

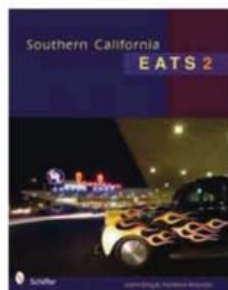
**1.**



**[ DVD ]**  
**America Lost and Found: The BBS Story**  
 (Criterion Collection, \$100)

» As one would expect of an edgy indie production house whose biggest hits were *Easy Rider* and *Five Easy Pieces*, BBS Productions specialized in some deadly earnest Nixon-era filmmaking. While the nine-disc set bears out this tendency, it also features plenty of a young Jack Nicholson, not only in breakthrough roles but in writer-director Henry Jaglom's debut, *A Safe Place*, and Bob Rafelson's *The King of Marvin Gardens*. Peter Bogdanovich's *The Last Picture Show*—set long before the advent of LSD—manages to escape counterculture self-indulgence.  
**// ED LEIBOWITZ**

**2.**



**[ BOOK ]**  
**Southern California Eats 2**  
 John Eng and Adriene Biondo  
 (Schiffer, 144 pages, \$25)

» Our city is seen as obsessed with newness to the point of tearing down landmarks (OK, that's often true). But for every line outside the latest nightclub, there's a crowd at Pink's and packed booths at the Dresden. In the follow-up to their 2009 compendium, John Eng and Adriene Biondo continue to celebrate the region's culinary relics, including coffee shops, cafeterias, and burger shacks. The layout could have more pizzazz, but the photos and factual tidbits are like the subject: old-fashioned fun and easily digested.  
**// LESLEY BARGAR SUTER**

**3.**



**[ BOOK ]**  
**Whiter Shades of Pale**  
 Christian Lander  
 (Random House, 240 pages, \$15)

» According to L.A. recreational anthropologist **Christian Lander**, white Angelenos tend to sport Ray-Ban Wayfarers and American Apparel, tune in to *Mad Men*, and keep a browser bookmark for the Huffington Post. So what if he's right? Lander's second hilarious—and pointed—guide based on his blog "Stuff White People Like" is organized by city and functions as a sort of cultural dictionary for non-upper-middle-class Caucasians. We laughed out loud but still feel the sting from realizing that those home-pickling projects don't make us special after all.  
**// L.B.S.**

**4.**



**[ CD ]**  
**The Beginning**  
 Black Eyed Peas  
 (Interscope, \$14)

» The Black Eyed Peas have embraced the carpe diem dance-jam niche. The L.A. group's latest release is non-stop party fodder—titles include "Light Up the Night," "Play It Loud," and "Don't Stop the Party." Phew! Twelve tracks of Auto-Tuned motivational dance rap and drum machine crescendos can be exhausting. Individually, however, each track is guaranteed to pump you up for, well, anything. What you'll be hearing in every store, stadium, and bat mitzvah hall for the next year? "The Time (Dirty Bit)," which samples *Dirty Dancing*'s "(I've Had) The Time of My Life."  
**// L.B.S.**

**5.**



**[ BOOK ]**  
**Disaster Preparedness**  
 By Heather Havrilesky  
 (Riverhead, 256 pages, \$26)

» In her new memoir, L.A.-based writer Heather Havrilesky (Salon.com) recalls her childhood as a series of disasters spurred by her parents' impending divorce. Highlights (or lowlights) include the time Mom smashed Dad's birthday cake (on purpose) and the day Dad drove off in a fit, leaving Mom on a park bench. Havrilesky's revelations are at times painful, but she imbues them with wit and empathy, finding similarities between her adolescence and her present-day life as a mother. Her toddler refuses to wear underpants, but that's just fine.  
**// WENDY WITHERSPOON**

**Spot On**



**Christian Lander:** How white is the 32-year-old *Whiter Shades of Pale* author and former public speaking instructor? "Let's see, I make my own kimchi," he says. "My wife drives a Prius; I drive a Prius. I love the farmers' market. I just finished reading *Freedom* by Jonathan Franzen. I have a Kindle. I'm wearing a cardigan right now. I'm a recognized customer at a number of ethnic restaurants. White people love diversity, but only as it pertains to restaurants." He's also from Canada. 'Nuff said.

SPOT ON: JESS LANDER