. These are the old standbys. Three you

might want to try: the revolving restaurant at the top of the Holiday Inn in Hollywood (1755 North Highland Avenue); the piano bar at the chic new Le Mondrian Hotel in West Hollywood (8440 West Sunset Boulevard), and the glass elevators on the outside of the Bonaventure Hotel downtown (404 South Figueroa Avenue).

STROLLS

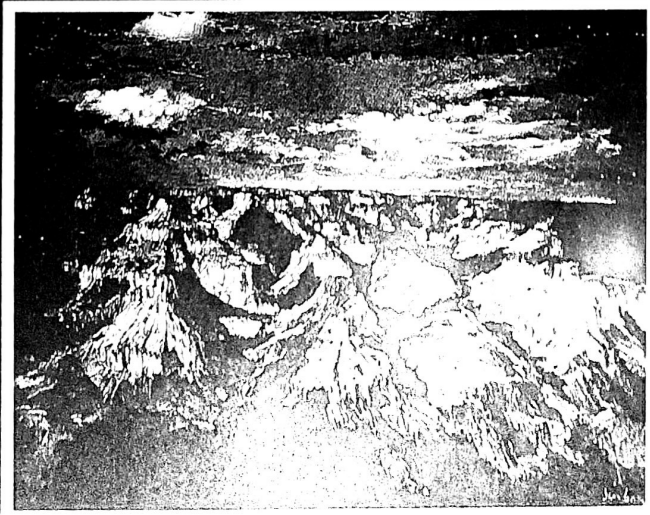
Walking isn't against the law in Los Angeles, it just sometimes feels that way. Still, Los Angeles reveals its greatest charms to those who take the trouble to see it on foot. Here are a few areas where pedestrians have the advantage:

46. DOWNTOWN. The center of Los Angeles's business and government, downtown is also enjoying something of a revival now that artists are setting up housekeeping in lofts. The Los Angeles Conservancy offers a variety of downtown walking

tours through the area for \$5 on Saturday mornings. Call 623-CITY. For those interested in old Spanish California, there are four docent-led, free one-hour walking tours every Tuesday through Saturday at El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park. The highlight is Olvera Street, the oldest street in the city, which is now lined with shops and restaurants. Call 628-1274.

47. CARROLL AVENUE. A tiny pocket of Victoriana in a city that really didn't come of age until the twenties, Carroll Avenue is the jewel of Angelino Heights—a small neighborhood just northwest of downtown that enterprising homeowners began restoring ten years ago. A walk down this street is a walk into the nineteenth century, complete with ornate architecture, raised front lawns and old fashioned streetlamps. Because 1986 is the centennial founding of Angelino Heights, the Carroll

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Avenue Restoration Foundation is also planning a special tour of the interiors of several historic houses. 250-5976.

48. MAIN STREET. It may be a bit cold now to go to the beach, but a walk down Santa Monica's Main Street—especially the few blocks between Ocean Park Boulevard and Rose Avenue—offers ocean air and plenty to look at besides. The street is lined with art galleries, bookstores, boutiques and restaurants. For unusual gifts to take home, check out the hand-blown perfume bottles, silk charmeuse scarves and charm bracelet earrings at Bobi Leonard. Main Street also offers a perfect before- or after-dinner stroll if you've got reservations at Chinois on Main, Scratch or Charmers Market, a combination restaurant and gourmet deli.

49. WESTWOOD VILLAGE. With the densest concentration of first-run movie theaters in

the world, this area just south of the UCLA campus is a Mecca for those who shun multiplex cinemas for the pleasures of 70-millimeter and Dolby sound. Unlike Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles's other first-run movie area, Westwood Village encourages after-movie strolling through a dizzying array of boutiques, restaurants, bookstores and fast-food eateries. Unruly teenagers had begun to be a problem, but a recent 10:00 p.m. curfew for minors has brought them under control.

50. BEVERLY HILLS. This is it: the high-rolling shopper's paradise. Rodeo Drive is where you start, of course. But don't neglect the shop-packed neighboring streets of Camden, Beverly, Cañon and especially Little Santa Monica, where a string of trendy boutiques have sprung up over the last couple of years. The two-level Rodeo Collection on Rodeo Drive is a

pleasant stroll in itself, with piped-in classical music and Robin Rose, possibly the best ice cream parlor in the world. (Second-best flavor: Bailey's Irish Cream. Best flavor: Raspberry Chocolate Truffle.) And even if you don't plan to buy, the window displays and mannequins make this walk worthwhile.

SHOPS

The days when Los Angeles was the poor relation of the fashion industry are gone. It's now one of the great shopping centers of the world, with merchandise ranging from the most luxurious international imports to trendy items with a distinctly California touch. Here are a few unique places to bring home a bit of the West Coast:

51. THE GARMENT DISTRICT. Even people who don't need bargains love the thrill of getting it wholesale. The first

place to start is the Cooper Building, at ninth and Los Angeles streets. This emporium of off-pricing has eight floors of shops and is open seven days a week; 622-1139. A popular place for trendy young menswear is The Factory Fashionworks, just two blocks away at 720 South Los Angeles Street, where shoppers can listen to the jukebox and drink espresso; 622-7800.

52. MELROSE AVENUE. The Carnaby Street of the eighties, this once-sleepy crosstown thoroughfare has blossomed into a strip of avant-garde boutiques, hip new restaurants, chic used-clothing stores and Art Deco antique furniture shops. Even if you don't stop to shop, Melrose is worth a drive-through at night just for the dazzling display of amusing neon store signs. The street stretches from West to East Hollywood, but the trendy shops are concentrated be-



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tween Fairfax and La Brea. Most shops are open Sunday.

53. ESPRIT. The flagship store of the San Francisco-based clothing firm, this huge boutique opened in a former roller-skating rink just over a year ago and has been the talk of the fashion industry ever since. Esprit offers the latest in high-tech shopping: customers pile clothes on grocery carts, then wheel them to the dressing rooms and through the computerized check-out lines. Cleverly packaged items like underwear in see-through plastic cartons make good gifts. 8491 Santa Monica Boulevard; 659-9797.

54. THE BEVERLY CENTER. The mall to end all malls, this always-crowded five-story shopping center has everything a trendy spender could ever want: fourteen movie theaters, two of the hippest restaurants in town (Pinafini and the Hard Rock Cafe), upscale boutiques

galore and piped-in classical music in the underground parking garage. And the Irvine Ranch Farmer's Market—a gourmet grocery store downstairs—is one of the best places in town to see movie stars. The Beverly Center is in the block bordered by La Cienega Boulevard, Beverly Boulevard, San Vicente Boulevard and Third Street, between West Hollywood and Beverly Hills.

55. THE WESTSIDE PAVILION. Some people call it kitschy, with its striking pastel façade and indoor street lights reminiscent of New Orleans Square at Disneyland. But if you want service and convenience along with high fashion, this is the mall to go to. Anchored by Nordstrom, possibly the most service-oriented of department stores, the Westside Pavilion (on Pico and Overland boulevards) also has a shoe repair shop and a supermarket. And,

of course, plenty of boutiques.

BOOKSTORES

Los Angeles has all of the major chain stores—B. Dalton's, Crown, Waldenbooks—plus a few outstanding local chains, such as Vroman's and Brentano's. But what makes Los Angeles a haven for bibliophiles is the presence of zillions of boutique bookstores specializing in everything from Persian literature (Khanch Ketab Iran) to entrepreneurship (The Entrepreneur Shop). Here are a few of the major independents that are too good to miss:

56. THE BODHI TREE. A philosopher's dream come true, this bookstore offers every facet of metaphysics and religion (with the exception of black witchcraft) represented in print. Needless to say, this is a popular place with the Hollywood set. Open every day, 11:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m. 8585

Melrose Avenue; 659-1733.

57. SCENE OF THE CRIME. Mystery lovers always return to the whodunit center in L.A. Located across from Harlan Ellison's Dangerous Visions science fiction bookstore, Scene of the Crime is a cult favorite. Besides an enormous selection of hardbacks and softbacks, SOTC offers mystery paraphernalia (from stuffed bats to Sherlock Holmes hats), parties, Raymond Chandler tours of the city and even a quaint tearoom next door. Tuesday-Saturday, 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. 13636 Ventura Boulevard, Sherman Oaks; (818) 981-2583.

58. LARRY EDMUNDS CINEMA AND THEATRE BOOK SHOP. This is Hollywood's premier print establishment. Besides books on every facet of the entertainment industry, Edmunds sells posters, stills, scripts, prints—in short, everything the movie or theater

buff could possibly want. Monday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. 6658 Hollywood Boulevard; 463-3273.

59. DUTTON'S. Despite its clutter and seeming disorganization, this may be the classiest bookstore in L.A. You can get all the current titles here, but don't overlook the impressive collection of antiquarian and fine art books. A browser's delight. Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Sunday, 10:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. 5146 Laurel Canyon Boulevard, North Hollywood; (818) 769-3866.

60. HENNESSEY & INGALLS ART AND ARCHITECTURE BOOKS. Imports, new titles and out-of-print books can be found here. Besides fine art and architecture, technical publications in such areas as graphic arts and urban planning are on the shelves. Prices range from \$4.95 to \$4,000. Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.;

Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. 1254 Santa Monica Mall, Santa Monica; 458-9074.

BIG THEATERS

Go east, theatergoer, if you want plays; go west, moviegoer, if you want stars. For decades that's been the bicoastal attitude. L.A. isn't N.Y. But look under the tinsel and beyond the glitter. There are more than one hundred full-time professional theaters in the Los Angeles area, plus a hundred *more* that operate part-time. And we're not just talking dinner theater here. In the past ten years, L.A. has grown into the second most important theater town in North America. And being number two, L.A. tries harder. The fabled intersection of Hollywood and Vine has *three* major theaters within walking distance.

61. THE PANTAGES. Once upon a time, this theater was

the annual host for Hollywood's Oscar bash. Now it's owned by the Nederlander organization, which funds Broadway's biggest musicals. Often you'll find under its roof Broadway shows complete with their original casts, as happened last year with *La Cage aux Folles* and *The Tap-Dance Kid*. And The Pantages remains a palace with a gorgeous, fully restored Art Deco lobby. 6233 Hollywood Boulevard; 462-3104.

62. THE HENRY FONDA THEATRE. A half-block farther down Hollywood Boulevard, this theater presents such modern masterpieces as David Mamet's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Glengarry Glen Ross* and Harold Pinter's *Old Times*. 6126 Hollywood Boulevard; 410-1062.

63. THE JAMES A. DOOLITTLE THEATRE. This renovated gem is considered by many experts to have the finest proscenium

stage west of the Hudson. Last year its technical range permitted Stratford, Canada's intimate *Twelfth Night* to be played next to Lee Breuer's colossal opera, *Gospel at Colonus*. 1615 North Vine Street; 462-6666.

64. THE MUSIC CENTER. In its spacious plaza are restaurants and two of L.A.'s most distinguished theaters, the Mark Taper Forum and the Ahmanson. The Taper's artistic director, Gordon Davidson, originated two Pulitzer Prize-winning plays on its stage, Michael Cristofer's *The Shadow Box* and Mark Medoff's *Children of a Lesser God*. This spring you can see a more recent Pulitzer winner there, Marsha Norman's *'night, Mother*. The massive 2,000-seat Ahmanson often produces American classics with major stars. Last season, Charlton Heston appeared in *The Detective*. Next month, see the ap-

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appropriately titled *Legends*, showcasing two living ones, Carol Channing and Mary Martin. Starting April 3, Gregory Harrison, of *Trapper John, M.D.*, will be seen in William Inge's chestnut, *Picnic*. 135 North Grand Avenue; 972-7654.

65. THE SHUBERT THEATRE. Amid Century City's mall-like complex of office skyscrapers, retail stores and restaurants is the luxurious theater that has housed such Broadway successes as *Dreamgirls* and *Evita*. Currently, Andrew Lloyd Webbers's *Cats* is well past its ninth life as the city's most successful musical ever. 2020 Avenue of the Stars; (800) 762-7666.

LITTLE THEATERS

Being in the shadows of the giant Hollywood studios paradoxically works to the advantage of the city's smaller theaters. Television and movie stars frequently appear in the more intimate houses, honing their acting skills and relishing the response of a live audience. Screenwriters constantly use these stages to test the freshness and accuracy of their dialogue. And theater goers can be assured that they are in the company of an audience that truly appreciates the most sophisticated drama the city has to offer.

66. THE LOS ANGELES THEATRE CENTER. Just last fall it was a small ninety-nine-seat and forty-four-seat pair of stages in the seediest section of downtown L.A. Now it's a \$16-million four-theater arts complex that L.A.'s city leaders hope will become the heart of a major downtown renovation. As with *The Pantages*, much of the pleasure of an LATC visit is its lobby: a restored 1912 bank building lobby that vaults overhead for six stories. In its spacious marble, audiences from the four stages meet to discuss the plays. Expect the unexpected at LATC, from an all-

black cast in Sam Shepard's *Fool for Love* to a stunning revival of the 1935 gangster melodrama *The Petrified Forest*, starring television actor Rene Auberjonois. 514 South Spring Street; 627-5599.

67. THE MATRIX THEATRE. Although it's in the heart of the ultra trendy Melrose district, there's nothing trendy about its productions. Artistic Director Joe Stern mounts superbly polished, professional productions—some of which have made it to New York, such as Lyle Kessler's *Orphans*. 7657 Melrose Avenue; 852-1445.

68. THE WESTWOOD PLAYHOUSE. Located in Westwood Village, a student hangout bordering UCLA, the Westwood Playhouse comfortably balances art and commerce. Its lobby is actually the display room of a contemporary furniture store. Last year one could see a diverse range of productions, from Ian McKellan's *Acting Shakespeare* to the Harry Chapin musical, *Cotton Patch Gospel*. 10886 Le Conte Avenue; 208-5454.

69. THE ODYSSEY THEATRE ENSEMBLE. The Odyssey has three small, comfortable theaters and is notorious for originating unusual, avant-garde plays. The highly successful Vietnam veteran play, *Tracers*, which was a major hit in New York and London last year, began here. Strictly for devotees of experimental, off-off Broadway-style works. 12111 Ohio Avenue; 826-1626.

70. THE NEW MAYFAIR THEATRE. No visit to L.A. is complete without a stroll along the Santa Monica bluffs at Sunset. So drive west down Santa Monica Boulevard until it dead-ends at the Pacific Ocean. Park, take in the stunning view, then walk back a mere block east to the Mayfair. Santa Monica is famed for its large British colony, and the Mayfair was once a music hall where English vaudeville shows entertained the immigrants. Now it remains part pub, part restaurant, but

mostly theater. In its short history, the Mayfair has exhibited a wide range of high-quality theatrical fare, from Samuel Beckett's austere *Endgame* to Craig Lucas's lush *Blue Window*. 214 Santa Monica Boulevard; 451-0621.

HOTELS

You can get anything you want from Los Angeles's vast arena of luxury hotels. One word of warning, though: Choose one that's convenient to where you plan to spend the majority of your time. This city is vast and you don't want to spend all your time driving around. You can't go wrong by checking in at one of these.

71. THE BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL. This pink stucco hideaway's sixteen-acre tropical setting, private bungalows, pool, cabanas and tennis courts create an unlikely resort atmosphere on the edge of Beverly Hills. That might be the reason so many celebrities choose not only to visit the 268-room manse, but to live there. Many, like recluses Howard Hughes and Greta Garbo, stayed for years at a time. Today, the landmark's appeal includes a giant staff that outnumbers the guests and the chance to frequent Hollywood's consummate watering hole, the Polo Lounge, where new deals are made and old deals are broken. You can also screen movies in private in a room set up just for that purpose. 9641 Sunset Boulevard; 276-2251.

72. THE BEVERLY WILSHIRE. Italian renaissance architecture mixes with a French influence to create a strong European ambience in the heart of Beverly Hills, located only a diamond's throw from Rodeo Drive. With a recent management takeover by Regent International, this 453-room haven hosts visiting dignitaries and stars of every medium. Enjoy the renowned dining spots on its premises: La Bella Fontana, El Padrino or Hernando's

Hideway. 9500 Wilshire Boulevard; 275-4282; (800) 282-4804 in California; (800) 421-4354 nationwide.

73. CHATEAU MARMONT. This French Normandy chateau on the Sunset Strip is offbeat in its charm, offering privacy but few frills. You won't find a dining spot on the grounds, nor should you expect a doorman to greet you upon arrival. Counting among its occupants some of the nation's most unconventional celebrities—including Jean Harlow and Billy Wilder in the old days and Debra Winger, Diane Keaton, Richard Gere and Robert De Niro in more recent times—this castle retreat epitomizes Hollywood. Choose to stay in a bungalow, cottage or penthouse—whichever suits your fancy. 8221 Sunset Boulevard; 656-1010; (800) 242-8328.

74. HOTEL BEL-AIR. Swans may be this elegant hotel's trademark, but the hint of total serenity only begins there. Set off the beaten path on eleven-and-a-half acres of heavily wooded canyon, this luxury hotel, with ninety-two garden bungalows and a top-notch restaurant, emphasizes personal service and gracious living that you'll notice from the moment you step inside its prestigious gates. No need to ever feel hurried here. 701 Stone Canyon Road; 472-1211.

75. THE NEW OTANI HOTEL AND GARDEN. The best way to simulate Japanese living, short of flying directly to Tokyo, is to visit this unique 446-room hotel. Guests are offered tatami or traditional rooms, but if they choose the former they'll get to sleep on futons placed on reed mats. Be sure to sample the sushi and other authentic Japanese dishes at the Thousand Cranes restaurant—and treat yourself to a massage at the hotel's health club. Situated in downtown's Little Tokyo, the New Otani is a quiet oasis in a bustling city. 120 South Los Angeles Street; 629-1200; (800) 252-0197 in California;

(800) 421-8795 nationwide.

76. THE SHERATON PREMIERE AT UNIVERSAL CITY. On the top five floors of this huge chain's flagship property are 21 suites, each with its own butler service. But from top to bottom, this 455-room, twenty-four-story hotel is a class act. Stay here if you want central access to all aspects of Los Angeles and accommodations in spacious rooms where the clientele is largely professional and the list of guest amenities is as long as your arm. The lobby features local artists' work in a changing exhibit each month. 555 Universal Terrace Parkway, Universal City; (818) 506-2500; (800) 325-3535.

77. THE CENTURY PLAZA HOTEL. President Reagan and his press entourage stay in this 1,000-room high-rise hotel when they visit town. An \$85-million tower was added to the property in 1985, graced with fine museum pieces and antiques. On your off-business hours, take time to languish in the outdoor Jacuzzi or visit the Century West Club, offered as an extra amenity to hotel guests. 2025 Avenue of the Stars, Century City; 277-2000; (800) 228-3000.

78. THE WESTWOOD MARQUIS. Jacques Camus is the general manager who presides over this venerable Westwood Village hotel, topped by a roomy pool and majestic gardens. Near the UCLA campus, this 225-room charmer recently underwent a make-over and offers the Dynasty Room for some of the city's best Continental cuisine. 930 Hilgard Avenue, Westwood; 208-8765; (800) 352-7454 in California; (800) 346-0410 nationwide.

79. THE WESTIN BONAVENTURE. You'll notice this ultramodern, circular 1,000-room downtown skyscraper miles before you reach it. Designed by architect John Portman, the thirty-five-story giant hotel reflects the images of its neighboring buildings. An open lobby atrium surrounds acres

of ponds and is visible from the ascending five levels of shopping and fine restaurants. Take the glass elevator to the Bona Vista revolving lounge for spectacular city views. 404 South Figueroa Street; 624-1000; (800) 228-3000.

80. THE L'ERMITAGE GROUP. Individuality and "suites-only" are the trademarks of these five European-style hotels, run under the watchful eye of Severyn Ashkenazy. Amenities at these ultradeluxe hotels are diverse and imaginative: You get three phones in each suite, with up to five outgoing lines, complimentary limousine service and the chance to view one of the best private art collections in the nation, with original works by Agam, Renoir and Dufy, among many others. L'Ermitage, recipient of the prestigious Mobil Five Star and AAA Five Diamond awards, is the hotel group's flagship property. 9291 Burton Way, Beverly Hills; 278-3344. The others are: Le Mondrian Hotel (8440 Sunset Boulevard, West Hollywood; 650-8999); Le Parc Hotel (733 North West Knoll, West Hollywood; 855-8888); Le Dufy Hotel (1000 Westmont Drive, West Hollywood; 657-7400) and Le Bel Age (1020 North San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood; 854-1111).

RESTAURANTS

Los Angeles is a foodophile's fantasy, a diner's delight. Currently this city rivals the mighty Big Apple for offering so many outstanding restaurants of every ethnicity imaginable. If, like most visitors, you don't have the time to eat your way through hundreds of quality establishments, then you'll love this elite guide to the best of the West. Drop in on several—or all—of the following eateries and order the suggested signature dishes. It's the discriminating way to dine well in L.A.

81. BOMBAY PALACE. The

ambience may be a mélange of high tech, Art-Deco and ethnic, but the cuisine is strictly Indian at its best. The artful blend of spices created here is pure magic. You can't go wrong ordering any of the breads—particularly the onion kulcha—or the tandoori dishes that are rushed to your table hissing and sizzling in their platters. Come to Bombay Palace, in particular, to feast on murg tikka masala. Fresh, juicy chicken is roasted in the superhot tandoor (Indian oven) and then simmered in a rich cream sauce redolent of cinnamon, cloves and ginger. To heck with table manners—you'll want to not only eat every bite, but thoroughly lick your plate. 8690 Wilshire Boulevard; 659-9944.

82. ORLEANS. You don't have to be born on a bayou to discern that this restaurant offers some of the best Creole/Cajun fare outside of New Orleans. The Cajun king himself, Paul Prudhomme, consulted on Orleans's menu, and it tastes like it. The spacious dining room is casual but chic, and the aroma of a medley of peppers streaming from the kitchen will set your taste buds a'watering. There's jalapeño muffins, complex gumbo and zesty jambalaya, but the star attraction is blackened redfish. It's pan-fried in a cast-iron skillet that becomes so hot it turns grayish white. The fresh fish cooks so quickly that it becomes charred black and peppery on the outside, yet it remains moist and soft on the inside. This dish may be named blackened redfish, but we call it Cajun perfection; 11705 National Boulevard, 479-4187.

83. SEVENTH STREET BISTRO. We don't know what's best, the cuisine or the ambience. This eatery is located downtown, on the ground floor of the magnificent Romanesque Fine Arts Building. It's been designed as an elegant combination of the original 1927 architecture with a dash of high tech. The inno-

vative menu changes daily, so that the chef may use the freshest ingredients available that day at the market. Many more appetizers are offered than entrées, which makes eating here fun. You can order a trio of starters instead of the obligatory main dish. Keep your fingers crossed that escargots on skewers with pea mousse and champagne sauce is offered the night of your visit. The snails are plump, and the soft mousse captures all the sweet goodness of fresh-picked peas. As for the champagne sauce? It tastes so fine, you'll almost want to drink it straight. 815 West Seventh Street; 627-1242.

84. COLETTE. Tucked away inside an intimate hotel is one of the city's most highly touted eateries. The decor is French/cozy and the service is formal/friendly. Chef Patrick Healy prepares a menu of California/French inspired dishes that overwhelm your palate with their fresh, pure, pronounced flavors. There's so much to choose from, but clearly a dish deserving superstar status is the lamb loin, roasted on the bone with fresh garlic and thyme, presented with wild mushrooms and a sauce made with fine Burgundy wine. Healy may garnish each dish à la nouvelle, but there's as much soul and substance in his cooking as there is in Tina Turner's singing. Inside the Beverly Pavilion Hotel, 9360 Wilshire Boulevard, 273-1151.

85. THE IVY. The menu presented is as eclectic as the restaurant's patrons. Many celebrities gather here to dine, but so do tourists and an assortment of not-so-famous Ivy devotees. What makes this restaurant so important is its casual but whimsical ambience, its casual but informed servers and its casual but superb cuisine. There's lots of emphasis on contemporary American fare, like Cajun pizzas and mesquite-grilled shrimp with lime and herbs. But in our opinion, the

real reason to dine here is the desserts. A lengthy table is crowned with an array of dazzling sweet treats, such as a chocolate walnut torte and an intense chocolate cake that tastes exactly like a silken truffle. But for sheer brilliance of style and execution, our vote goes to the white chocolate-lemon cake. It's filled with a creamy lemon filling, and the feather-light cake layers taste faintly of top-of-the-line white chocolate. It's wrapped in a smooth band of white chocolate and studded with ruby-red raspberries. Yes, there's nothing too good for The Ivy fans, and that's why they flock here in droves. 113 North Robertson; 274-8303.

88. LE BEL AGE. If it's elegance that you're seeking in a dining experience, then this hotel restaurant is where you'll find all the class your tony heart desires. The room is sheer drama, from priceless art

gracing the walls to a gleaming candelabra adorning a grand piano. The cuisine introduced here is dubbed "nouvelle Russe," a modern interpretation of Franco-Russian fare. Opt for the food fit only for the gods and you—caviar. They present a platter featuring five varieties, from American golden to crème-de-la-crème beluga. Down some flavored vodka, such as lemon or green peppercorn, as an accompaniment. Life doesn't get much better. 1020 North San Vicente Boulevard; 854-1111.

87. SPAGO. If you possess the opportunity to dine out only once in Los Angeles, be sure to make it Spago. Chef-owner Wolfgang Puck is more than a great cook, he's a celebrity. And so is his clientele, which includes the biggest names in Hollywood. You will spot more motion picture stars dining here than you would parked in front of a movie stu-

dio. The cuisine is as famous as its fans. As in most premier restaurants, it changes upon the chef's whims and the seasons. But you can't go wrong ordering any of Puck's pizzas, which are now as legendary as Blackglama furs. They are baked in wood-fired ovens and topped with such luxurious items as lobster, caviar or duck sausage. Take your pick, for every one of these designer pies tastes not only scrumptious, but interesting. 8795 West Sunset Boulevard; 652-4025.

88. CHINOIS ON MAIN. This dining establishment represents another stroke of Wolfgang Puck's brilliance. His second eatery presents the best of East-meets-West in L.A. kitchens. The Chinese-French fare is as exotic as the restaurant's colorful decor. For dessert, for example, the fashionable crème brûlée takes on Chinese overtones and is flavored with ginger, Mandarin orange or

mint. The signature dish, however, is the sizzling catfish. You'll forget that this fish was ever considered proletarian food when you taste Puck's rendition. It's served whole, deep-fried and stuffed with ginger. The exterior is unbelievably crispy and the interior is moist and succulent. High-fashion food? Beyond a doubt, and it's wonderful. 2709 Main Street, Santa Monica; 392-9025.

89. PRIMI. This trendy restaurant is the hottest new Mecca for upscale grazers. The latest venture of Piero Selvaggio—who is also at the helm of the highly acclaimed Valentino restaurant—focuses only on first courses (the definition of *primi*). In a motif of primarily black and gray, trim diners feast on voluptuous risottos, pastas and appetizers. What's the dish to order here? Among many, the *al dente* pasta (margherite) shaped like

(Advertisement)

Small Firm's New Golf Ball Draws Hole-in-One Letters from All Over U.S.

Seller Guarantees Ball Will Cut Strokes—or Money Back

64 Times More Accurate

By Mike Henson

NORWALK, CT—A small company in Connecticut is selling what might be the most hook-free, slice-free ball in golf. Unsolicited hole-in-one letters from men and women all over the U.S. suggest it is 64 times more accurate than a well-known distance ball. Some report holes-in-one the first time they use it!

The ball is called Guidestar and its unusual accuracy comes from a new, patented, oversized core that helps control it like a gyroscope. Because the core maintains near-perfect balance, it reduces the chance of an abnormal spin caused by an imperfect stroke. Abnormal spins are what cause a ball to hook or slice.

The company has conducted many tests on the ball, but the best proof of its accuracy comes from a file-full of letters like these: "Shot my first hole-in-one the first time I used Guidestar on my home course. Great Balls! . . ." "After 26 years of golf during my first round with Guidestar I made a hole-in-one!"

There is even a letter from New Zealand where a minister scored a hole-in-one with the ball.

The ball is extremely lively and high compression. Bounce it on a concrete floor and it comes back at you like a rifle shot.

According to a spokesman, "The Guidestar will equal any pro-line ball on distance, but on accuracy they are no

match for it, and accuracy is what counts. It's not fun hacking through bushes looking for a ball that suddenly went left or right. These hole-in-one letters are the best proof we could have that Guidestar's patented core helps keep shots down the middle."

In light of tests and that file-full of hole-in-one letters, the company guarantees Guidestar will cut a golfer's score dramatically. If it doesn't they will take back the balls within 30 days used, and refund their price promptly.

They also guarantee Guidestar's patented construction will save a golfer money. If he ever cuts one, he can get *three new ones free*, if he returns the damaged ball with 50¢ for postage.

If you want to save money on lost and damaged balls, cut strokes and (who knows?) watch breathlessly on a par 3 as Guidestar's new, patented core carries your tee-shot toward the cup!—then try this new ball. You can't lose. A refund is guaranteed if you don't cut strokes.

To order Guidestar send your name and address to the National Golf Center (Dept. G-287), 500 S. Broad St., Meriden, CT 06450; (or call 203-238-2712). Include \$21.95 (plus \$1.75 shipping) for one dozen; \$19 each for two dozen or more. Six dozen cost only \$99. *Free* shipping on two or more dozen. You can split your order between white and Hi-Vision yellow on a dozen basis.

To charge it include your card's name, account number and expiration date. No P. O. Boxes, please; all shipments are UPS. CT and NY must add sales tax.

Guidestar conforms to U.S.G.A. Rules and can be used in tournament play.

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daisies and filled with steamed, puréed radicchio. It's sprinkled with poppy seeds and presented in a pool of saffron cream sauce. The flavors are incredibly intense, from the radicchio to the poppy seeds and saffron cream. Textures range from soft to crunchy. This dish stops just short of sensationalism. 10543 West Pico Boulevard; 475-9235.

90. ABACUS CHINESE SEA-FOOD RESTAURANT. This restaurant proves that great Chinese food need not be presented in shabby coffee shops by rude waiters. The servers here are kind and informative, the surroundings feature marble columns and the cuisine is authentic Mandarin and Szechuan. The emphasis is on fresh seafood, like braised prawns in Szechuan sauce and abalone with black mushrooms and bamboo shoots. You can even sample fresh eel on twenty-four-hour notice, but with only a one-hour wait, you can sup upon premier Peking duck. It's presented whole, tableside, and then expertly carved before your admiring eyes. The crispy skin is wrapped in fresh pancakes with a little tender meat, fresh, crunchy scallions and some sweet hoisin sauce. The play of tastes and textures is incredible. And remember: it's a shorter flight to L.A. than to China. 11701 Wilshire Boulevard; 207-4875.

24-HOUR SPOTS

Just because L.A. isn't especially known for its nightlife doesn't mean there's no place to eat during the wee hours. Some of the best places in town are open all night.

91. PACIFIC DINING CAR. What we think is the best steak in Los Angeles is served in this establishment's wonderfully clubby atmosphere. It also has two statues of cows out front. 1310 West Sixth Street; 483-6000.

92. CANTER'S. The Canter family moved to L.A. from New

York decades ago to open this deli, originally across town in Boyle Heights, now in the Fairfax district. You can smell the corned beef and sauerkraut a block away. 419 North Fairfax; 651-2030.

93. TOMMY'S. Speaking of places you can smell at a distance, the chili-based menu at Tommy's (chili dogs, chili burgers, etc.) will have your eyes watering before you open your car door. The mixture of grease and automobile fumes is vintage L.A., and the line out front never goes away. 2575 Beverly Boulevard.

94. GORKY'S. Every now and then we get a 3:00 a.m. craving for a little borscht, maybe some stuffed cabbage. Gorky's, a tiny, cafeteria-style Russian restaurant, has live music at night, great omelettes, a full selection of sandwiches and a list of daily specials as varied as the reading material on racks by the cash register. Its atmosphere is low-key bohemian—complete with chess sets—owing to its location in one of the few L.A. neighborhoods with lofts for artists. 536 East 8th Street; 627-4060.

95. LARRY PARKER'S 24-HOUR DINER. Larry's has a whimsical fifteen-page menu that meanders from New York steaks to caviar omelettes to pita pizza and beyond. Their more bizarre concoctions—such as Madame Balloon's Bean and Cheese Burrito—are named after favored customers. It also boasts a vintage Rock-Ola jukebox stuffed with Dion, Fabian, Doris Day and the like. There are pay phones in every booth. Call about free limo service for five or more people. 4676 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey; 823-6615, and 206 South Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills; 274-5655.

HOLLYWOOD EXPERIENCES

Whether you live in Los Angeles or are only visiting, you can partake in television and mov-

iemaking endeavors firsthand and close up. Here's how you can get behind the scenes or even in front of the camera.

96. BURBANK STUDIOS TOUR. Everyone knows about the Universal Studios Tour (818-508-9600), but if you aren't interested in Universal's amusement park approach and would rather learn something, try the almost unknown Burbank Studios Tour. It costs \$20, takes two hours and is a walk around both the Warner Bros. and Columbia lots led by a technically knowledgeable guide. Almost 80 percent of the Burbank Studios tourists are in the film industry. Children under twelve are not admitted. Reservations recommended. 4000 Warner Boulevard, Burbank; (818) 954-1744.

97. TALK SHOWS. Nearly everyone who comes to Los Angeles wants to see Johnny Carson, so beware of three things: *The Tonight Show* tapes Tuesday through Friday, except for the star's fifteen weeks of vacation each year, and the line for tickets starts forming at about 7:30 a.m. on the day of the show. The NBC ticket office opens at 8:30. 3000 West Alameda, Burbank; (818) 840-3537.

If you can't see Johnny, try Merv. The box office releases tickets two days ahead of time not only for Merv, but for *Jeopardy* and *Headline Chasers*, too. 1541 North Vine; 461-4701.

98. SITCOMS. Situation comedies are taped at studios all over L.A. virtually every day of the week, and you are welcome to be part of the "live studio audience" you've heard so much about. Paramount Studios is home to several network and syndicated shows. The Paramount ticket booth in Hollywood is open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and distributes the tickets for *Cheers*, *Family Ties*, *Webster*, *Solid Gold* and a few others. Tickets to all TV tapings are, by law, free. 780 North Gower.

CBS also does a lot of its own production, and its box office is open seven days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CBS controls the tickets for *Mary, Newhart*, *Press Your Luck* and *The \$25,000/\$100,000 Pyramids*. The network also has the hottest tickets in town, to *The Price Is Right*, which interviews contestants in the line outside the studio. 7800 Beverly Boulevard.

99. GAME SHOWS. If you want to be a contestant in a game show, your best bet is to watch the credits of the show on which you want to get rich and call the production company. Usually there's a number in the telephone book specifically for hopeful contestants. Be prepared for a period of testing, auditioning and waiting that can last as long as six months. On the plus side, they give every break they can to people from out of town, since they get tired of introducing all their players as being from Los Angeles. Good luck.

100. TV AND MOVIE SETS. Five days a week, the Los Angeles Motion Picture Office (across from Mann's Chinese Theater on Hollywood Boulevard) posts something called the "daily shoot sheet," listing the whos, whats and wheres of the day's location filming. On a good day dozens of crews will be out in public making TV shows and feature films, and the shoot sheet tells you where they are. Street-corner hustlers have been getting rich for years selling copies of the sheet to tourists, but the city will give you a copy for free. 6822 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 600.

SPECIAL BONUS

101. ???????? This category is for *your* favorite place in Los Angeles. Explore the city yourself—after all, the nation's second-largest city is what *you* make of it. ♦

All area codes are 213 unless otherwise noted.