

## The Concrete Jungle

**By Safari Sullivan** Tour Guide Pro

Some call it the city of angels, but don't let that fool you. Los Angeles is a jungle, complete with wild animals, dangerous pitfalls, occasionally aggressive natives and lost treasure.

To the inexperienced or timid, a trip through the concrete jungle can be deadly. But to those with a spirit of adventure, a taste for the bizarre, and a 'go-forit' attitude, L.A. offers riches and beauty unequaled in the 'civilized' world.

And that's where I come

My name is Safari Sullivan and I've been taking folks

bara-L.A. run for going on 20 years now. And I ain't lost one yet. I grew up in L.A., I know the country and I know the people. So grab your khakis, pack the insect repellant, load the camera and get set, 'cause this here's the wildest ride in the

But first ... let's get a couple of things straight. There is L.A. and then there is L.A.. Nothing boils my frog more than people who say they are "from L.A." when they actually hail from Orange County, Malibu, Thousand Oaks or some other outlying suburb. When I say L.A., I mean that tiny little plot of land with Hollywood on the north, Inglewood on the south, East L.A. to the east and Beverly

Hills to the west. That, to me, is the City of Los Angles.

And unless you've got more than a week to spend exploring the greater Los Angeles basin (more like a washbowl), then how 'bout we just stick to the city, OK?

If you're coming from the north, like from Santa Barbara, you'll most likely want to get off the freeway in Hollywood. I don't really know whether Hollywood legally falls within the city limits, but I do know you'll have a hard time finding an area with more color, more sleaze, more good food, more crime and more weird movie nostalgia than Hollywood, Calif.

sure. In Hollywood you get the good with the bad, the every restaurant like La located on Franklin Blvd., you'll have to deal with 10 goofy tourists shoving to get Monroe's star on the Walk of

Hollywood remains an area with undeniable charm, reason than the hundreds of kooky, sometimes scary shops that line the main strip known as Hollywood Blvd. On the two- or three-mile stretch that makes up the boulevard, you'll find rocker leather shops, poster stores, book stores, movie theaters, witchcraft supply outlets, Blvd. Ya can't miss it. and lingerie shops aplenty. In addition, the usual straight to downtown Los number of Millers Outposts Angeles, 'cause if you don't and hardware stores will also catch your eye and can't really say you've seen wallet. So, without L.A.

belaboring a point, Hollywood is kind of different, full of history and overall something that should not be missed.

Next on our list of attractions is what most Angelenos agree is the heart of the city, a place known as Wilshire District. Wilshire Blvd. has been around longer than the city itself, and it seems geographically that everything else sort of sprung up around it. My favorite part of this area is a section along Fairfax Ave. beginning at Wilshire.

Fairfax, home to a good percentage of L.A.'s older Jewish population, is dotted It's not a Shangri La, to be with Jewish shops, theaters and delicatessens, the most famous of which is Canters, shell with the peanut, the an L.A. icon. By far the avocado with the pit. And for largest of its kind, the restaurant /delicatessen /-Poubelle (the Garbage Pail) bakery is pretty much the same place it was when Doris Day was a girl slurping down ice cream picture of Marilyn malteds and potato knishes.

Other sights along the Fairfax mile are the May Company Building on Wilshire and Fairfax, one of however, if for no other many architectural wonders to be found in this part of the city, and the Farmer's Market, a compendium of shops and restaurants, all with the basic theme of fresh fruit and vegetables running throughout. The Market is located on Fairfax between Third Street and Beverly

Well, how about I take us get there at least once you



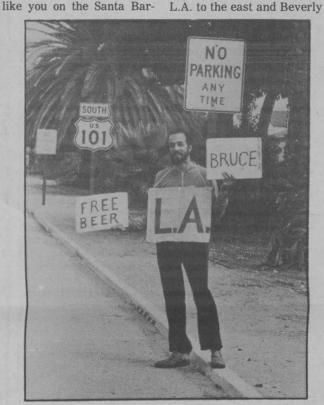
For every major city there is a financial district, and for L.A. this would have to be downtown. Much like Hollywood, there is a certain undeniable dichotomy present here, however. Right next to huge skyscrapers filled with business people busily making money are the majority of the city's homeless busily struggling to survive.

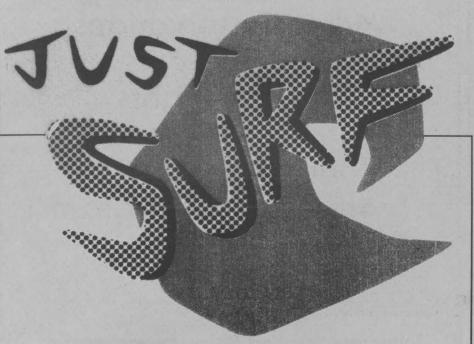
Homelessness is a part of Los Angeles life that, as much as people complain about it, doesn't appear to be getting any better. For a real eye-opener, take a ride down Sixth Street past the Greyhound bus station on Los Angeles Street. Keep going until you hit Towne, Gladys or Stanford Avenues. That is what so often in the news is refered to as Skid Row. It isn't pretty, but

After that, why not head over to the Original Pantry

on Figueroa Street, where the servings are huge and the atmosphere is thick enough to slice with a machete. The Pantry has great steaks, amazing sourdough bread and hasn't closed its door since 1924. Really, no joke, they don't even have a key to lock the

Well, I've done it again, left you hanging. The problem is, there is just so much to see and do in Los Angeles that one article or safari just doesn't do it justice. That's why I suggest you book another trip with me back into the jungle soon when we can really dig into the town and turn up some of the lesser-known spots and attractions. But until then, remember, keep the mosquito netting on at night and check your boots for creepy-crawlies before putting them on in the morning. This is Safari Sullivan, signing off.





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## **Expedition Editions**

Explore Your-Options

By Adam Moss Staff Writer

When a student thinks about taking off on a traveling odyssey that will provide a perfect mixture of culture, thrills, four-star accommodations, exotic food and romance for under \$25 a day, he or she might look to fiction works for the most inspirational places to go and things to do.

For instance, if you've just read Somerset Maugham's "The Razor's Edge," you might want to take off, like the admirable character Larry Darrel, for Paris, France. Once you get there, you'd find an odd job, live in a hovel and like it, learn the language and spend your leisure hours immersing yourself in French literature.

Or if you plan only to go to Los Angeles, you might instead look to a Ross MacDonald mystery and hang out in smoke-filled rooms looking to right some wrongs.

Or, like Dr. Hunter S. Thompson in "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas," you might look to wreak some havoc in Vegas, alienating everyone you come into contact with as you wander about in a drug-induced haze.

But looking at literature for travel information doesn't give you much practical advice. Although many of the Paris cafes listed in Hemingway's "The Sun Also Rises" are still there to be explored and enjoyed, the novel fails to list their food prices, addresses or up-to-date menus. Or the cheapest charter-mile-saver-off-season-roundtrip airfare.

For this sort of information, one must instead look to travel agencies or guidebooks which provide either the cheapest, or simplest, ways of getting you where you gotta go.

Travel guidebooks may not be written by Hemingway or another expatriate of your choice, but they can be a bit more useful.

Some, however, are less useful than others. In one, "Cheap/Smart Travel," the reader is informed that when looking for hotel bargains in the yellow pages, one should "look for them under 'Hotels." Thanks a lot.

The book also suggests how one can eat cheap. For breakfast in major cities, it says you can find inexpensive grease and eggs specials in places like Chicago and New York; for lunch, it says Chinese restaurants often have specials. But the dinner special is the book's best (or worst) suggestion for food items. It says the "smart traveler" eats dinner during happy hours, where the hors d'oeuvres are free if you buy a drink or two.

Advice like this seems like it may not be worth the \$6.95 cover price. I would suggest that if you want to eat cheap, go to a supermarket, buy some basic ingredients like bread, fruit and other foodstuffs and put something together. This method has got to be better than a "Chinese food lunch special."

"Cheap/Smart Travel" does offer some useful advice on where to find inexpensive accommodations, noting that YMCAs, which feature clean though sparsely fur-

nished rooms for \$8 to \$28 per night, are located in most major North American cities and 19 foreign countries.

"Frommer's Dollar-Wise" travel books likewise offer unnecessary advice, like where to find restaurants in Canadian towns. This information seems like something that a sharp-minded traveler can find out without the aid of a travel guide. Perhaps in the yellow pages under "Restaurants."

But these travel books, and many others like them, also offer very useful information on some of the basics of traveling. In Fodor's series on traveling in Europe, detailed information on how to get passports, Eurail passes, duty-free goods and the best food buys is given in stark but thorough descriptions. And Fodor tells you how to steer clear of terrorists in its 1989 European travel guide. According to the book, which costs about \$16, terrorism has been on the decline since 1986 and in Europe, it is least common in Scandinavian countries.

Another good source for travel information is a series of books called "Let's Go." These books and those mentioned above are geared toward the budget-conscious traveler and are available at virtually any bookstore, including the UCen bookstore, and the Pacific Travel Company on State Street, which specializes in travel literature and maps.

Dean Travel Associates, located in the UCen, is an agency that specializes in student travel destinations like Mexico, Hawaii, Las Vegas and Europe. The agency is a member of the California's Association of University Travel Agencies and thus is able to obtain student discounts for travel arrangements. It also caters to visiting English as a Second Language students.

My own travel advice is this: Try to stay close to home and explore everything that you have yet to see in your own locale, as it is both cheaper and sometimes more satisfying than attempting to explore a foreign country that speaks another language.

And although guidebooks might be crucial in places where you don't speak the language, they are not as necessary if you plan to drive to Monterey or San Francisco, or perhaps making a Vegas run. In those circumstances, you might be better off leaving your better judgment behind, looking for a seedy bar and asking the natives what they suggest you do in their hometown.

And ignore the advice given by the main character in Anne Tyler's "The Accidental Tourist." Although he says the traveler should travel light, carry everything in travel-size containers and steer clear of everything foreign, my advice is to bring all kinds of extraneous things, like novels, scuba gear and a few condoms, 'cause you never know when they might come in handy. And the next time you're in Mexico, eat like the natives eat. Eat a few bacon dogs, dammit, skip the tourist traps and ask the locals what they like to do in Mexico. Why travel, I say, if you simply seek the same comforts that are available at home.





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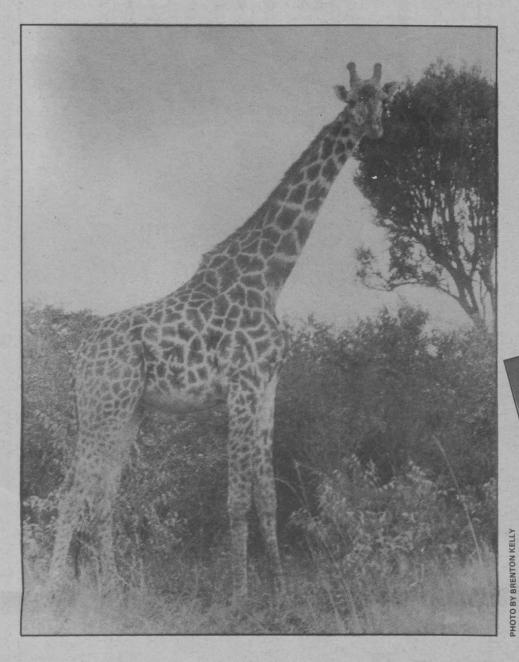
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## Adventure in Africa



By Karen Brink Contributor

Incredible is the only way to describe it. From the moment we left Nairobi, our African safari began sighting animals, people and places that I can only attempt to describe. In our little Nissan van (for which I now have great respect ) we rambled through roads, rivers and forests that no 4 X 4 owner I know would even try without a few second thoughts. Our first day we were excited to see gazelles, impala and zebra, boring as passing a field of "big stuff," and every day we saw a little more.

remaining rhinos left in that area, as well as spotting a few cheetah. Mountain Lodge was a tropical paradise where I woke up the whole hotel when a Sykes monkey chased me out of my room in order to try to steal candy. Every place had its specialties, but it was Masai Mara that was the most spectacular. Here were the animals we had spent hours searching for in other regions, all right in front of us. Hundreds of zebra, gazelle and

hartebeasts. Prides of

lionesses with cubs and fresh kills, crocodiles sunning along banks of hippo-filled waters, herds of elephants and baboons scampering across the dirt roads.

Driving across the land, you could see for miles and still see no sign of civilization. On the roads that were more potholes than pavement, we would take turns shouting out sightings of ostrich and giraffe, hyenas and hartebeasts. The little warthogs were everywhere, so cute and defiant. They would turn and stare at you,



By Sandy Chuck Staff Writer

After attending UCSB, a school which attracts mostly northern and southern Californians alike, I witnessed a rivalry between them which I never knew existed. Some northern Californians think they and their half of California are better than southern Californians and their half and vice versa. Well who cares! This practice seems scarcely different from those wild, exotic territorial beasts who growl at trespassers. But still, being a southern Californian, I wanted to see what all the hype was about. So I decided to venture into "enemy territory.

Not surprisingly, the people are basically the same, but I could see why they are so ethnocentric. Specifically, I'm talking about Bay Area inhabitants. San Francisco is a great city, and it's in their domain.

It's a beautiful city, great skyline, good food, and plenty of fun things to do and sights to see. Fortunately, I'd gone to San Francisco with friends who know the city pretty well.

Driving in San Francisco can be just as frustrating as driving in Los Angeles because of all the one-way streets. But I must admit, it's more fun than driving in L.A., especially with someone who knows the streets of San Francisco. There's nothing like flying down those steep hills unique to

Now, if you like Italian deli-style food, there's a great authentic deli on Chestnut Street, called Lucca Delicatessen. Everything is good, trust me. During their busy lunch hour, one of five guys from Italy can help you choose from a huge array of cheeses, breads, sandwiches and salads. One of the nicest afternoons you could have should be spent ordering a lunch to go, walking a couple blocks up to Marina Park, and sitting down having lunch in the park with a view of the bay, the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz and Berkeley. And for after lunch, the park is a perfect spot to fly a kite.

If you like to shop, there are two particular streets, both very different from each other, lined with interesting shops. The neighborhood surrounding the corner of Haight Street and Ashbury Avenue has changed tremendously since the sixties when it was the hippie hang-out. However, it still plays host to an assortment of individuals not caught in the mainstream of society, and the street offers used clothing shops, cafes, bookshops and lots of leather. Union Street also offers a different, but just as unique, variety of shops. They range from African Art stores to novelty stores, to crystal stores to some store that tries to sell petrified food for exorbitant prices in the name of art (actually, it's a pretty neat store).

But the fun and entertainment has only just begun. San Francisco has a rich nightlife just waiting to be tapped. There's a bar in North Beach called The Savoy Tivoli on Grant Avenue. It's known for its potent drinks and dual atmosphere. One side is somewhat dark and sleazy with paisley print spray-painted on the dividers separating your booths and the other side features cafe-esque surroundings with an outdoor patio. But the main point is, it's one of a mecca of cool bars in the city where a good time is to be had

Now, San Francisco has a lot of really great places to eat, but Sam Wo's in Chinatown isn't one of them. That is, people don't go there for the quality of the food. Nevertheless, many young people make it a point to "eat" at Sam Wo's on a Friday or Saturday night for the novel experience. Before you even get there, it is mandatory that you and a group of friends buy a lot of beer - and bring it with you. The restaurant is three stories high, but still probably smaller



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puffing up there faces in an attempt to scare you. Then they went running off with their tails pointing straight up in the air. Of course, we never got tired of seeing monkeys, and at the hotels you had to be careful, or they would take off with your book, glasses, jewelry or whatever they could get their hands on.

It was amazing to travel into such different cultures. We passed throgh tribal villages where half-naked women and spear-carrying men were living out their lives. Their ears had holes four inches in diameter, and most of their heads were shaven bald. If any of you

have ever taken an anthro class or read NISA, then you know the type of lifestyles I was lucky enough to see in action. As a woman, my feminist streak was flaring, because everywhere I went, in the tribal regions and within the small towns, only the women were working, carrying huge loads and taking care of the kids while the men sat under trees or at the most tended cows. Even our driver admitted to us that women are treated like burros and breeders. The average number of children each woman has is eight, and

most live in poverty. Everywhere kids would wave to our bus and cry out. "Jambo" which is Swahili for hello. Old and young alike were fascinated with anything American; at the numerous curio shops the natives would try and trade

for your T-shirts, pens, Walkmans and tapes. I managed to pawn off a few old cassettes and a pocket calculator along with a few shillings so I could bring home a three-foot statue of an old Masai man, now named Fred and greeting people at my door. But these traders were trickier than the guys down in Mexico. Often we found an item for a 10th of the price we had just paid just a few stalls down.

It was a trip I'll never forget. The people, the land and the incredible abunworth every cent. There are dance of animals. No other Christmas eve do I think I'll be teaching a Masai warrior how to dance. Will I ever see such a crazy thing as elephants or giraffes mating? (Don't try and picture it). 'See lion cubs or day-old zebra? Or try and talk to people whose only open-sided truck all day. It image of the modern world is cheaper, but by the end is what they have learned

from the safaris who stop to

stare at them? It is an

expensive trip, very, but

a variety of different ways vou can take a safari, but here's a warning. Most of them go to the exact same place, but the prices between safari companies vary

If you want to rough it, sleep in tents and ride in an

of the day, a shower and a

big meal away from the mosquitoes might make the extra cost of a hotel tour worth it. I booked my tour right from campus. It's as easy as that, so if you want to try something different from the backpacking through Europe scene, this

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and more cramped than the average restaurant. In order to get to the dining rooms (which resemble the inside of a trailer home) on the second and third floors, you walk through the kitchen, which, if you think about it, is really gross. The waiter is rude, the food sucks and the place is a dump. But (the proverbial but), if you want to get drunk, sing and yell a lot, and have fun, you can do it here.

The city also has several comedy clubs to choose from. But it would be hard for me to recommend one since the one club I went to closed down this past year, and when I tried to go to the Punchline, they were sold out. May I advise though that if you plan on going to a comedy club one night, buy your tickets in advance because they are very popular and sell out

The Golden Gate Park is also a good source of entertainment not only in the daytime but also at night. On certain weekends, the Laserium in the park has laser shows. I went to Pink Floyd night at the Laserium which was, like all Pink Floyd related productions, "trippy."

So what I thought may have been an expedition met by hostile natives in a foreign region turned out to be a vacation in an area not so unlike where I call home.



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# Take a Walk on the

By Joel Brand Intrepid Traveler

Baja, Mexico is what could be called the Last Frontier. For those seeking adventure, excitement, entertainment, danger or just a cheap beer, this is the place to go.

Before making the Mexican pilgrimage it is important to be properly prepared; there are a few essentials for travel, and depending on how much of Baja you wish to experience, they will determine the usefulness of this article.

As with traveling in any foreign country, picture identification is extremely important unless you don't feel like coming back to the U.S. ... ever. Passports are not mandatory, as a driver's license will do, but if you have obvious foreign ancestry, a passport is a good idea.

Unless you are traveling to the deep parts of mainland Mexico, do not exchange your money for pesos. Even in Cabo San Lucas, at the tip of Baja, 1,000 miles into Mexico, they like good old American presidents on their money

On that subject, always bring money for bribes when going to Mexico. Consider this as you would consider bringing money for food. You may not always have to pay a bribe, but if you do need to, it will keep you out of jail - \$20 should cover it. Bribes are necessary for a wide range of offenses, real and imagined. Remember that you are in a foreign country and that when you are accused of an offense, you are guilty.

South of the border is beyond the American Civil Liberties Union's effectiveness (even Judge Wapner has little or no power in Mexico) and if you go to jail, don't count on using the phone — they figure the longer you're in there, the more you'll pay to get out. It is OK to do a little bit of bargaining on fines, or to try and talk your way out of jail, but respect and humility when dealing with the police down there will be more effective than threatening lawsuits.

For the more ambitious traveler who wants to venture away from the toll roads and fireworks stands of the Americanized colonies of Ensenada and Tijuana, there are a few additional items that are important. If you intend to go past Ensenada, a map is recommended, especially since few roads past this point, save the main highway, are paved. Water is essential to human survival, and if you don't want to come home with an unexpected souvenir, it is a good idea not only to bring your own, but to avoid eating ice cubes, or buying the Mexican version of Sparkletts.

The milk and orange juice down there is funky (un-American), and it is a good idea to bring your own. However, many foods are available in Mexico that don't need to be avoided, such as cereals — Fruiti Lupis (Fruit Loops) are a personal favorite; there are also bread products and bottled beverages.

Most American cereals are available south of the border in markets, although they become harder to find once past Ensenada, as with most American products, including people who speak English.

Because of the relative cheapness of the bread and the possible distance between you and food in the event of a car problem, it is a good idea to buy a lot of bread. Fresh tortillas and rolls are the two most abundant breads, the rolls usually cost about 75¢ per grocery bag, and the tortillas, about 30¢ for

When buying beer, try out the different brands, don't just go for the ones that are popular in America; be adventurous. Corona, in my experience, is not the preferred cerveza in Mexico. Tecate is my personal brew, but there are many good ones around. Of course beer is cheap in Mexico, but remember the bottles have deposits on them, and about half of the cost of a case will be refunded to you if you bring the empties back to the same store whence they came - the same goes for soda bottles. If you don't remember what Pepsi and Seven-Up taste like out of a bottle, try one; it's kind of neat.

Don't forget to bring extra cash for purchasing all of those required American tourist items. In case you're from a different planet and don't know what these items are, here is a list: Mexican blankets, switch-blades, cerveza (Corona is a cerveza in case you hadn't noticed), fireworks (get the really tall skyrockets for a dollar or two apiece, they're the best), a totally useless ceramic statue of Buddha, or Jesus, or Mickey Mouse surfing, and of course, Chicklet (pronounced "Chikley"); it's gum — but if you're really hungry 20 or 30 pieces of it will suffice as a meal, it's really good — you can buy it from the poor children at the border.

Now that you are a fully equipped American freak in a foreign land, there are a few things that you should know: one, the speed limit signs are in kilometers per hour, and not miles per hour; two, Mexican police do not have radars; three, you don't need to speed to get a ticket for speeding (I paid 20 bucks to one of the little entrepreneurs); four, it is illegal to light off fireworks in most cities, even in San Miguel, the famous campground north of Ensenada (I almost went to jail for such an offense there); and five, never have pot with you, or in your car in Mexico (one of the biggest industries in Mexico is busting dumb gringos for marijuana).

I have one friend who bought pot from a cop in Mexico (they've never heard of entrapment). He and his four friends had to cough (get it?) up \$10,000 to get out after spending three days in a hot, overcrowded jail cell with 30 natives and

whole lot of their by-products.

It has been said that the truly adventurous, the people who taunt death and who fear no evil, are those who eat at the small food stands set up at strategic points throughout Mexico. These little stands can be heaven and they can be hell, depending on which one you choose — kind of a Russian Roulette of the intestines

The food they prepare is usually cheap and warm, but the quality of the food varies drastically. There is no room for weak souls at these franchises of peril. The as-of-yet unafflicted maintain that it takes an attitude of valor to avoid a call with destiny - otherwise known as Montezuma's Revenge. Only a true invertebrate would miss this truly unique dining experience. This experience is an inseparable part of the Mexican cultural encounter.

With most of the basics that have been covered in this article you should have a good preparation for a Mexican excursion; however, it is always a good idea to partake on such a trek with someone who knows what they're doing.

Lastly — about re-crossing the border — it is not advisable to make small talk or play jokes with the Border Patrol officers. If you do, and happen to get selected for "secondary inspection," most people play it safe — but if you really like to live on the edge, a little volleyball game in the inspection area (that's where they rip your car apart looking for contraband) always gets personalized attention from inspection officers (they're the ones with the rubber gloves and probing



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## **Transportation Exploration**

**By Wade Daniels** Staff Writer

Being that most UCSB students have grown up in big fat American families that have so many cars the parents are only too glad to pawn off the oldest or crappiest one when license age comes around, we're not often privy to the fun and hassles of riding public transit systems.

But there are occasional times, such as when the car breaks down or we are found in another city, that riding the buses or maybe even a subway becomes necessary. Forget cabs. They're so damn expensive these days that they're really out of the question.

One suggestion, if using these systems means treading new ground; bring something real big to read, because chances are you'll get lost. It also might be a good idea to pack a blade, because you never know if you'll inadvertantly get off at a crack alley. It's even happened to some of the Kennedys.

Subways will make a man out of you, even if that's not what you had planned for. A person who rides an underground rail has to grow up fast and/or usually get mugged. They're notorious hangouts for gangs and weird men with smelly whiskers. Likewise, even buses can prove "adventurous." People have been known to have a passenger sitting behind them on buses shove a knife against their neck after being asked to get the wallet out, only to have the bad guy get out at the next stop.

Strange truths never cease.

Los Angeles is reknowned, or at least infamous, for its bad public transit system.

There's the Rapid Transit

District and there's hitchiking; both are about equally as safe. A stinkin' bus ride will cost \$1.25 per, with transfers extra. The city used to have "the big red cars" - a cable car system that covered the entire town until the late 1950s when, quite seriously, auto industry (represented by obese, bald guys in nice suits) lobbied for its abandonment in favor of having the freeways as the city's main form of transportation. They didn't bother passing out any free cars to the poor people.

Now taxpayers get to shell out about a million dollars per mile or something like that for a new subway system being built.

San Francisco, now there's a partyin' transit town. The cable cars are certainly good fun, but they aren't really good for much more than attracting tourist dollars. And you can be somewhat comforted knowing that those bus drivers aren't really going to get too nutty driving that box around hooked up to all those wires hanging down (the city buses draw power from

overhang cables rather than using fossil fuel and making more smog).

Possibly the most hellish of public transit systems comes in a package called a Greyhound Bus. The actual mode of bus-riding is not so bad; it's just that the Greyhounds have come to distinguish themselves by somehow, intentionally or unintentionally, creating that "smell." No one knows what it is, and maybe it best stay like that.

The smell. It reminds one of drinking a heaping cup of dust, it's a scent that floats through the air finding clothes to soil and sowing toxic headaches. But it's long suffering for which there is a reward.

But whatever the obstacle, the inconvience, the lost time spent waiting for the ride back to pick up the correct line that was somehow missed on any sort of transit system, just remember that your chances of getting injured really badly in a big bus or train, should it run into something, are probably less than if you were riding in a car.

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