



get outta here and travel

## little BITS

### ■ ACTION PASS

If you're looking for more mainstream action, you can buy the LA All Access Pass to get you into more than 35 L.A. attractions, museums and other points of interest). Info on neighbourhoods and the LA Pass can be found at: [www.SeeMyLA.com](http://www.SeeMyLA.com)

### ■ IF YOU GO

Live like a star if you wish and try the Beverly Hills Hilton: [www.beverly-hilton.com](http://www.beverly-hilton.com). Or, Get a candle like Arnie and Maria: [www.milenasboutique.com](http://www.milenasboutique.com)

### ■ A LOOK BACK

Los Angeles was founded by the Spanish in 1781. It became part of Mexico, then that country gained independence in 1821. Then the city was ceded to United States in 1848 after the Mexican-American War.

- 24 hours news services

**In Los Angeles, the City of Angels, a city of 9.5 million people, it's nice to have an area of focus.**

Rodeo Drive may be worth the walk, if only to see the Beautiful People in their natural habitat. But for more of a village feel, and shops that don't carry things requiring a second mortgage, my vote goes to the Melrose and Third Avenue neighbourhoods.

I stop at The Coffee Bean & Tea shop. Ted, behind the counter, points to my camera.

"My God ... not more paparazzi. I'm hounded all the time!"

I laugh, "Are you famous?"

"Not yet," he replies, and turns serious as he pours my latte, "but I'll be discovered soon - and have a huge house in Beverly Hills."

Milena Popovich is on a different route to fame and fortune. She is a large Yugoslavian woman who used



- Colleen Friesen photo

### Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills.

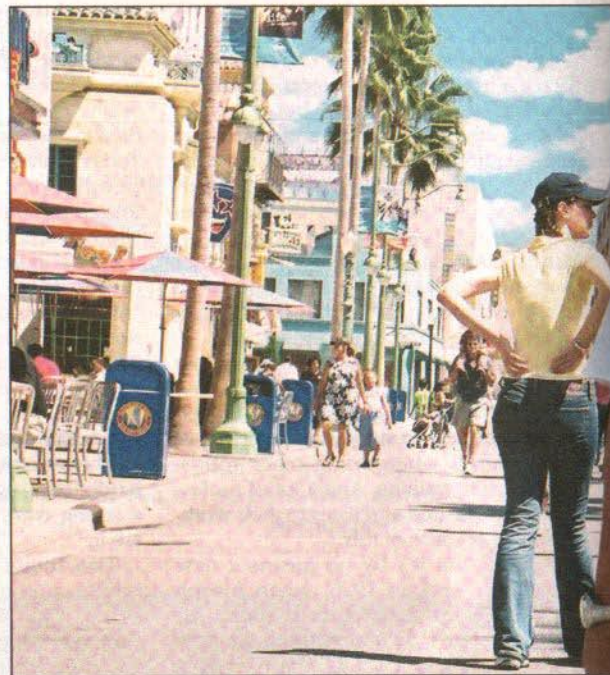
to massage the likes of Arnold Schwarzenegger. She very proudly shows me the letter from Maria Shriver thanking her for "creating such fantastic smells for our house", I can barely focus on the letter as I'm

mesmerized by the size of her hands. I have no doubt she could knead Arnie's neck muscles into putty.

The next day it's Venice Beach where the quirky and the bizarre go full out. Oiled up muscle-bound bodies pumping iron at the outdoor beach gym ignore the elderly lady who has dressed herself - and her poodle, no less - in head-to-toe shades of purple. Dreadlocked boys carry boom boxes on their shoulders. A cyclist sports a full-leather outfit on a heavily chromed bicycle as he wheels along the pedestrian walkway.

Los Angeles is an overwhelming, freeway-strangled city. But within that sprawl are funky cities-within-the-city communities to explore. Break the city into chunks, wear your biggest sunglasses, rip your jeans, stroll the streets and see who enters from stage left.

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**Los Angeles is a city of neighbourhoods, each with a distinct feel, like Venice Beach, above.**