

Calvin Trillin to lecture at UCSD, April 13

March 14, 1995

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Calvin Trillin, author, humorist and essayist, will lecture at the University of California, San Diego, April 13. His talk, sponsored by the Friends of the UCSD Library, will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Solis Hall on the UCSD campus.

Trillin is a prolific author, frequent contributor to *The New Yorker* and *The Nation*, and a widely-recognized humor columnist.

The April lecture is part of the Spring 1995 Contemporary Writers Program at UCSD. Tickets for the lecture are \$15 for members of the Friends of the UCSD Library and \$20 for general admission. Proceeds will benefit the UCSD Library's collections and services. Information and reservations may be obtained by calling 534-2533.

Throughout his literary career, which began as a reporter for *Time* magazine in 1957, Trillin has given readers "regional stories," articles about ordinary people sometimes involved in extraordinary events.

Referring to this preference, Trillin said he differs from "upwardly mobile reporters who tend to gauge themselves by the importance of people they interview. "I don't think like that.

Most of the people I talk to have never spoken to a reporter before."

Since the 1960s he has traveled through small-town America for *The New Yorker*, describing in his own fashion the lives of the people he meets. His articles appeared regularly under his "U.S. Journal" byline.

Trillin wrote more than 200 "U.S. Journal" pieces from 1967 to 1983, subjects ranging from a suicidal family in Iowa to two Mexican-American families in California involved in a blood feud.

Along the way, Trillin began reporting his impressions of the regional and ethnic eating places he encountered in his travels. His 13th book, "Alice, Let's Eat: Further Adventures of a Happy Eater," refers to his wife, Alice, who is more inclined to haute cuisine compared to his love of barbecue and hamburgers. The book won a National Book Award nomination in 1980.

For eight years he wrote a column, "Uncivil Liberties," for *The Nation*, in which Trillin "poked fun at whatever or whoever arrested his fancy." It soon became a syndicated column, appearing in newspapers throughout the country.

Trillin is a natural standup humorist who talks much the way he writes, in a low-keyed but lively manner. Funny anecdotes or off-the-wall observations delight his audiences.

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