

About the Cover

Letter perfect people pose

Odd Morning

short story byAlice Glasspool

Friday Review

The Accidental Tourist

— reviewed by

Barbara DeWilde

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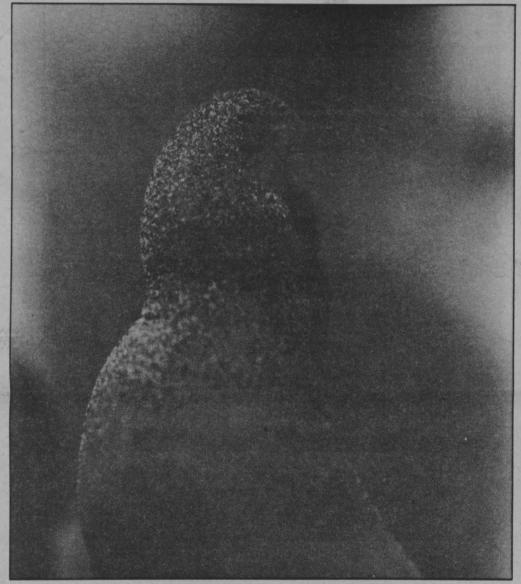
Jan DiVincenzo

Shashi Girdner

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Tim McDonough Heidi Ann Prakelt Tom Rejzek Lauren Schlesinger Stephen Thralls Vessels



Tom Rejzek

About the Cover:

In a rare instance, students, faculty, and administrators come together and create the first Friday Magazine cover of Spring quarter:

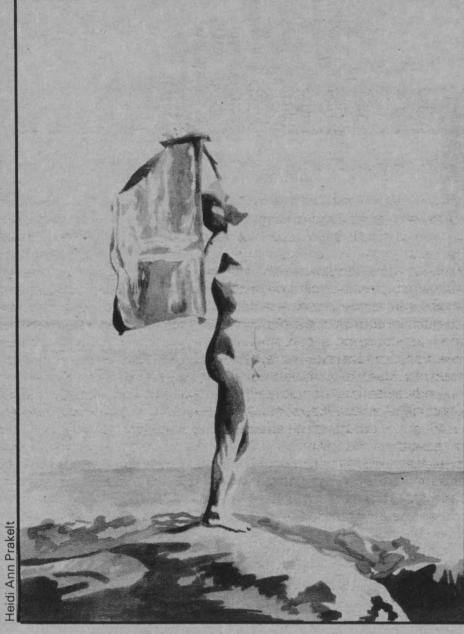
In the name of art, a foot patrol officer demonstrates proper bicycle hand signals; the Karate Kid grabs a few Z's; and Chancellor Huttenback breaks from meetings to say cheese.

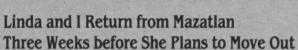


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Stoned, I went to see a film.
Pulling into a space in the theatre parking lot
I noticed another car the same as mine.
I walked over after buying a ticket,
curious to see if we maintained similar interiors.

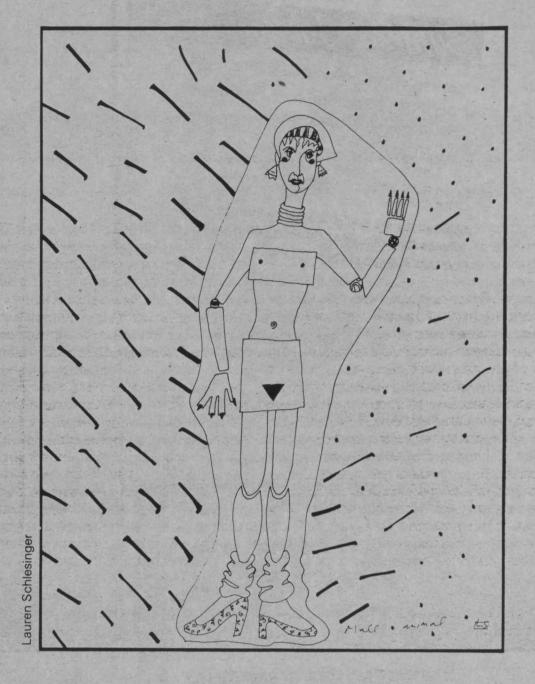
At home, later, I put on a record and wrapped the music around me like a cushion. My jaw ached from too much nervous grinding. I felt more comfortable with my eyes closed, scanning floating forms.

I was tired but too dissatisfied to sleep. Linda bent over her books, studying The lamp she kept near cast shadows of pages as she turned them.

I searched for my place.
There was no conclusion, future, or fantasy that fit.
Feeling a foreigner,
I slid into the present.

It was a time for a rest from questions. We were, in that moment, what we were to each other, like a picture developed by sight, taken in existing light.

Stephen Thralls Vessels



Fear

blackened night had suddenly prospered with gabbing words of carcass shells and meatless thoughts of death and bombs of solitude struck the houses of fear crawling like worms in the red. "hope," she then said, "is what we must breathe," as she smelled the young rose

Markiss

that I gave her.



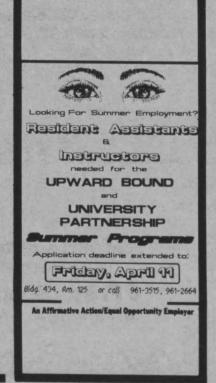
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eagulls launched themse-Ives high into the air and wind the pushed against them so hard that it seemed as if they were not going anywhere, aithough they frantically beat their wings. Grey clouds animated the sky.

Cheryl looked down at her feet — ashamed. She'd spent her life making all of the mistakes a person who would not recognize her own feelings was capable of making. Fiercely, she raised her head. "Okay," she thought, "a person can regret until she grabs the knife of suicide or..." She ran toward the ocean and threw herself at the incoming wave. "Live," she thought.

She'd been crying for the last two hours because she'd told a girlfriend about her past, and that friend had told other people. In innocence, her friend had betrayed her confidence. But didn't **she**, herself, go on chatting to strangers, acquaintances, and friends about things most people would keep private? Cheryl splashed her arms into the water, and wrapped a piece of seaweed around her shoulders. Well, there would come a time when looking at the past and looking at things, now, would not seem so full of mystery and meaning. Fascination with feelings and events would go away and she wouldn't be such a child anymore as to go on talking about anything and everything.

"Discretion," Jonathan had once said, "is what you need. You've got to learn who you can trust with private details of your life."

"But what are you supposed to distrust?" she'd asked:

"You've got to protect yourself because people will misuse your vulnerabilities."

"But how?" she'd asked.

He'd explained, and it had made sense. Things like you don't tell your boss you were fired from your last job for daydreaming. You don't tell a minister you were out the other night, reeling drunk, and enjoyed it. And you don't confess, to someone that you're attracted to, that you occasionally go for a one-night-stand. But not talking about the wrong things was complex for Cheryl. It took an extra thought. It meant sitting back and deciding which things were "good" and which were "bad," and whether or not they were good or bad to that particular person. And if she did think about that, too, rather than waiting for the blanch or blush, she feared being entirely too introspective.

She body-surfed a wave, and as water curled all around her, lifting her body, she thought about sensation and foam and being a fish. As she walked onto the beach she said to herself the day was incredible — just because the wind felt good and made her shiver. How absurd to go swimming on a foggy morning and to enjoy being cold! "But the sea can either drown you or make you forget your tears," she thought, amazed how close her thoughts of death were to her thoughts of life. "And yes," she sighed, "I will forgive my friend. After all, I do the same thing to myself."

She put on her clothing; she immediately warmed up as she slid her body into her awkward-looking and over-large coat. She put on her sneakers, last, and it had taken her years to learn to tie her shoes. Her mother had said she wasn't "stupid", just disinterested. Cheryl decided to go find her girlfriend to see if, maybe, she wanted to go for a walk or something. And what was good was that her friend would never know she'd ever contemplated ending the relationship.

Odd Morning, by Alice Glasspool

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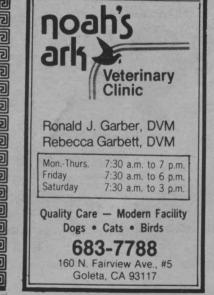
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If Huttenback can do it, you can, too. Contribute to Friday Magazine

Contact Luke or Jeannie in the Nexus office.





For several days for her daughter-in-law's sister's baby with patchwork of A bun of blonde birds, flowers and sheep hair skewered by she was sewing a quilt a red leaded pencil only for the words: waiting for need-She is so nice. a sudden correction. Old village women American, Indian or Russian they are the same.

- Shashi Girdner



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FRIDAY REVIEW

THE ACCIDENTAL TOURIST

A Novel by Anne Tyler

Review by Barbara DeWilde

ooking for a quick read to get your mind off textbooks? Looking for the latest lust-filled Sidney Sheldon-type epic? Then don't look here.

But if you're searching for a quiet yet absorbing novel, full of calm restraint yet with a palpable charm, pick up Anne Tyler's *The Accidental Tourist*. Carefully drawn characters and a true sensitivity to human frailties are the backbone of this deliciously sweet yet realistic look at the life of some outwardly average folk.

The story centers on the life and thoughts of one Macon Leary, an eccentric and unnervingly boring man in his forties. For a living, Macon writes travel books for people who hate to travel, the "Accidental Tourists" who find their lives and surroundings disrupted through no will of their own.

Macon travels through his life like an accidental tourist. He sits calmly watching the major events of his life pass by, making no move to effect them. And Macon's eccentricities are mindboggling: He is forever getting lost in his own home town, Baltimore; He is constantly trying to find more practical ways of doing things, and he is still looking for a clear purpose in life. This is not surpising however, for all his life Macon

has reduced emotions to mere flickers because, to his way of thinking, they are impractical and wasteful.

For instance, when his son is brutally murdered, Macon is unable to feel, or voice, the grief that society, and his wife, feel he should. Instead, eminently practical, he tries to give his son's now useless belongings to the neighbors.

Later, when Macon's wife leaves him, he is incapable of expressing his feelings of emptiness and loss, and cannot begin to persuade her to stay. Instead, he immediately devises an obscure means to make his empty home more practical. He sews his sheets together into a linen body bag and washes his daily clothes in the shower every night, tramping them clean with his feet as he shampoos.

Macon is also the unwilling owner of Edward, a feisty, incorrigible Welsh corgi, the only possession of his son's that he is unable to get rid of. Edward is a catalyst in his owner's life, causing most of the few significant changes that Macon undergoes. It is Edward who brings Macon in contact with Muriel, a young abrasive woman completely different from anyone Macon has ever known.

Preparing for a trip to England to update "The Accidental Tourist in London," Macon

finds he is unable to leave Edward in his usual kennel due to the corgi's reputation as a biter. Reaching the edge, Macon briefly panics, deciding as a last resort to leave Edward in the Meow-Bow Animal Hospital. At the hospital he meets Muriel, an objectionable young woman with reams of over-permed black hair, stiletto heels, and a non-stop, rapid-fire tongue.

Muriel tries to bludgeon her way into Macon's life, forcing him to take her crudely handwritten "business card." But Macon remains wary and uninterested. Muriel then quickly offers to train the

recalcitrant Edward, who has inexplicably taken a liking to her. Macon politely and hurriedly declines.

Macon's trip to

London is uneventful, and he soon returns to precisely the same routine he left. He then remodels his home into an almost Rube Goldberg parody of efficiency. The cat now enters and exits the house through the disconnected dryer hose in the basement. Edward, too, must go to the basement, where his food is now dropped through the coal chute. But Edward is mortally afraid of going down to the basement alone, and waits whimpering until Macon comes to carry him down into the dark, dank depths. During one of these excursions, Edward panics and causes Macon to fall down the stairs;

Macon's leg snaps beneath him.

This accident forces Macon to return to his childhood home across town, where his sister has always lived, and his brothers are forever returning. We now see the forces that have shaped Macon into the bundle of od-

dities he is.

Each of Macon's siblings are just as neurotic, eccentric, and overly practical as Macon himself. Food is organized in alphabetical order. Supper is unfashionably early. And each evening the family gathers to play a card game with rules so incredibly obscure that no one else can hope to learn it.

Macon and his family are insulated in a world of their own eccentricity. They are each perfectly content with the lives they now lead, and are completely unable to share those lives with anyone outside their odd, ordered little world.

Here, in the bosom of Macon's family, Edward makes his presence known, once again bringing Muriel into Macon's life. Attacking visitors and family members alike, Edward soon comes under threat of rifles and the pound, forcing Macon to recall the Meow-Bow woman. Muriel then re-enters his life with force. Before long Macon finds himself meeting Muriel's parents and, bit by bit, moving in with her. He makes no overt decisions, but suddenly he finds himself esconced in her low-rent apartment with her pale, allergyridden son.

Macon is now in a new center of madness, and it begins to change him. Life becomes crazy and hectic, and some of the energy rubs off; He begins to contact lost feelings; He develops, step by step, into a feeling, caring human being; He is forced to deal with a myriad of situations that have never before presented themselves. Muriel soon begins to pressure him for a commitment, if not marriage. Finally, when Macon is forced into making a decision, when there seems to be no escape...

His wife re-enters his life. The paragon of peace, security and comfort, Macon returns to her and the stable, confining life he had before.

At this point I felt like screaming, and I realized I had been hooked. I was feeling, thinking, and hoping for a character with whom I originally had nothing in common.

I had first viewed Macon with distaste and a distinct lack of sympathy, yet here I was cheering him on and cringing when I felt he was taking the easy way out. Through the use of exquisite detail, carefully explanatory flashbacks, and a slow, gentle progression of events, Anne Tyler creates an almost irresistible character. I felt that I had known him all his life, and his faults and foibles had become endearing rather than irritating. And I realized that he had been making a progression from the moment the book

(See REVIEW, p.7A)

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REVIEW

(Continued from p.6A)

began, a progression toward escape from the boring, stable, insulated world of his past, into the frenetic world of his future. Each new day brought him a new realization about himself, a new personal disclosure that helped both of us understand him better.

Anne Tyler's writing is so careful, so loving of both idiosyncracies and detail, that her affection for her characters is transmitted to the reader. The more each character is developed, the more difficult they are to dislike.

Muriel, for instance, is profoundly obnoxious when first introduced. She talks without pause for pages at a time, and her words cannot be read slowly. But through the chattering, we come to know the real and minor tragedies in her life and to respect her amazing strength of character. She has struggled against almost insurmountable odds to create a stable life for herself and her son. She has spunk and verve, in short, everything Macon's life has been lacking. She seems to be a perfect counterweight to Macon, a fact which he doesn't seem to realize, but she is sure of.

There are no weak characters in this novel, no cast-asides that merely exist to insert a few lines of meaningful dialogue. Each character is a whole being, a three-dimensional person with a life of his or her own independent of the plot. Therein lies

much of the charm of Anne Tyler's writing.

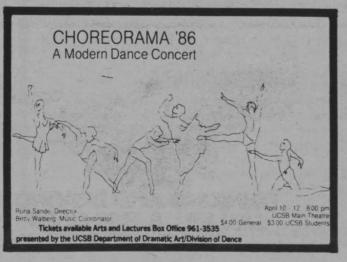
Her stories seem to be simple statements of fact and reports of events. And though many of the characters' actions are odd, none of them seem contrived. Every detail of each person's actions are precisely in tune with their personality. Once we know the characters, every step they take is true to themselves. The novel is a loving chronicle of these steps, unembellished but far from stark.

By the way, Macon's return home with his wife is not the end of the story. More surprises and developments await him as he travels to France to update "The Accidental Tourist in Paris." You'll never guess who has booked a room in the same hotel...



Tim McDonough







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They walk with silent instinct, young and well-dressed, down a street empty of fair-goers.

And though the sky is a hot white, they are suited for a cool autumn occasion — her beige jacket arms bunched on cotten knuckles, his hands tucked in loose knit pants.

Note the pacing of their feet how he drags spit-cleaned leather shoes forward out of habit, his matatarsus pausing, fixed in the weight of muscle and bone; But it is her thin, stockinged ankles and feet, crossed like evening candles that seem a lonely kissing of the earth.

The banners and signs fade over his sloped shoulders, and a candy apple booth, red and white, sets at the base of a street lamp; They move slowly towards me, his eyes and mouth turned in arcs of blameless sorrow, a piece of paper in his coat like the perfect tear, and her wavy brown hair is cut short, in the style of the day. Her small right hand held softly in the bend of his arm, eyes closed and skin uncomfortably tight across high cheekbones, almost distract from the tears, facing her husband's shaven face, she refuses to divulge.

Luke Trent

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INVITATION TO APPLY



FOR 1986-87 LA CUMBRE YEARBOOK EDITOR

The ASUCSB La Cumbre Excellence Board is now soliciting applications for the La Cumbre editorship for the 1986-87 school year. Candidates must pick up application forms at the La Cumbre office, Storke Communications Bldg. Rm. 1053 and return the completed forms by Monday, April 14.

The **La Cumbre** board will interview Editor candidates on Thurs., April 17 in Rm. 1001 in the Storke Tower Bldg. Applicants must be full-time students at UCSB but major in any department is acceptable, as is class standing.

Duties and Responsibilities of the Yearbook Editor: (Some include)

- 1) Shall have general supervision of the publishing of the 1986-87 La Cumbre, UCSB's 67th yearbook.
- 2) Shall direct the editorial policy and other guidelines of the book.
- 3) Shall provide adequate training for the editorial staff.
- 4) Shall preside at all meetings of the editorial staff and of the combined staffs.
- 5) Shall be responsible for managing the **La Cumbre** budget (\$150,000).
- 6) Shall appoint all staff members with final approval by La Cumbre Board.
- 7) Shall actively recruit volunteer workers for all departments of La Cumbre.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

- 1. The La Cumbre Excellence Board will be guided in its selection of the Editor by information available on the applications (and through interview), by the applicant's experience, his/her ability to use competent judgement, his/her scholastic standing and his/her proposed program for producing a fair, accurate, well balanced and high quality publication.
- 2. Applicants shall submit a written application in sufficient copies for the members of the La Cumbre Board one week prior to the day of selection.
 - ★ FOR MORE DETAILS AND INFORMATION CONTACT JOE KOVACH, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR, IN STORKE TOWER, RM. 1053, OR '86 EDITOR MARY A. DOLL at 961-2386.