

STARS

Known as a hangout for local socialites and politicians, Stars' lively regulars and nightly piano music make for the best people-watching around.

Stars, 150 Redwood, SF, 861-7827.

BEST PLACE TO HEAR LIVE MUSIC SLIM'S

Slim's is big enough to draw some of today's top musicians and provide plenty of room to dance, yet small enough to maintain an intimate, clubby feel that brings out the best in both performer and audience.

Slim's, 333 11th St., SF, 621-3330.

Esprit's bright, casual styles and low prices make it the big winner here. The big bargain bins in the back only add to the appeal of the outlet store with the most.

Esprit Outlet Store, 499 Illinois, SF, 957-2550.

BEST BRANCH LIBRARY WEST PORTAL

Although we asked for the best branch, Civic Center Main Library stands out as everyone's favorite. As far as real branches go, West Portal is the winner.

San Francisco Public Library, West Portal Branch, 190 Lenox Way, SF, 566-4584.

Annual Readers' Choice Section

BEST BAR FOOD STARS

Typical bar fare comes alive at Stars, where the crowd and atmosphere add extra spice to burgers, pizza, oysters and tacos.

Stars, 150 Redwood, SF, 861-7827.

With seven Bay Area locations, including two in San Francisco and one in Berkeley, Comics and Comix carries just about every comic book under the sun, as well as comics-related specialty items.

Comics and Comix: 650 Irving, SF, 665-5888; 700 Lombard, SF, 982-3511; 2461 Telegraph, Berk., 845-4091.

BEST LOCAL TV PROGRAM PEOPLE ARE TALKING

Our readers agree with KPIX's promotional slogan for *People Are Talking*, voting it the best local TV show. They tune in to Ann and Ross daily to get the low-down on the latest happenings and social injustices — and maybe a peek inside a nudist camp.

People Are Talking, KPIX Channel 5, Mon.-Fri. at 10 am.

BEST DESTINATION FOR A WEEKEND GETAWAY MENDOCINO

Maybe all the East Coasties who live in the Bay Area voted Mendocino the best getaway spot because it makes them nostalgic for quaint New England towns. Whatever the reason, our readers have a point — you can't do much better in Northern California. Mendocino, with its beautiful setting, bracing winds and fine restaurants, galler-

tion of greeting cards, including handmade creations and reproductions of famous artworks.

Papyrus: 18 Bay Area locations.

BEST SECOND-HAND CLOTHING STORE BUFFALO EXCHANGE

For wardrobe updates or a whole new you, Buffalo Exchange offers three locations that will fill your closet without emptying your pocketbook.

Buffalo Exchange, 1555 Haight, SF, 431-7733; 1800 Polk, SF, 346-5726; 2512 Telegraph, Berk., 644-9202; 1325 Main, Walnut Creek, 256-6807.

BEST DIM SUM YANK SING

With specialty items like Peking duck by the slice, stuffed crab claws and soy sauce chicken, our readers say Yank Sing's Dim Sum can't be beat. Claims one reader, "It's the only one with clean bathrooms."

Yank Sing, 427 Battery, SF, 781-1111; 388 Market, SF, 392-3888; 49 Stevenson, SF, 541-4949.

BEST ROMANTIC SPOT "MY HOUSE"

An overwhelming number of votes awarded to "my house," "my bedroom" and "my back yard" lead us to believe you probably know more about the best romantic spot than we could print here.

BEST COFFEE BAR PEET'S

Selection of 30 quality coffees from freshly roasted, top-grade beans, served in a low-key, comfortable environment by a helpful, trained staff gave Peet's the lead. *Peet's: nine Bay Area locations.*

BEST TOY STORE FAO SCHWARZ

Foofy and glamorous, FAO Schwarz appeals to the wide-eyed child in everyone. Good Vibrations came out ahead in the voter-imposed adult toy store subcategory. *FAO Schwarz, 180 Post, SF, 391-7000.*

BEST USED FURNITURE BUSVAN FOR BARGAINS

A varied selection and reasonable prices make Busvan's a great place to shop for all your used furniture needs.

Busvan For Bargains: 244 Clement, SF, 752-5353; 900 Battery, SF, 981-7005.

BEST PLACE TO GET EYEGLASSES OR EYES OPTICAL CO.

Optical Eyes provides private-practice care and top-quality eyeglasses at a 1 percent discount.

BEST PLACE FOR A PICNIC GOLDEN GATE PARK

The ultimate in urban greenery, Golden Gate Park is easily our readers' favorite spot for a picnic.

BEST BEACH BAKER

Whether you prefer naturism or a more modest approach, Baker Beach, with its spectacular views of headlands and the Golden Gate Bridge, is the place to go for sun and sand. Chilly waters and persistent fog are cheerfully accepted by readers as part of the beach's character and local appeal.

Baker Beach, off Lincoln Blvd. in the Presidio, SF.

BEST LOCAL COMEDIAN PAULA POUNDSTONE

Everybody has a favorite, but among our readers stand-up comic Paula Poundstone reigns supreme. Relaxed and in control, Paula keeps 'em laughing with her absurdist, conversational style.

Paula Poundstone can be seen at Cobb's Comedy Club, 2801 Leavenworth, SF, Aug. 16th-19th.

ies and antiques stores, is an ideal escape from the city.

BEST BAR JUKEBOX MEL'S DINER ON GEARY

Elvis's "Are you Lonesome Tonight," "Groovin'" by The Rascals and The

BEST SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW CATEGORIES

Best Friend, Best Answers to Strange Questions, Best Socks, Best Wrong-Way Drive On A One-Way Street

Clockwise from top left: Leslie Steffens at



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