Weekend Connection
The Daily Nexus Guide to Dining, Drinking, and Dancing
Thursday, December 4, 1997

DAMMIT,
SHORT ROUND!
THIS ISN'T A TREASURE MAP,
IT'S AN AD!

SORRY
DOCTAH JONES!

EAT IN PARADISE CAFE
DIRECTIONS ON BACK!
The encounter began at sunset. Pale peach-colored rays streaked the horizon as stars faintly gleamed over downtown Santa Barbara. He walked toward the mountains from State Street with determination; a familiar neon sign lit up in the distance, beckoning, beckoning. He had been looking forward to this evening for a long time, indeed, with good reason. For tonight, he would visit Paradise.

Paradise Cafe.

After crossing the street, he paused on the sidewalk, drawing in the crisp twilight air. Looking up from the stairway to heaven, he paused with awe. Paradise is a lovely flowered realm of candle-lit delights, and one cannot fully enjoy the pleasure of entering it without first standing firm at the celestial gates, brimming with giddy anticipation.

Besides, he was waiting for his companion, and it would be both rude and untoward to remain in the Elysian Fields alone. But as he admired the mural of historic Santa Barbara, a friendly hostess descended toward him like an angel. "Are you waiting for a friend?" she asked.

"Yes, yes... I am," he responded, amazed that she had read his mind. She chuckled softly, as though sensing his thought. "Anyone up for dessert and coffee?" the waitress asked, friendly negotiations regarding bite swaps and appetizers.

But soon the meals were finished, the plates nearly scraped clean by the satisfied duo. As they sat back in their chairs to relax their dining experience all seemed right — yet there was something missing.

The waitress arrived with their heavenly cuisine, and they bit each tender morsel with rising enthusiasm, never wanting the plate to empty. For a moment they imagined the prospect of sitting at the table forever, always enjoying each other's company and wanting to make the world a better place before his time was through. They found that while their lives' experiences were completely different, they shared a longing to seize each day to the fullest extent. Paradise has a way of bringing such souls together.

And Paradise Cafe is only too accommodating for such a desire. Its fully stocked wooden bar has a high ceiling and even higher standards for its bartenders, and why not? When entertaining the guests of Paradise, the drinks are always perfectly still but silky smooth, and they never disappoint.

And Paradise Cafe is located at 702 Anacapa St. in downtown Santa Barbara. Call 962-4416 for more information.
Wanna Get Drunk?
Get To Mel's

It's dark, it's dank and it's smoky (until Jan. 1, anyway). Its old-school style is buried among the flashy downtown Santa Barbara tourist traps. It's the anti-club, not subject to the influence of trends and change. It's a place where the serious drinker can order a serious drink and have the kind of fun that is more often found in movies today than real life. It's absolutely perfect.

It's Mel's.

"It's one of Santa Barbara's treasures..."

Nestled next to the multiplex theater in Paseo Nuevo Mall, Mel's is an unassuming hole in the wall that to the untrained eye is nothing more than an ancient relic that should be converted into the latest happening fashion shop. Certainly something so old can't survive in a place that renews itself every few years!

Not so, says anyone who has crossed Mel's threshold, sat down at the bar and ordered anything from a bottle of beer to the most complicated mixed drink. It's one of Santa Barbara's treasures, a place where you can be yourself and enjoy the fact that everyone else is being themselves, too.

Walking into Mel's, the sights, sounds and smells take you back to the days of the classic, honest-to-good bar. Except for a nod to modern technology (if television can be called that these days), it has all the feel of a time capsule planted decades ago and only now opened.

Saddling up to the bar, patrons are greeted by a vast array of drink choices. The immense selection can baffle first-timers and make them wander about in a daze, so veterans, please do your part to help them out. Kindly encourage them to enter Mel's with a drink already in mind. While sipping their first beverage, they can sort out all their options without creating an embarrassing scene.

You're doubly fortunate if you're a football fan and it happens to be football season. Mel's is land enough to provide free hot dogs during every NFL game, a plus if you're too busy to catch a meal before your favorite team hits the field.

Of course, no bar would be complete without a happy hour. In Mel's case, that would be three hours, from 4:30 to 7:30. All manner of drinks are available at reduced prices, making it a good way to end a busy day and still keep your wallet intact.

So whether it's a bottle of Budweiser or a scotch on the rocks that tickles your fancy, Mel's is the place to go when the trendy fluff of the others just won't do.

Mel's is located at 6 W. De La Guerra St., just off State Street in the Paseo Nuevo Mall. For more information, call 963-2211.
ARGATO SUSHI
117 W. Victoria St., 968-4914
Open Sat-Thur 5-9:30 p.m.
Price range: $5-$12

CHINA CASTLE
1420 State St., 966-5062
Mandarin, Szechuan
restaurant specializing in
Hunan cuisine. Hours 11
m. -2:30 p.m.; dinner M-Sat
5-10:30 p.m., Sun, Fri-Sat
11:30 am-2:30 p.m., dinner
5-10:30 p.m. Price range:
$5-$12.95.

CHINA CAFE
5688 Calle Real, 683-4676
Chinese/Chow mein
restaurant specializing in
Mandarin, Szechuan and
Hunan cuisine. Hours 11
m. -2:30 p.m., dinner M-Sat
5-10:30 p.m. Price range:
$5-$12.95.

CHINA TEA
511 State St., 962-1254
Great taste, best price.
hours: 11 am-10 pm. Take-
out orders as well.

HARBOR HOUSE
1000 State St., 965-7841
The best Honey Chili
temple food in town. Hours
M-Sat 11:30 am-2:30 p.m.
and 5-10 pm; Sun 11 am-10
pm. Price range: $3.95-
$7.95.

JAPANESE RESTAURANT
968-5116
Mandarin, Szechuan and
JAPANESE RESTAURANT
6831 Hollister Ave., 969-2261
Elegant dining and
take-out orders. Hours:
Mon-Sat 11:30 am-2:30 p.m.
and 5-10 pm; Sun 11 am-10
pm. PRICE range: $3.95-
$7.95.

KITCHEN
5111 Paseo Nuevo, 962-6448
One of the best places in the
world, healthy and
inexpensive. Open daily
11 am-10 pm. Price range:
$5-$10. Good selection of
beer and champagne.

LA CASCADA
290 Gjurin St., 962-6602
Excellent Thai cuisine,
prepared fresh, with
seasonings mild to spicy.
Hours: 11:30 am-10 pm.
Price range: $3.95-$14.95.

PAVLAKO'S
217 N. Milpas, 965-6203
International cuisine
including pasta, Mexican,
Greek, Chinese, and
Mediterranean dishes. Open
365 days a week 11 am-10 pm.
Price range: $5-$30.

SUNDAY BRUNCH N' CRUNCH
702 Anacapa St., 962-4416
Lunch, dinner, weekend
brunch, patio dining, full bar,
steaks, chops, seafood,
calcius in the world, healthy
and delicious. Wide variety.
Open Fri and Sat 11:30
am-2:30 p.m. and 5-10 pm.
Price range: $5-$30.

THAI ORCHID
968-1839
Excellent Thai cuisine,
prepared fresh, with
seasonings mild to spicy.
Hours: 11:30 am-10 pm.
Price range: $3.95-$14.95.

WINE CASK
817 Anacapa St., 966-9443
Californian cuisine, fast
and flavorful. Open Fri and
Sat 11:30 am-2:30 p.m for
breakfast, dinner nightly from
5:30 p.m. Price range:
$9-$44.95.

ZEDO
630 State St., 965-5792
Economical and gourmet
california cuisine at
reasonable prices served on
our outdoor patio! Fleet
Maytag, pinot noir, Mackland
shank blend, cedar cased
weld, and other great
entrées. Parties Tuesday,
all pasta dishes $5.95. Dinner
5-9:30 p.m. Sun-Thur, till
10 pm Fri-Sat. Free cover
with diner. Price range:
$6-$12.95.
ACAPULCO 1114 State St., 963-3469
- Voted best happy hour food and margaritas four years running. Mon-Thur 11 am-10 pm, Fri-Sat 11 am-11 pm, Sun 10 am-2 pm. Special late night happy hour Fri, Sat, Sun 9-2 am.

ALEX’S CANTINA 5918 Hollister Ave., 683-2577
- Santa Barbara’s Best Mexican Food seven days a week. 11:30 am-9 pm. Gourmet homemade flour tortillas. Nightly specials and dancing nights. Happy Hour 4-8 with free buffet, and appetizers. Lunch buffet, Sunday brunch. Lunch $5.95-$7.95, dinner $7.95-$11.95.

BETO’S CANTINA 2251 Las Positas
- Open Mon-Sat 11 am-10 pm, Sun 10 am-9 pm. Price range $4.50-$14.50.

THE CANTINA 966 C. Estevan, 968-286
- Fresh Mexican food, margaritas in Santa Barbara. Happy Hour 4-5 pm with free buffet, and appetizers. Lunch Buffet Open 10:30-2 pm, dinner 5-9 pm. Price range $6-$14.

LOS CABOS 701 Pico Ave., Goleta, 683-2355
- Not just tacos and burritos! Serving a wide selection of fresh homemade Mexican food. Baja-style lunches and dinners that are low in fat and prepared without lard! Also featuring a full bar and dancing! Happy hour 5-8 everyday!

PARADISE CAFE 902 Anacapa St., 963-1450
- Real food. Adult beverages. 702 Anacapa Street, Santa Barbara. CA. (805) 962-4416. MON-SAT 11AM TO 11PM / SUN 9AM TO 11PM

PLAYA AZUL CAFE 914 Santa Barbara St., 962-5860
- Early California style cooking using old family recipes. Happy Hour available. Open Sun-Thurs 11 am-10 pm, Fri-Sat 11:30 am-10 pm. Price range $5-$10.

POLLOFINO 336 N. Milpas St., 962-3655
- Serves the best chicken in town and our famous flying burritos. Open 10 am-9 pm 7 days a week. Price range $3-$8.

POLLO NORITENO 366 N. Figueroa St., 963-3695
- Grilled chicken and tri-tip. 336 N. Figueroa St., 963-3655

ROSIE CAFE 29 E. Cabrillo Blvd., 965-5513
- Best Mexican food, margaritas in Santa Barbara. Open Mon-Thurs 11 am-10 pm, Fri-Sat 11 am-11 pm, Sun 10 am-2 pm, dinner 2-9 pm. Price range $6-$14.

THE ZIA CAFE 532 State St., 962-5391
- Authentic New Mexican cuisine at reasonable prices. Specialties include fresh corn tortillas and red or green chile rellenos. REALLY authentic. Open for breakfast 7-30 pm Sat & Sun, lunch Mon-Thurs 11 am-2:30 pm, Dinner Mon-Sun.

Tired of Shopping? Stop in for some Holiday Spirits!

Free Hotdogs During All NFL Games
HAPPY HOURS: 4:30-7:30
Well Drinks $2.50, Bottle Dom. Beer $1.75
Firestone Draft Beer 1/2 Pint $1.75, Pints $2.50
Budweiser Draft Beer 1/2 Pint $1.00, Pints $1.50

6 W. De La Guerra
Santa Barbara
963-2211
GOURMET CHINESE RESTAURANT

Mandarin • Szechuan • Hunan • Cuisine

FOOD TO GO
Lunch • Dinner • Banquet • Catering
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK: 11AM-10PM

Buffet Over 25 Items
Lunch: 11:15am-2:30pm (Mon-Fri.)
Dinner: 5:30pm-8:30pm (Fri. & Sat.)

DELIVERY: NOON-9:30PM
Fax Order: 683-4299
683-4676
5688 Calle Real, Goleta

10% OFF
Mandarin • Szechuan • Hunan • Cuisine

FREE
Orange Chicken or Slow Roasted Boneless Chicken

$2 OFF
Dinner Buffet

Celebrating our 14th Year

STATE AND A
BAR & GRILL

ITALIAN CHOPPED SALAD
Grilled chicken breast, romaine, iceberg lettuce, parmesan cheese, croutons, tomato, Italian dressing, garlic bread.

CARNE ASADA
 Tender skirt steak grilled with onions, salsa, lettuce, tomatoes, guacamole, corn tortillas, french fries.

CHICKEN PESTO SANDWICH
Grilled chicken breast, pesto aioli, sun-dried tomatoes, fresh basil, lettuce & tomato.

GRILLED EGGPLANT SANDWICH
Grilled eggplant, mozzarella cheese, pesto aioli, lettuce & tomato.

PELCH’S LINGUINI
 Linguini noodles with bacon, onions, garlic, cream sauce.

Serving Food till Midnight

At the Corner of State & Anapamu, Santa Barbara • 966-1010

Mac’s Market

Now Featuring Our
All-New Deli & Soup Bar...

Come in and try our new soups at a great low price.

This week’s specials include:

• Clam Chowder Soup • Split Pea Soup
• Potato Bacon Soup • French Onion Soup
Cost: $1.49 Bowl $1.99

• Half Sandwich & Bowl of Soup $3.49
• Whole Sandwich, Chips & Soda $3.99

...and Always Featuring the
Lowest Prices on Groceries.

Produce:

• Yellow Onions 3 lbs. for $1.00
• Iceberg Lettuce 79¢ a head
• Fresh Yellow Corn 3 for $1.00

Kegs:

• Natural Light $45.99
• Red Wolf $47.99
• Pale Ale Canisters $24.99

Come in and save at 915 Embarcadero del Mar...

Mac’s Metropolitan Markets