

LETTERS

Stories for the Everyman

Ah — this was a Travel section [Sept. 29] that could be applied to the lives of ordinary middle-class SoCal readers.

Regarding "Fairer Approach to Ticket Changes" by Catharine Hamm [On the Spot]: Rebooking fees are the bane of the average person; hey, I have to work hard for \$100. I just rebooked two canceled round-trip tickets on Alaska Air at \$100 per ticket. Why had we canceled? Because my brother-in-law was dying when we were supposed to travel. No sympathy from the airline; rebooking fees applied. Too bad Southwest doesn't go to Hawaii; we use them whenever possible because life is what happens when you are making other plans.

Despite not having purchased the cancellation policy, I did get a free rebooking from United when I had a doctor's letter saying I could not fly after unexpected eye surgery.

Onto Monument Valley ["Where Drama Looms Large" by Christopher Reynolds]. I went there as a child and remember heat and a bunch of rocks and extreme annoyance that my parents dragged me there. The Times article provided a new view, and because my husband loves to take photos we'll probably go. Reynolds' article gave us a workbench of tools to use for planning. And then to lovely La

Micronesia are places we'll never get to. Thanks for making it real. And let's pray The Times stays in print form, because I don't have the patience to read all this stuff online.

JANET CAMPBELL
Glendora

Change-fee woes

Here is my contribution to the ongoing debate about change fees: I recently traveled from L.A. to the East Coast to see old friends and neighbors. Because I was visiting people in three cities — Pittsburgh, Washington, D.C., and Richmond, Va. — I needed a flexible return date. I used a US Airways Dividend Miles ticket and was prepared to pay the astronomical \$150 change fee. However, the airline would not provide me with a seat. "Oh, we got plenty of seats," the woman on the other end of the telephone said, "but not a single one is designated as a Dividend Miles seat."

I asked if she could get permission from her superiors, because there was plenty of room. No.

The result of the airline's mind-boggling policy was that I had to forgo a longer visit and take a two-hour train trip from Richmond to Washington's Reagan airport to return to L.A. on my original ticket.

I will never use US Airways again unless it is an emergency.

BEVERLY WALKER
Los Angeles

YOUR SCENE

EDITOR'S CHOICE



SUNSET'S SERENADE IN CARMEL

San Diego residents Tony and Giovanna DiBona celebrated their 28th wedding anniversary in September by visiting Carmel, where they had spent their honeymoon. "The weather was perfect, and the sunsets, as you can see, quite awesome," Giovanna said. "As we were strolling on the dunes above the beach, we looked down on a lovely campfire scene illuminated by the setting sun." Tony took the photo using a Samsung Note 2.

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WEB BUZZ

READERS RECOMMEND

BELGIUM

Delightful B&B

A lovely double room with private bath and all conveniences, together with a delightful breakfast in a beautiful home in Antwerp, Belgium, for about \$94 a night (about \$108, double occupancy), would be remarkable enough, but add the charming hostess, the helpful Greta Stevens, and you have a travel experience not to be forgotten.

Molenaars Droom, 35 Molenstraat, Antwerp; (011) 32-474-527-061, www.bedandbreakfastdream.com. Includes breakfast; cash only.

TERENCE TAYLOR
Laguna Beach

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GEO QUIZ



ADRIAN BURDEN