

Hollywood: Hardly a dream mecca

L.A. from Page 10

next night it will be Allah Harley, a Muslim biker sushi disco.

The bars close at 2 a.m., but you can drink all night if you ask where the "outlaw" clubs are on a particular evening. These clubs serve drinks until dawn, let minors in and lack a legal alcohol license, so they are often located in out-of-the-way, hush-hush places like abandoned warehouses. The outlaw club of the moment is Ground Zero, an ultra-chic haven for punks that was recently featured in People magazine (it's not THAT secret after all).

Ground Zero's portable decor includes numerous slide projectors that flash scenes from old camp films, pictures of Patti Smith and tabloid headlines all over the walls. Television sets showing Nazi films are everywhere. Everything vibrates here, thanks to the cacophonous industrial and electrogothic dance music the DJ spins.

Other hip-at-the-moment clubs

include White Trash A-Go-Go, situated in a man-made white cave that actually drips water. At White Trash and Scream, a portable club that features live punk bands, you'll see performances of everything from thrash versions of bad Bee Gees songs to outrageously awful "performance art." For a good laugh, check out Rockers, a predominantly gay club that prides itself on not playing disco. Gays grooving to Sonic Youth and X has to be seen to be believed.

You can't possibly visit L.A. without going to the beach. Venice Beach is so sexually phantasmagoric it looks like a living Fellini film. Bag ladies, bikini-clad girls on roller skates and iron-pumping body-builders mingle together, thinking nothing of their exhibitionism.

Forget about Disneyland. The truly amusing sights of L.A. can be seen without driving all the way down to Anaheim. We're talking . . . restaurants? Yes, L.A.'s genuine


cartoon characters can be seen at two Hollywood eateries that must remain anonymous. One bills itself as a "performance art dinette and juice bar" and sometimes books local performers like cult figure Glen Meadmore, an industrial schlock-rock poet who sports a 6-foot-plus frame, numerous fright wigs and claims he likes to lick little boys' toes on stage and stuff chicken heads into his nether regions. Another unusual eatery advertises the fact that it's an "all-you-can-eat lesbian restaurant for wimmin who prefer to eat in a non-male-dominated atmosphere."

With all this sin snaking through its reprobate valleys and beaches, it's no wonder Los Angelenos worry that their sunny paradise may soon erupt and fall off into the Pacific.

But as long as there are people who wish to escape the bad weather and middle-class banality of the rest of America, there will be a Los Angeles.




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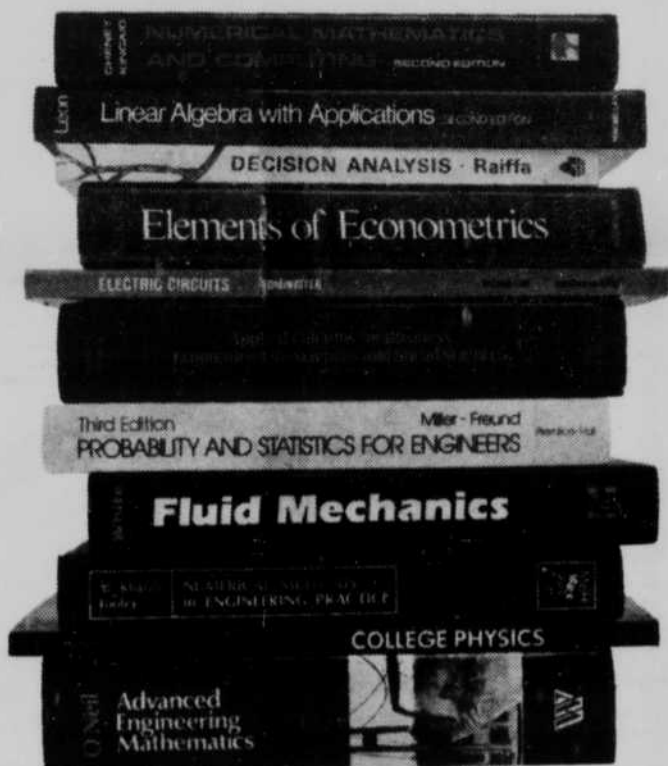
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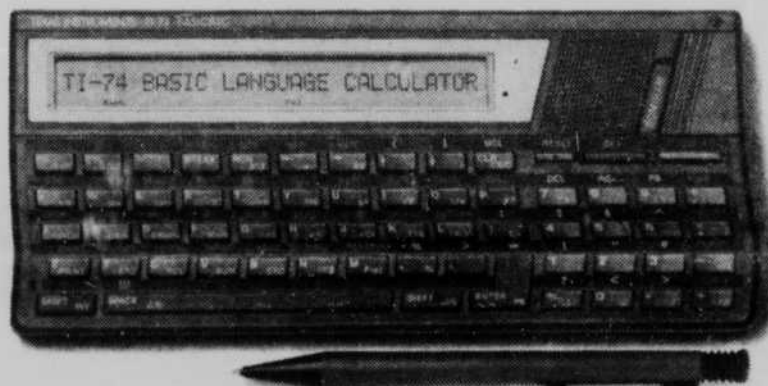
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