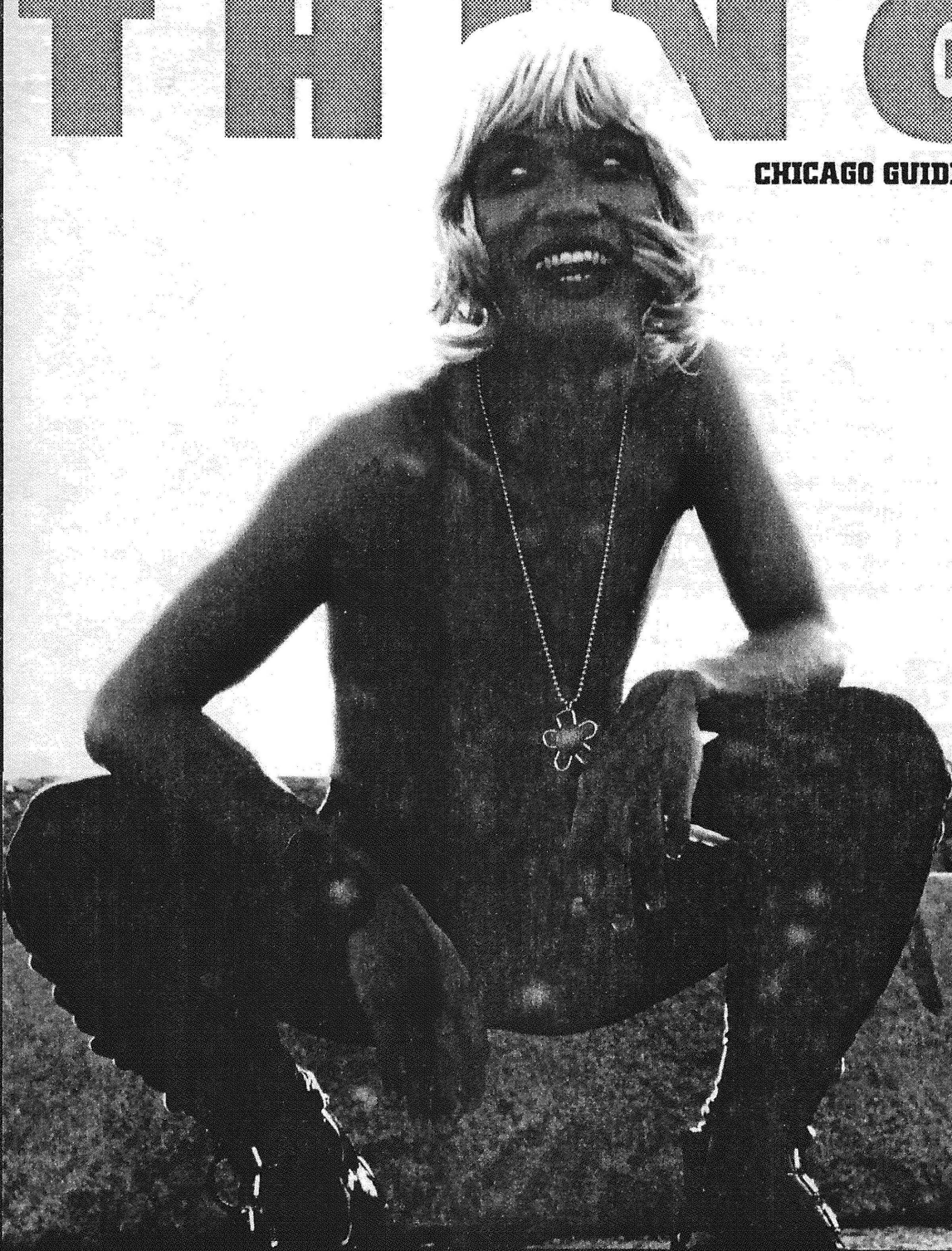


# THE THING

CHICAGO GUIDE 1991



# CHGO INFO

## HOODS

Chicago's center is the "loop" or downtown. South of it you'll find a burgoening "south loop" scene of artists' lofts, yuppie clubs, and transitory real estate. The "south side" is south of that; mostly black neighborhoods. Hyde Park is an isolated interracial college town on the south side, housing the University of Chicago. North of the loop is the north side: lots of small neighborhoods with different personalities. Near-northwest is Wicker Park, with low rents, lots of artists and Hispanics. The north side also boasts Lincoln Park (yuppieville), Lakeview, and scores of other neighborhoods. Gay ghettos include Broadway (decaying grandeur), Halsted (guppie yupscaleness; fab shopping), and Andersonville (pioneering queers). When you've gone too far north, you hit Evanston; the suburbs lie beyond.

## CTA

The Chicago Transit Authority. Rides start with a \$1 basic fare. There's a quarter surcharge during weekday rush hours, and a transfer (also a quarter) lets you take two connecting rides (though you can't use a transfer on the line you bought it on). The CTA actually has a decent travel information number: 836-7000. Tell them where you are and where you're going, and they'll tell you how to get there.

## TAXI

American United (248-7000) is your best bet in Wicker Park. Others to try include Checker/Yellow (829-4222) and Flash (561-1444). NOTE: In this city, calling a cab is easier than trying to flag one down for Black males, particularly in groups larger than one.

# THING

She Knows Who She Is

## CHICAGO GUIDE 1991

## REVIEWERS

Trent Adkins

Robert Ford

Stephen Freshwater

W. Delon Strode

Lawrence D. Warren

## LAYOUT

Robert Ford

*Thing Chicago Guide 1991*

is a free publication

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**COVER** Bong photographed at the famous "Belmont rocks" at Belmont and the lake. Photo and styling Stephen Winter

# buyin' it!

Text by T. Adkins

## Alternative Shoes

These were really the first kids that had the great idea to do modern, fashionable, sensible footwear at affordable prices.

2523 N. Clark (312) 281-4801 \$-\$\$

## Beatnix

I love this place. I find these guys much nicer and friendlier than the hoity-toity kids across the street at Flashy Trash. You can find some of the freshest things here. Like the funkiest 60's and 70's footwear and accessories. But be ready to spend, they ain't cheap. 3515 N. Halsted (312) 935-1188 \$\$-\$\$\$

## Charade Ltd.

I dare any glamazon worth her sequins to walk into this place and leave unaffected. Proprietress Miss Suzette has the selection of bustiers, stockings and little accessories to send a girl right over the edge. A queen's paradise.

2462 N. Clark (312) 327-5701 \$\$-\$\$\$\$

## Chittagong

Cute assortment of ethnic hand-made hats, jewelry and other wearable accessories. They specialize in men's handwoven shirts from Bangladesh. The prices can especially be seen as moderate if you consider the rareness and originality of the pieces available here. Being just next door to Lower Links, you wish they had later hours.

952 W. Newport (312) 871-5999 \$\$

## DAVs

Disabled American Veterans Thrift Stores (DAVs) are all over town and it's a good thing because they have decent worn shirts and slacks for a couple of bucks and funky old cocktail and sundresses from \$5.00. Rush. (Proceeds support the DAV National Service Office). 1718



**Bong wears his own hair and pendant with Ninety-Ninth Floor's black stretch velvet lace-up jeans (\$115.00) and black patent leather "Jack Boots" (\$120.00). Photo Stephen Winter.**

W. Chicago 226-7557 • 1541 N. Milwaukee 384-7868  
• 2854 N. Milwaukee 252-3337 • 3217 W. North 252-0555 • 3318 N. Milwaukee 286-1288 \$

## George's Antiques & Vintage

The other day I was talking to a friend who happened to mention that old George was still in business. I about bought the farm. I can remember visiting this place waaay back in the late seventies when vintage was the standard clubwear. Lose your little mind rummaging in the basement that's overrun with dresses, skirts, uniforms. Some never worn. Worth the trip.

5317 N. Clark 784-7080 \$-\$\$

## Hurricane Rochelle

This place just opened a few weeks ago. Formerly located on Southport across from the Music Box, it is, along with Salon de Modalsique, one of Wicker Park's pioneer vintage boutiques. Great selection of Hawaiian print shirts and 30s and 40s men's swimwear. All wonderfully priced to fit a lean budget.

2153 W. Division 384-7087 \$

## Ninety-Ninth Floor

Brenda and Mickey really are the perfect two to be behind this store. The only problem I ever have is trying to find time with them that doesn't include a bunch of other people buzzing around the place and vying for their attention. They go back a few years with the street rock and roll specialty, having spent time in the space next

door to Metro that was Radio. The more modern roxy stock at Ninety-Ninth Floor features a great selection of Doc Martens, Fleuvog, jewelry and leather goods. Do the whole outfit or just stash a few pieces.

3406 N. Halsted (312) 348-7781 \$\$-\$\$\$

## Rag Trade

The Vicomtesse Larvetta

Larvon has nothing but praises to sing for Tim Robert and his chic thrift boutique on Oak. Okay, so he has a lot of really cute things he's boosted from here and there during his regular buying trips abroad (wonderful silk scarves for example), but he ain't never gave anything to me. Also expect his prices to be reasonable but slightly higher than most resale shops. 67 East Oak St. (312) 280-0074 \$\$-\$\$\$

## Salvation Army

The Salvation Army's thrift stores are only surpassed in bargains and finds by the DAV thrift spots. Again great old tacky shirts, funky dresses and shoes. And wonderful furniture and household stuff. Dash.

2425 W. Division 276-1183 • 2270 N. Clybourn 477-1300 • 3525 W. Grand 342-0880 1826 S Halsted 666-4535 • 1515 N. Milwaukee 489-5194 \$

## Unique Thrift Store

The name says it all. Unique 'finds' for the brave shopper up to traveling the distance. Somewhat off the beaten path, check out the Bridgeport location at 3224 S. Halsted. Also 4441 W. Diversy 227-2282 • 4112 N. Lincoln 281-1590 \$\$-\$\$

\$ steal  
\$\$ working girl  
\$\$\$ take daddy  
\$\$\$\$ kitty buster





# drinks

## AKA BAR & GRILL

6259 N. Broadway ☎ 274-6657

Straight, preppy blacks and a million and one closet fags. Doesn't anyone know how to just have plain fun without all the attitudes? All types of club, dance, and house music. — **WDS**

## AUGIE & C.K.'S

3726 N. Broadway ☎ 975-0449

You know how lesbians can be...and I'm not mad with them either! A woman's bar that's hospitable enough to host "boys night" and a talent show on Tuesdays. Great place to meet intelligent women (and some of them are even sexy). — **WDS**

## BERLIN

954 W. Belmont ☎ 348-4957

Multi-racial, straights, dykes, and fags. Progressive dance music, some club music. Dragons breathe fire on Sundays. Male? strippers on Tuesdays/Thursdays, lesbian strippers twice a month. — **WDS**

## BISTRO TOO

5015 N. Clark ☎ 728-0050

\$1 drinks and \$1 cover is the shit on Thursday! Beware, however, that you may be babysitting a predominantly young crowd. A variety of entertainment and plenty of dancing. — **WDS**

## CAIRO

720 N. Wells ☎ 266-6620

If fun can be impressive, this is it. Hot, hot bar. Something for everyone. Get a little tipsy before you get there or the bartender will send you home financially ruined. — **WDS**

## CLUBHOUSE

440 N. Halsted ☎ 421-3588

Perfect club for sissified punks who have reached their highest potential and like to stand around making feeble attempts at being butch' (or is it cute?!). The DJ is the only worthwhile person in the joint and is the only one who has the right to throw attitude. In other words, stay home and get fucked for free! — **WDS**

## 411 CLUB

411 E. 63rd Street ☎ 684-9387

If you like a bit of the rough side to your nightlife this could be it. On the heart of the south side of Chicago, full of black boys/men and some women. The DJ needs to take more control of the crowd instead of letting the crowd control him. Not to mention it's close to Harold's chicken. — **WDS**

## GREEN MILL

4802 N. Broadway ☎ 878-5552

Nice restoration job and one hell of a jazz juke box. Great view of performers in front but not so much in the back of the bar. Hot weekend spot so get there early. Late night hours, call for schedule — **WDS**

## JEFFREY PUB

7041 S. Jeffrey ☎ 363-8555

Nice, relaxing drinking pub until Wednesday nights! Black male strippers and there's always at least one that will set you on fire! Female impersonators as well. — **WDS**

## POPS FOR CHAMPANGE

2934 N. Sheffield ☎ 472-1000

Both recorded and live jazz. The tape room is very mellow and relaxing while the live side is well lit with a high ceiling and stage behind the bar. Not your ordinary bar! — **WDS**

## ROSCOE'S

3554/6 N. Halsted ☎ 281-3355

Not the most multi-racial crowd in the city but the staff is very, very friendly. Great for progressive dance music and techno b-bop. Highly recommended. — **WDS**

## STOP AND DRINK

742 N. Clark ☎ 944-8233

Straight up scum bar with the rawest of atmospheres. Almost takes the place of the Rialto. Could, however, use ventilation and an emergency exit. — **WDS**

## VORTEX

3631 N. Halsted ☎ 975-6622

Another of Chicago's progressive dance spots, though geared more towards the club sound. A huge palladium of dancing, sweaty men. Excellent VJ as well. — **WDS**



# eats

## DB KAPLAN'S DELICATESSAN

Water Tower Place, 7th Floor ☎ 280-2700

With over 148 (count them!) sandwich creations, campy names, fabulous malts, great desserts, bright lights, and in a shopping mall...how could a big-legged-coloured-girl miss? Our raves: the Ike & Tina Tuna! 2 1/2 CHINS — **LDW**

## EXCHEQUER PUB

226 S. Wabash ☎ 939-5633

Above average cuisine that's nicely prepared with ample portions makes for a pleasant dining outing. Conveniently located downtown. Excellent service. The walls are jammed with autographed glossies and old

movie posters and Chicago memorabilia. Blocks away from Columbia College and S.A.I.C., this is an art school hangout as well. 2 1/2 CHINS — **LDW**

## GLADYS' LUNCHEONETTE

4527 S. Indiana ☎ 548-4566

Be prepared to wait for seating. We're talking the retro restaurant the revolution left behind. The premier, quintessential SOUL FOOD shack that hearkens to grandmammy's kitchen. Best gospel jukebox in the city. Never on Sunday — you'll never get out (though the hats are something to see!) 3 1/2 CHINS — **LDW**

## JERRY'S KITCHEN

449 W. North ☎ 280-9340

Quick, delicious soul food is the standard here. Relaxed atmosphere conducive to preachin', readin', and reunionizin'. Friendly waitstaff feels familial, and the great prices make you want to order more. Reggie Thomas and Stedman Graham are among the Afro glam set that can often be spied here. Don't miss: the mixed greens and the flawless corn muffins. 3 CHINS — **LDW**

## KASTURI MALAYSIAN RESTAURANT

1530 W. Fullerton ☎ 929-3030

Definitely upscale Thai. Food lovingly prepared and heated to perfection. Served up by compliant Malaysian cuties, so you know it tastes better. The proprietor oversees every tiny detail with amazing fastidiousness (and on a good night can be cajoled into performing native dances). Artfully crafted decor with flattering lighting causes you to positively tingle with energy! No liquor license yet, so BYOB...and don't forget that Amex card either for this pricey (yet worth it) adventure. 3 1/2 CHINS — **LDW**

## LEO'S LUNCHROOM

1809 W. Division ☎ 276-6508

THE hang-out for the hip underground. Great globe-hopping postmodern cuisine at incredible prices, coupled with fab music, homey feel, and good reading materials. Lively, vivid conversations are only surpassed by their livelier, more vivid conversationalists. A neighborhood fave and *Thing* hang out. Trust me: stick with Stew to serve you — he's the best! 3 CHINS — **LDW**

## LOU MITCHELL'S

565 W. Jackson ☎ 939-3111

A weekday power-broker's dream. Famous city-wide for incredible breakfasts, on Saturdays turns into yuppie heaven. Ignore the clientele. go for the eats. Loud, boisterous, cafeteria style, cheap...very Chicago! Just down the street from the old Warehouse, ghosts of party tarts past haunt these booths. 3 CHINS — **LDW**

## MAMA DESTA'S RED SEA ETHIOPIAN RESTAURANT

3218 N. Clark ☎ 935-7516

NO, NO, NO!!! All this curried lamb and sprouts...the



food looks terrible and tastes even worse. Heavy gloopy globs of indecipherable mess makes for a meal for which you'll never forgive yourself. Isn't there supposed to be a famine over there?

0 CHINS — LDW

## MIRADOR

1400 N. Wells ☎ 951-6441

This is the ultimate dining experience! Superlative food, superlative service, superlative ambience make for a meal that's well,...superlative! LaVicomtesse first went here after her triumph over the IRS and has had nothing but raves for it since. NOTE: at these prices, you'd have to triumph over the IRS, too. One of the most creative chefs to be found in the Midwest selects the freshest ingredients for her nouvelle concoctions that raise food to the level of art. Waitstaff that is courteous, polite, prompt, mannered, knowledgeable, and well groomed make you want to steal them away for your town home (not the country place). Simple yet elegantly sumptuous surroundings, chic beautiful patrons, witty sparkling bon mots all combine to make meal magic! 4 CHINS

— LDW

## NANCY'S HOME OF STUFFED PIZZA

2930 N. Broadway ☎ 883-1977

Marvelously located in the heart of Boy's town, this pizzeria serves up some serious CHICAGO pizza. Mmmmm! 2 1/2 CHINS — LDW

## STANDEE'S SNACK 'N DINE

1133 W. Granville ☎ 743-5013

Prototypical truck-stop greasy spoon; unaffected, simple 50's menu. Located across from the Char-Lar Lounge, and open 24 hours make for a great neighborhood hang-out for everyone from La Vicomtesse to guttersnipe (and sometimes you can't tell the difference). 2 1/2 CHINS

— LDW

## VALOIS' "SEE YOUR FOOD"

1518 E. 53rd Street ☎ 667-0647

Cafeteria style good eats in wannabe Hyde Park. The best biscuits this side of the Mason-Dixon line. Cheap, plentiful, and quick are the buzzwords here; Many U of C notables hang (and La Vicomtesse's fave during the IRS fiasco). 3 CHINS — LDW

## ZEPHYR ICE CREAM RESTAURANT

1777 W. Wilson ☎ 728-6070

DON'T, I repeat DO NOT order the less-than-mediocre schlock they claim to be food; however a must have for dessert and ice cream (especially for those who know that these are two separate entities). They must get their brownies from Jewel — and they use them in ways that stagger the imagination! Ice cream is made right on

the premises, and from the length of the wait is made after you order! Stick it out (not your tongue, the wait), it's worth it! 2 CHINS — LDW



# reads

## ADULT BOOKS

1403 N. Wells

This place deserves a mention as an historical institution. They've been selling porn for decades, and it's all here. Vintage *After Darks*, little photobooks of greasy haired 50's studs, old *Playboys*, and other moldy stuff. A collector's delight. — RF

## AFROCENTRIC BOOKSTORE

3748 N. Broadway ☎ 939-1956

Don't shop here. Located in the heart of the gay community, the ownership subscribes to the school of Afrocentrism that is intolerant of the gay and lesbian community, Black or otherwise. The previous owner carried *Thing* issue #3, but the new guy over there (a "brother" who declined to give his name) decided that he couldn't "touch" *Thing* issue #4., even though they carried James Baldwin and Langston Hughes. (The Farrakhan cassettes should've tipped me off.) A must-to-avoid. — RF

## ASPHIDISTRA BOOKSTORE

2630 N. Clark ☎ 549-3129

3250 N. Lincoln ☎ 549-7867

Possibly Chicago's best used bookstores. The Clark street store in particular has large collections on Hollywood and homosexuality. Don't come here in a hurry; you need time to browse and hunt in a place like this. — RF

## BARBARA'S BOOKSTORE

1350 N. Wells ☎ 642-5044

3130 N. Broadway ☎ 477-0411

1800 N. Clybourn ☎ 642-5044

Great stores and *Thing* distributors. — RF

## CITI LIT

1570 1/2 N. Damen ☎ 292-1548

Citi Lit is undoubtedly Wicker Park's best newsstand. Owned and operated by Roger Noel, the small store is crammed with magazines — everything from *People* to *ID* to *Outweek*. Expansions into the space next door are underway; Roger hopes to stock new and used books and expand his line of multicultural t-shirts and affordable art. (And don't miss the frequent Citi Lit fundraising parties at the nearby Hothouse. Quite fab) — RF

## PEOPLE LIKE US

3321 N. Clark ☎ 248-6363

People Like Us is Chicago's only exclusively gay and

# You had to be there.

Chicago history you won't find on the Wendella boat cruise.

## CHICAGO 161 WEST

161 W. Harrison

During the 1980's all-night warehouse party craze, this shortlived club was one of the only true "Warehouse" contenders. Opened by David "Medusa" Shelton, 161 was on the 16th floor of an office building. With a magnificent city view, a big dance floor with scaffoldings, and Frankie behind the turntables, this was a great club. One memorable highlight was Geraldine Hunt's gutbucket live performance there.

## RIALTO TAP

14 W. Van Buren

When the period piece "Crime Story" was shot on this block, every facade had to be re-done to look like a weathered dive except this one. The sign was vintage '40's neon and hadn't worked in years. This grungy tavern in the heart of the loop was the unlikely home of Chicago's seediest black gay bar. The Rialto had a reputation as a sleazy good time; the bathroom was a general store for coke or reefer, and the tiny dance floor featured some of the town's best wannabe-Frankie's spinning to a large, sweaty, and devoted crowd. It's somehow fitting that the overblown Miss Harold Washington library's impending presence across the way is the only thing that could shut this place down.

## THE WAREHOUSE

208 S. Jefferson

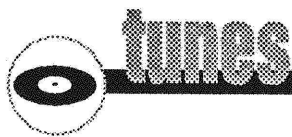
Just west of the loop, behind Union Station, this is where it all began. This is where The Warehouse was; the place that gave house music its name. The building's still there, and looks about the same, except that now you can't hear it three blocks away. The top floor was the lounge, the second floor the mother of all dancefloors, and the main floor was the "downstairs": the opium den of a lounge that was the lowest level of this inferno. If there is one building in this city that deserves landmark status, it's this one.

## THE POWERPLANT

1015 N. Halsted

Frankie's folly; first born as the Riverside club; sold to the mother of house music Frankie Knuckles and turned into his own club. This is the place that debuted his remix of "Let No Man Put Asunder" (his first "big" label credit) in hour-long renditions. This was also test-marketing ground for kids like Jamie Principle, Craig Loftus, and Chip E. Now, it's some yuppie live/work/loft thing, and Frankie spins at the Sound Factory in NYC. Go figure.

lesbian bookstore. They carry an exhaustive collection of queer lit and culture, from Mapplethorpe coffee table books to *On Our Backs*. And they're more than a bookstore; their periodical selection is recently expanded, and they carry postcards, t-shirts, cassettes and cds, buttons, and other queer items. With a busy community bulletin board at the back and frequent booksignings and events, PLU is often abuzz with some kind of happening. They're pretty aggressive in the zine market, stocking *Sin Brothers*, *My Comrade*, and *Holy Titclamps*, among others. You'll also find chapbooks and small press offerings (one new release here is Ferd Eggan's *Pornography* book of ring-bound Polaroids). PLU is Carrie Bennet and Brett Shingledecker, a partnership that provides their balanced stock of gay and lesbian titles. — RF



## GRAMMAPHONE

2563 N. Clark • 472-3683

Crammed, friendly little store that stocks lots of vinyl, and has a great 12" singles section. They also buy lots of promos from DJs; clever shoppers can save money by scouring the "used" bins. — RF

## LOOP RECORDS

400 N. State • 527-2012

A wide selection of compact discs, cassettes, and yes, even vinyl. A big dance music section downstairs. Pretty reasonable prices. — RF

## MUSIC, ETC.

641 S. Plymouth • 922-5151

Formerly Importes, Etc., one of Chicago's original disco stores (they were little more than a counter in a parking garage a decade ago). Music Etc. stocks a mind boggling array of dance music; from hip house to hi-NRG to rap to imports. They also carry DJ gear and play in-store music over two 1200s. There's also a DJ pool housed here. Steer clear on the weekends, when teenage mutant ninja DJs pack the place. — RF

## ROSE RECORDS

214 S. Wabash • 987-9044

The first floor boasts pop cds, a definitive jazz section, and a fierce dance music selection headed by Frank Youngwerth. The second floor is all classical; an opera queen's delight! And wait, there's more. The third floor has world music, soundtracks and showtunes, and other oddities. Ask for Wendy "Liz" Quinn while you're there. — RF

## STREET SIDE MUSIC

1571 N. Milwaukee • 342-3931

Producers Jesse Jones' and Liz Torres' take on a record store. Major disco/dance selection and home of the Liz Torres fan club! — TA

## WAX TRAX

2449 N. Lincoln • 929-0221

No visit to Chicago is complete without stopping by Wax Trax, the mother of all underground record stores. Hip imports, 7" singles, memorabilia, and tons of attitude. Postmodern boutique upstairs. — RF



## BOTANICA BRISAS DE MICHOACAN

1524 N. Milwaukee

A fascinating store, carrying mysterious bottles of colored water, religious icons, plaster Jesuses and Aunt Jemimas, rosaries galore, natural skin care products and vitamins. — RF

## COPY MAX

1573 N. Milwaukee • 252-8200

The neighborhood's most recent copy and computer center. Be sure to ask why they don't have more Macintosh efficient people working there and later hours on Saturdays. — TA

## OSCAR'S CITY CUTS

4208 N. Broadway • 404-1020

The premiere northside black hair care mecca, Oscar's features fierce cuts and cuties. All this, and hours to suit even the busiest blackress. Monday thru Saturday 9a-9p. Sunday 12p-6p. — LDW

## SHERWYN'S HEALTH FOOD SHOPS

645 W. Diversey 477-1934

Sherwyn's is a large health shop that employs a very intelligent and well-informed staff. The knowledgeable staff coupled with their specialized stock justifies the higher prices. An outstanding selection of teas, rare roots and herbs, and vitamins. The prepared menu of fresh juices and natural foods is worth the cost if you can afford it. — SF

## SHOPPER'S CORNER

150 N. State Street • 346-0825

Souvenirs galore of the Windy City for the folks back home; plus cheap boom-boxes, faux Rolexes, and rhinestones to die for. A tourist institution right up there with Sears Tower and Buckingham fountain. — RF

## SPRING LIFE HEALTH FOOD STORE

3178 N. Halsted

This place is small, but packed with a great selection of health food and herbs and natural soaps at great prices! And they have lots of other energizing drinks at reasonable prices. Try the wheatgrass shake; you'll love it! — SF

# close to home

## Where to go in Wicker Park.

### FOOD

#### Buckin A Café

2119 N. Damen • 252-5141  
Food and art at reasonable prices.

#### Busy Bee

1550 N. Damen • 772-4433  
Cheap homecooked Polish and American food.

#### Lydia's Café

1704 N. Damen • 235-7252  
Everyone raves about the fresh, moderately priced Mexican food at Lydia's.

#### Urbis Orbis

1934 W. North • 252-4446  
Trendy coffeehouse with books and good food.

### PUBS

#### Artful Dodger

1734 W. Wabansia • 227-6859  
Very young straight white collegy crowd except when DJs like Miss MC Heather aka The Female Preacher is in the house, bringing in a really mixed black fag/dyke bunch. Worth a visit for an Aqua Velva and a peek at the grooviest dayglo dance floor.

#### Bop Shop

1805 W. Division • 235-3232  
Friendly club located right next to Leo's Lunchroom. Great jazz juke box and live stage room.

#### Dreamerz

1516 N. Milwaukee • 252-1155  
Punkish hole in the wall. Popular among Wicker Parkers.

#### Get Me High Jazz Lounge

1758 N. Honore • 252-4090  
The name says it all.

#### Rainbo Club

1150 N. Damen • 489-5999  
Very neighborhoody. So much so that it's boring as hell if you don't know anybody.

Wicker Park listings in the main guide are marked with this symbol.

## "Read My Titclamps"

### Bimbox Issue #4

The infamous Johnny Noxzema and Kill The Whites, Inc. have produced an even more thoroughly engrossing and fiercely evil issue with #4. The cover photo of a holy titclamped George Bush coming in the mail as it did mid-Desert Storm was brilliant, only as good and timely as Hapi Phace doing Barbara Bush on on her post-Gulf War USO Tour! Her War On Drugs! War On AIDS! War On Poverty! Speaking of war, *Bimbox* #4 announces an all-out war on 'gays and lesbians' and re-defines 'politically correct' as not including any of the people who have failed to take heed to *Bimbox*'s pleas for change, who still perpetuate bullshit in everyday life, who profit from posing and perpetrating frauds. Yes, there are homosexual "breeders," and the mainstream gay/lesbian community is often every bit as oppressive, sexist, racist, and homophobic as any Jesse Helms. So, it's 'queer' and not Queer Nation! More dirt concerning Vaginal Davis and Co.'s most recent involvements and film projects via her interview with Noxzema, references to carpet munching Bernadette Cooper (I didn't know she was a distant relation to Dennis!), the real scoop on G.B. Jones of the zine *J.D.*'s, the band Fifth Column, and the organization Bitch Nation (in three separate articles chronicling Ms. Jones, she manages to be ages 51, 24, and 33! A different age for each involvement?) And, fabulous photos by Sheree Rose, Noxzema, and Rex Boy (including pix of Hapi Phace, Vag, and Fertile... out of drag!) And the most scathing remarks to Miss Ann Magnusson! — TA

282 Parliment Street #68 Toronto Canada M5A 3A4 Back issues available for \$4 (#1) and \$5 (#2 & #3). Current issues still available "free to those who deserve it."

## "Choose Me" or "Eat Shit and Die!"

### Gentlewomen of California # 6

Fasten your Kitty Brooches. *Gentlewomen of California* Number Six, works as an adventurous and amusing way of seeing things erotic, entertaining, revolting, scary, and beautiful. This issue, like its predecessors in the TGOC series, has everyone asking, 'Who or what is *Gentlewomen of California*?' It's like this: *Gentlewomen of California* know who they are. Published under the credo "No regard for copyright infringement, trademark entitlements. Everybody own everything," it's one of the heavyweights of the recent boom in the underground zine movement—the original intent of in your face "appropriation" intact. The theme of #6 seems varied but mainly macabre and psychedelic. Brave readers will be charmed by a reprint of Aubrey Beardsley's story of Fanfréluche's trippin' out or intrigued or disgusted by a number of scatologi-

cal pieces like a shit-eating excerpt from Dennis Cooper's *Closer*, or Stuart Japeth's fecal filled recollections. Arresting graphics either support or totally subvert accompanying text. Not for the squeamish or dimwitted. — TA

*Incidentally, you don't get to choose TGOC, it chooses you. TGOC doesn't accept paid subscriptions.*

## "Sick Fish"

### Diseased Pariah News #2

This long awaited second installment of the zine by and for people with HIV is bigger and better than the first. Smartly desktop published (printed from linotronic output, even) it's filled with good humor around a condition that is usually treated humorlessly. DPN features recipes ("Get Fat, Don't Die!"), short writings (notably the hilarious scat-tale "The Party Poorly Planned"), real-life condom advice, and porn reviews. DPN was, until recently, design whiz Beowulf Thorne and writer Tom Shearer. Tom's recent death from AIDS makes the first two DPN's even more valuable as a testament to his levity in the face of darkness.

From Forge-of-God Press, which also publishes GAWK (Gay Artists and Writers Collective). — RF

Forge-of-God Press, Box 31331, San Francisco, CA 94131. Subscriptions \$7 for one year (four issues). Sample issue \$2. Buttons, t-shirts, postcards, and condoms also available.

## "Thank You!"

### Ted Magazine May/June 91

I, for one, am really delighted to see this new zine from New York that "reports from the gay nation," realizing that the "gay nation" is very black and female, too. This is what you wish *The Advocate* could be. Yet it's more immediate than *Outweek*. This year's May/June issue carries an interesting talk with African-American gay activist Marvin Palmer, a piece on the fabulous face beater Kevin Aucoin (the frankest ever published), and a story on Tommie Saeli, the very sexy host of New York's "The Gay Dating Game" show. Plus very readable and informative articles on health and support organizations. Publisher Andy Armano and talented staffers read as very friendly, approachable and upfront kinda guys and encourage folks for submissions. There's also a mailing list for parties and events info. — TA

Ted c/o Armano Press, 496A Hudson Street #129K, New York, NY 10014. \$2.50 per issue

## "Teen Bag"

### The Spot

This is a big one-sheet chronicling the queer scene in Texas. Published and roughly cut-and-pasted by "the dick," there's lots of appropriated ad images, a brief profile of Bret Strange, letters to the editor (mostly from his family), a best/worst dressed list, and an amusing club gossip column called "Oh you're such a thing". Very inside-y, but lots of fun. — RF

Box 595729, Dallas, TX 75359. Subscriptions \$5 for an unspecified number of issues.

## "Sex On the Brain"

### Fuzz Box #1

From editor Nicolas Jenkins and friends comes *Fuzz Box*, a lively chronicle of queer life in Montreal, Canada. Most notable is an interview with *Straight To Hell* founder and "Cruising the Movies" author Boyd Macdonald. Plus deep dish dirt from Titi Galore and an intelligent interview with gender illusionist Michelle DeVille. — TA

Box 5231 SUC 'C' Montreal, P.Q. Canada H2J-1X7. \$3.00 per issue.



# zine guide

Illustration from **Fuzz Box**.



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