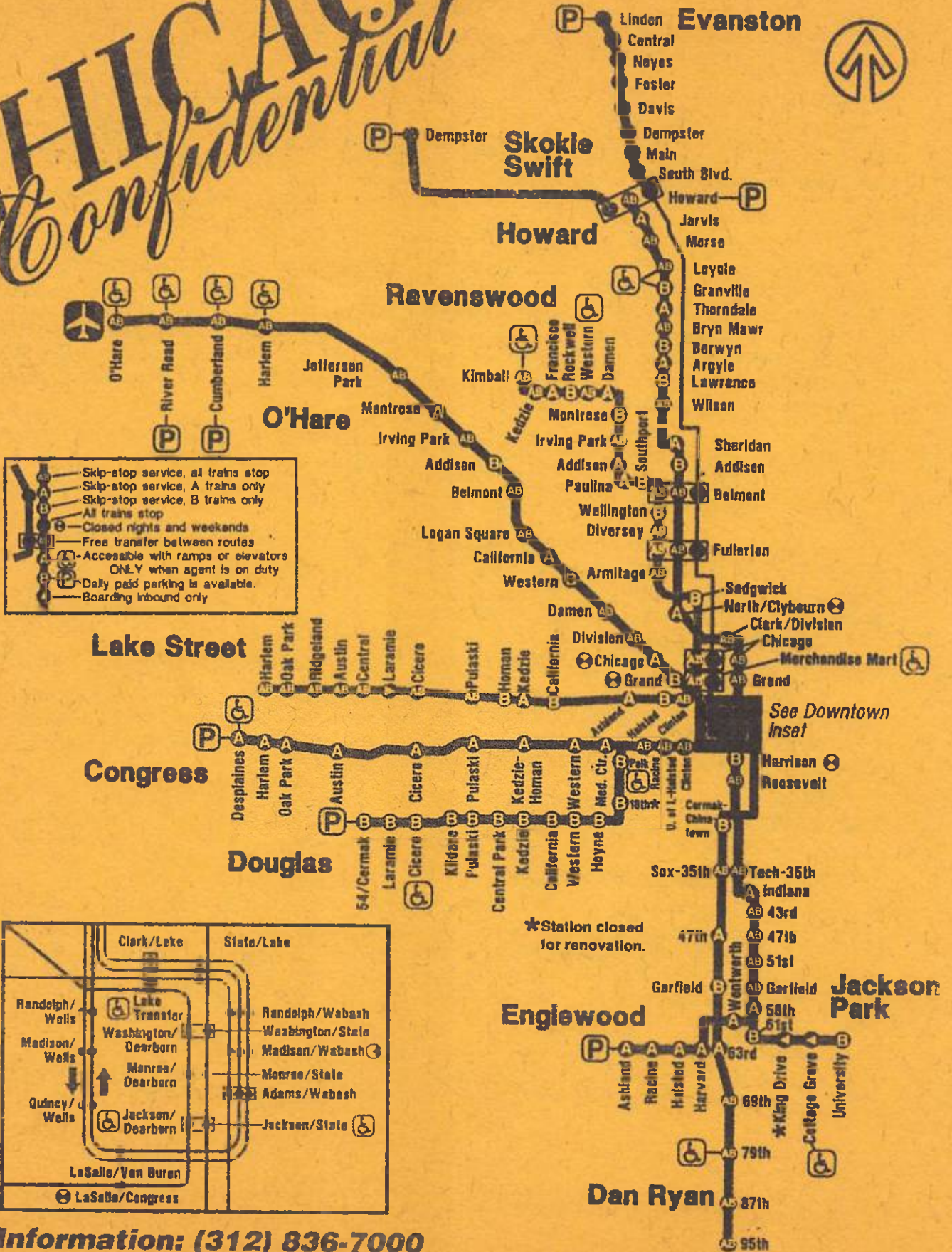
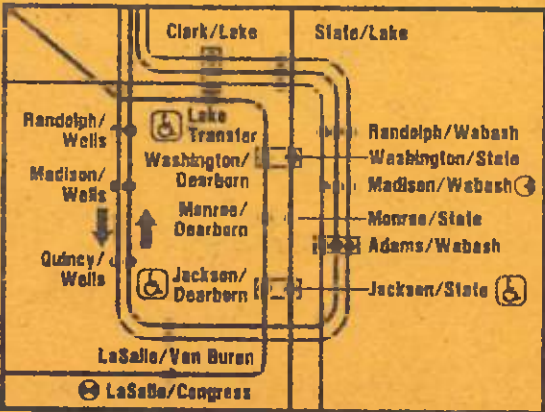


CHICAGO Confidential

Chicago Transit Authority
elevated and subway train system



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- Skip-stop service, A trains only
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- All trains stop
- Closed nights and weekends
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CHICAGO: CONFIDENTIAL! is intended as a guide to the city for those attending Chicon V, the 49th World Science Fiction Convention. It is not in any sense a convention-sponsored publication and has no official standing whatsoever. Written and published by Dick and Leah Smith, 17 Kerry Lane, Wheeling, IL 60090-6415. Additional restaurant consultation from Mark Aronson. Copyright © 1991 by Dick and Leah Smith.

We didn't look much in the museums, the Art Institute, the lovely parks where we played as children, the honey cottages of the respectable peasants or the busy workshops. This report is not designed to be comprehensive. The bread-and-butter facts and the booster statistics we leave to those who are intrigued by such. It hits the high spots and the low, with no obligations assumed except to set forth the lowdown on such things as interested us and which we think you wouldn't go prowling after....

Jack Lait and Lee Mortimer, "Chicago: Confidential!" 1950

Lait and Mortimer's original "Chicago: Confidential" was a compendium of all the sleaze Chicago had to offer. We confess that the publication for which we have appropriated the title will be considerably less racy. Partly because the town itself isn't as wide open as it used to be and in any case what was shocking in the '50s is commonplace today, partly because -- we admit it -- we haven't really done a lot of research into that sort of thing, but mostly because we don't believe that that's what fans come to Worldcon looking for.

Indeed, the truest of fen will probably hardly step outside of the hotel at all, and will therefore need little of the advice herein, but for those who you who may want to eat well, sightsee a bit and park cheaply, here are some things to know which you might not find out about otherwise.

On the other hand, we aren't going to cover in depth the city's major attractions. If you've really come to Chicago as a tourist, we recommend that you hie yourself to a bookstore and pick up a more complete guidebook. Chicago Magazine will offer more comprehensive restaurant reviews and events listings. A variety of agencies listed under "Sightseeing tours" in the Yellow Pages will be delighted to squire you around. And the Hyatt concierges are undoubtedly a wealth of information.

Sticks and stones. Chicago has been called many names. The poet Carl Sandburg described it as "Hog Butcher for the World" and "City of the Big Shoulders." H.L. Mencken referred to it as the "abattoir by Lake Michigan." Sarah Bernhardt called it "the pulse of America."

It was dubbed the "Windy City" in 1890 by Charles Dana, editor of the New York Sun, in response to Chicago boosters' promises in the competition for the World's Columbian Exposition. Dana meant hot air, and nothing to do with the weather, which is not extraordinarily breezy.

A.J. Liebling, writing for the New Yorker, is credited giving it the "Second City" label, supposedly in reference to its status in comparison with the Big Apple (who'd want to live in a town named after a fruit, anyway?). Some say Chicago's now slipped to third, after Los Angeles -- in population, at least. Others say that the Second City tag is really a reference to the fact that the city had to be totally rebuilt after the great fire of 1871.

We are not going to get technical on you by telling you such stuffy facts as the Windy City's longitude and latitude, which we don't know -- or delve into its geological underpinning, which we don't know, either, or much less care about for that matter.

Lait and Mortimer, *ibid.*

Anatomy lessons. Most of this guide concerns itself with four neighborhoods nearest the Chicon V site. Chicago is a city of neighborhoods, and natives refer to them by name. The Hyatt Regency stands at the north edge of the Loop. Technically, "the Loop" means the area bounded by a rectangle of Elevated tracks over Lake Street, Wabash Avenue, Van Buren and Wells streets, but the name has grown to mean downtown Chicago generally, and most use it to mean roughly the area south of the Chicago River to Congress Parkway, and west from the Lake to the Kennedy Expressway.

Just north of the River, from Michigan Avenue east, is Streeterville, named for Capt. George Wellington Streeter, a carnival showman who turned to lake excursions but wrecked his boat on the lakeshore there in 1886. Sand piled up around the wreck and squatters built shacks on it, creating an anything goes sort of shantytown. Streeter dubbed the new land "The District of Lake Michigan," and claimed it as his own province, not part of Chicago or Illinois. After a long holdout, he was eventually disabused of the notion by police and now the area is the city's ritziest real estate, bordered by the Magnificent Mile shopping district.

North and east of the River, south of Chicago Avenue and west of Michigan, lies River North, an up-and-coming district full of art galleries, restaurants and nightlife.

South of Congress Parkway to Cermak, east of the River, is the South Loop, home of the Field Museum of Natural History, the Adler Planetarium and the Shedd Aquarium, as well as the trendy Printer's Row district. Cermak, sometimes known as 22nd Street, will be familiar to fans of Wilson Tucker; it's where he put the wall in "The Year of the Quiet Sun." The South Loop is also where the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 began, supposedly when Kate O'Leary's cow kicked over a lantern on DeKoven Street. The Chicago Fire Academy now stands on the site.

In broader terms, the Chicago River divides the city into three sections, spanning out from the Loop. North and east of the North Branch is called the North Side. Everything east of the South Branch and south of Roosevelt Road is the South Side. The area west of the River's two branches is the West Side.

Getting around. Chicon's latest progress report provides a reasonable summation of how to get to the hotel. They did not stress hard enough the traffic tangles you are likely to confront this weekend. Aside from construction on nearly every highway around, the Chicago Jazz Festival is being held downtown concurrently with the convention, and streets will be closed and bus routes changed to accommodate the crowds, who will also be filling up the roads to and around downtown. Besides that, the State Street subway is under construction.

We recommend parking your car and walking, taxiing or taking public transit to get around. If you take the El, however, try to look as if you know what you're about. If you are on the Elevated and you find yourself in the numbered streets, **DON'T** get off **OR YOU WILL DIE!** (It isn't really as bad as that everywhere, but it's too difficult to explain just where is safe and where isn't; that's highly variable depending on your complexion, your sex and whether or not you look like you know what you're doing.) Just stay on until the train reaches the end of the line and comes back north. Try to sit near the conductor, if you can find one.

The exceptions are just south of the Loop -- in daylight or in groups, it's safe to take the Dan Ryan El to Cermak (22nd Street) and get off for Chinatown, or go one stop further to the stop for Comiskey Park (but only if there's a ballgame on and you're in a group).

Women riding the El alone should be especially cautious, anywhere, anytime -- there have been rapes even at North Side stations in broad daylight. (Yes, we know that thousands of women take the El every working day, but they live here.) Riding the El alone late at night is not a good idea for anyone.

It's called the El whether it runs up on the rusty metal platform over Wabash Street or underground under State Street. Unlike New York's, the lines have names, representing the destinations at the ends of the lines. The El runs all night, although the time between trains can be a half hour or more in the wee hours.

During the day, some trains skip every other station; they are marked "A" or "B" to indicate at which stations they stop; the stations are similarly designated. "AB" trains stop at every station, and both "A" and "B" trains stop at "AB" stations. We've indicated in the directions when an "A" or "B" train is needed. All downtown stops are "AB" stations.

Because of the construction on the State Street subway, the Howard/Englewood/Jackson Park El Line which normally runs under State Street moves up to the Ravenswood/Loop Elevated tracks from 11:15 p.m. Friday until 4 a.m. Tuesday. This means the State/Washington station south of the River and State/Grand station north of the River will be closed. To get on the Howard El on the weekend, you will have to go to the Randolph/Washington station over Wabash Avenue.

El fare is \$1.25; you can buy tokens in packs of 10 for \$9. For help with public transit routes, call 836-7000 between 5 a.m. and 1 a.m.

The two big fleets, Yellow and Checker, are under allied ownership....Many hackmen are newcomers on the job and know less about Chicago than do tourists. Be sure your driver knows where your destination is before he starts his motor. (Inside stuff: The law says he's got to take wherever you want to go in the city limits. If he refuses call a cop.)

Lait and Mortimer, ibid.

Cab fare runs about \$5 per 3 miles. Most places downtown you can just hail one; a cab is available if it's light is on. It's a good idea to have some idea where you're going before you get in the cab; Chicago taxi drivers are not given any kind of geography test before licensing, nor are they required to speak English.

If you are driving, it's helpful to know that the city's street numbers are on a grid system which begins at the intersection of State and Madison streets. There are generally eight blocks to a mile, so Halsted Street, which is a mile west of State, is 800 W, and Fullerton Avenue, 2400 N, is 3 miles north of Madison. It's also useful to know that west is north; that is, Interstates labeled westbound actually go north.

Parking. The streets in the hotel area have as many as three levels. Parts of Wacker Drive (Aufzoo to you Pinkwater fans), for example, will be referred to as upper (street level), lower (one level down) and subterranean (two levels down). This is also where all the parking is.

Chicon has helpfully provided a list of parking facilities, but failed to give price information. Rates in the Hyatt and Fairmont garages are regularly \$16 per day for hotel guests with in and out privileges. The Swiss Grand Hotel's rate for guests is also \$16 weekdays, but \$7 weekends, including in and out. There is an \$8 Chicon rate for Hyatt hotel guests, and there may be discounts in the other hotels, but we haven't been able to confirm them. Ask. One Illinois Center is unlikely to be open to random parkers on weekdays; they sometimes have an \$8 per day weekend rate.

Chicon errs in saying that Grant Park is the cheapest alternative parking; besides it's a real distance and likely to be full up with jazz fans. The best buy is the Field Harbor garage just off lower Randolph east of Columbus. Their all-day rate is \$5.25 weekdays and \$3.50 weekends. They are open 24 hours. A bit closer to the hotel, there's a lot at E. Lake and subterranean Columbus which advertises \$4.10 per day. But it may not be open at night or on the weekend. On lower Randolph west of Columbus there's a sort of sleazy looking lot charging \$6 per day. The proprietor says he'll be open all weekend and to just knock on the trailer if you want in or out.

Before you consign your car to any lot, be sure to find out if in and out privileges are included in the price, the hours the lot is open and, especially, if it be open on Labor Day so you can get your car out.

Tucked away here and there are parking meters, on subterranean Stetson, and sub. Columbus and lower Michigan. If you can find a space, it'll do for short-term parking, but it's not a good idea to leave your car there too long. Although they are six-hour meters (25¢ per hour), they are posted for two-hour parking from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, so even if you keep the meter filled you can get a ticket. (The cops mark your tires.) They might be OK for Sunday and Labor Day.

Also down there is the police auto pound; they're open 24 hours, but if your car winds up parked inside, it'll cost you upwards of \$100 to bail it out. And whatever you do, don't park illicitly anywhere that's posted with a Lincoln Towing sign.

We warned you that everything goes in Chicago, except traffic violations. They will crack down on you for the smallest infraction.
Lait and Mortimer, *ibid.*

Safety first. Most of the area within walking distance is fairly safe at night, but Chicago is a big city and it always pays to be cautious. Streeterville and River North are generally full of people at night; parts of the Loop can be deserted. Stay in well-lit, well-traveled areas, especially when alone. Keep an eye on your handbag and wallet. Pickpockets aren't as bad here as some places, but do be alert. Especially bad are ballgame crowds, both at the ballpark and on El platforms en route.

Gustatory guide. The nearest supermarket is Jewel at 1210 N. Clark (Gold Coast), about two miles north of the Hyatt, open 24 hours. Smaller and costlier, but within walking distance, is a White Hen Pantry at 400 lower East Randolph (Loop), open 6 am-midnight. Both stores also sell liquor.

Our restaurant list, below, is not meant to be exhaustive, but merely a pointer to some of the more interesting places within walking distance and a few that are worth making a longer trip. Not listed here are the restaurants in the Hyatt and Illinois Center, much of the Ontario row, and a myriad of others.

Chicagoans are big on eating out, especially on weekends, so we recommend reservations anywhere that will take them. We have not been compulsive about getting restaurant hours or Labor Day opening info, so it's a good idea to call anyway. Most places take credit cards, so we have only noted those which do not. Few of these places have a dress code, but you may feel more comfortable (and get better service) if you dress up a bit for the costlier ones.

Chicagoans are informal. During the summer it's O.K. to appear on the street or even in some smart cocktail lounges without coat or tie.
Lait and Mortimer, *ibid.*

Pricing is given based on the cost of a complete dinner without tax, tip or alcohol, as follows: † under \$8; ‡ \$8-\$12; § \$12-20; ¶ \$20-\$30; ** \$30-\$45; *** over \$45. (Lunches should be proportionately cheaper.) If you're a group of five or more, many restaurants will automatically add a 15 percent gratuity. Restaurants out of walking range are marked))).

Armenian. SAYAT NOVA, 157 E. Ohio (Streeterville), 644-9159. Armenian food is much like Greek or Middle Eastern cuisine, though a bit lighter. Kebabs (lamb, chicken, and shrimp), chicken and lamb in various forms, and kibbee (ground meat with bulgur) are among the entrees. The beoregs (cheese or spinach pastries) are a recommended starter. They also offer a vegetarian combo (lacto). If you're not sure what to order, try one of their combinations. Mon-Sat 11:30 am-11 pm; Sun 3-10 pm. §

Cajun. Heaven on Seven, 7th floor, 11 N. Wabash (Loop), 263-6443. It looks like a coffee shop and has breakfast, burgers and BLTs, but also gumbo, jambalaya, Cajun fried chicken and other Louisiana fare. Busy for lunch weekdays; might not be open for dinner. Mon-Fri 6:30 am-4:45 pm; Sat 7 am-2:45 pm. No credit cards. §

Cheezeboogas. BILLY GOAT'S TAVERN, 430 lower N. Michigan (Streeterville), 222-1525. "Cheezebooga, cheezebooga. No Pepsi, Coke." If that doesn't mean anything to you, suffice to know that this is a raucous, dingy bar once frequented by newspaper people, but now, increasingly, by tourists. Your best signpost is the Wendella boat tours -- use their staircase but go down only halfway; Billy Goat's is about a block straight ahead. Mon-Fri 7 am-2 am; Sat 10 am-3 am. ††

Chinese. You don't have to go to Chinatown for good Chinese food, but if you want to, here's how to get there: Take the Dan Ryan El line (upstairs at Randolph and Wabash) south to the Cermak/Chinatown stop (a "B" stop, so take a train marked "B" or "AB"). Chinatown is also a reasonable cab ride if you are a group of four. Don't miss the shops and bakeries along Wentworth. Ten Ren is a must for tea lovers. Besides those listed below, EMPEROR'S CHOICE, HONG HIN and PEARL CITY are recommended. (For directions to New Chinatown, see "Vietnamese.")

HOUSE OF HUNAN. 535 N. Michigan (Streeterville), 329-9494. Specializing in Hunan, Szechuan and Mandarin cuisine, this restaurant also offers dishes from Shanghai and Canton. The Eggplant Szechuan is recommended, as are the fish dishes. On carry-out orders above \$5, they offer a 10 percent discount. (SZECHUAN HOUSE, across the street, has the same owners, less variety, and slightly lower prices; they also offer a weekday lunchtime buffet.) Daily, including Labor Day, 11:30 am-10:30 pm. ††

SIXTY-FIVE, 336 N. Michigan (Loop), 372-0306. Downstairs is a fast-food cafeteria, offering a variety of dim sum items -- pork buns, egg rolls, etc. -- and about nine dinner options. An upstairs dining room offers a more complete menu of Cantonese and seafood items. They deliver from 11 am-3 pm with a minimum \$15 order. Mon-Sat 11 am-9 pm; Sun 11 am-7 pm. ††

))**SIXTY-FIVE,** 2409 S. Wentworth (Chinatown), 842-6500. Tanks of live lobsters, crabs and fish let you know immediately this Cantonese restaurant's forte. Look for the seafood to be steamed or stir-fried with ginger and green onions or served under pungent black bean sauce. Sun-Thu 10:30 am-midnight; Fri, Sat 10:30 am-12:30 am. †

))**THREE HAPPINESS,** 2130 S. Wentworth (Chinatown), 791-1228. Chicago's biggest and best-known dim sum restaurant. It's huge, crowded, noisy and often dirty, but there's a fantastic array of fried pastries, steamed dumplings, and other tidbits rolled out on carts for you to choose from. Expect to wait on the weekend. Don't bother with trying to eat dinner here; there are better places up the street. Dim sum served Mon-Fri 10 am-2pm; Sat, Sun 10 am-3 pm. †

))**FURAMA,** 4936 N. Broadway (New Chinatown), 271-1161. Farther away, but probably worth the trip if you want superlative dim sum, is this little known spot in Uptown. Much bigger variety of steamed buns and dumplings than Three Happiness, which tends to concentrate on deep-fried foods. Furama also has Hong Kong-style cart service and a wait on weekends. Their non-dim sum dishes are all right, but better to go up the block for Vietnamese. Dim sum from 9:30-4 p.m. daily. †

Coffee shop. CAMBRIDGE HOUSE, 167 E. Ohio (Streeterville), 828-0600. Named the number one coffee shop by the Sun-Times, this place offers sandwiches, complete dinners in the chopped steak and fried shrimp vein, and fountain creations. Breakfast all day. Daily, including Labor Day, 6 a.m.-12:30 a.m. No credit cards. †

Deli. MORT'S DELI, 159 N. Wabash (Loop), 236-9566. Mort's, "The Wabash Astoria," advertises "elegant dining under the cars." That means you can sit at tables on the sidewalk under the El tracks. Corned beef and all the rest. Breakfast, too. They deliver. Mon-Fri 6:30 am-6:15 pm; Sat 7:30 am-4:15 pm. Closed Labor Day. No credit cards. †

French.))**EVEREST ROOM,** inside the Midwest Stock Exchange Building, 40th floor, 440 S. LaSalle (Loop), 663-8920. This is the place to go if your publisher's footing the bill. One of Chicago's four-star restaurants, highly acclaimed by everyone. Unfortunately, our publisher's budget won't stand for it, so we can't give you any details. Reservations are required, and so is a jacket and tie. Mon. 11:30 am-1:30 pm; Tue-Thu 11:30 am-1:30 pm, 5:30-8:30 pm; Sat 5:30-10 pm. Valet parking. ††††

... will find that considerable class distinction takes place in the eating department in Chicago. While the highly publicized expensive dining rooms on the North Side cater to theatrical people, gangsters, and recently rich merchants, you will seldom, if ever, see any blue bloods from the society pages. The non-sporty element avoids the feeding grounds of the nouveau riche.

Lait and Mortimer, *ibid.*

German. >>THE BERGHOFF, 17 W. Adams (Loop), 427-3170. Chicago's oldest tavern, The Berghoff was founded as a beer garden for the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893. They hold liquor licence no. 1, the first issued after Prohibition's repeal. Now they have their own private label beer and bourbon. Good German and American food, wonderful oak-panelled atmosphere, brusque service and crowds; expect to wait in line at lunch and before 7 pm. There's a stand-up bar for sandwiches if you're short on time. Mon-Thu, 11 am-9:30 pm; Fri, Sat 11 am-10 pm. \$

Greek. You can get gyros all over town, but the best of the Greek restaurants are clustered on South Halsted Street on the Near West Side. Greektown eateries serve up plentiful, delicious meals at reasonable prices and most places are open late. We've listed our favorite but they are good. SANTORINI specializes in fish. COURTYARDS OF PLAKA is a bit more upscale than most. To get to Greektown, your best bet is to take the Red Line to the Loop, but you could also take the Douglas or Congress El (you can catch it at Dearborn and Washington) south to the Halsted/U. of Ill. stop, then walk north along Halsted.

>>>IT'S GREEK TO ME, 306 S. Halsted (Greektown), 977-0022. Try the appetizer combo which includes flaky spanakopita, lemony dolmades, rounds of garlicky skordalia and delicate taramasalata and more. Lamb dishes are always good. Portions are huge. Daily, 11 am-1 am. \$

Hot dogs. A proper Chicago-style hot dog is an all-beef wiener, steamed -- never grilled, and served on a poppy seed bun topped with mustard, chopped onions, fluorescent green relish, sliced tomatoes, dill pickle spears, hot sport peppers and a dash of celery salt. Ketchup. Sauerkraut is optional. Chicago's neighborhoods are full of stands that serve great ones, but curiously, the Loop is lean in that regard; it's also sparse on gyros and Italian beef stands which populate the rest of town. (Though, generally speaking the way to tell the difference between a hot dog stand, a gyros stand and an Italian beef stand is by the sign outside -- most have nearly identical menus.) There are dogs in Illinois Center; we can't vouch for 'em, though.

GOLD COAST DOGS, 418 N. State (River North), 527-1222. A bit more upscale than the usual doggery, they offer fresh roasted turkey and char-broiled swordfish sandwiches instead of gyros and Italian beef. They grind their own meat for burgers. Good fries. Hot dog toppings are put on with a light hand, compared to other places, though. They'll deliver if you have an order of \$10 or more. Mon-Fri, 6 am-midnight; Sat 9 am-8 pm; Sun 11 am-8 pm. No credit cards. \$\$

Italian beef. Italian beef is a delicacy unique to Chicago. The beef is simmered with a blend of Italian seasonings, thinly sliced, and served, sopping with juices, in crusty Italian bread with a topping of hot or sweet peppers. Imagine something like a spicy French dip sandwich, pre-dipped, and you'll have the right idea. Try a combo of beef and Italian sausage for a taste treat. Unfortunately, the best beef places aren't really nearby, although there is a place in Illinois Center which serves some; we don't know how good it is.

>>>AL'S NO. 1 ITALIAN BEEF, 169 W. Ontario (River North), 943-3222. The same ownership as the more famous one on Taylor Street (if you're adventurous, that's at 1079 W. Taylor, across from Mario's, the city's best Italian lemonade stand), but this stand has places where you can sit down. Al's was rated number one by Chicago Magazine. Mon-Fri 11 a.m.-11 pm; Sat. 11 am-3 am; Sun 11 am-8 pm. No credit cards. \$\$

Japanese. HATSUHANA, 160 E. Ontario (Streeterville), 280-8287. The sushi bar. They also offer a big appetizer assortment. Service is variable and so are non-sushi entrees. Mon-Fri 11:45 am-2 pm, 5:30-10 pm; Sat 5:30-10 pm. \$\$

OHBA, 101 E. Ontario (Streeterville), 266-7733. Less crowded than Hatsuana, and possibly a better choice for non-sushi items, though their sushi's fine, too. They do an admirable bento box. Daily, including Labor Day, 11:30 am-2pm, 5-10 pm. Late at night they have a karaoke bar, open until 2 am. \$\$\$

BENKAY, Motel Nikko, 320 N. Dearborn St. (River North), 836-5490. Four styles of Japanese dining are offered here: a sushi bar, teppanyaki grill room, Western dining room and tatami tea rooms. Reserve one of the latter a day in advance and book a \$50 or \$80 kaiseki banquet, geared either to Japanese or American tastes as you choose. Don't select the Japanese one unless you really, really like fish. A unique and exotic dining experience. Authentic Japanese breakfasts are served Mon-Fri 7-10 am. Mon-Fri 11:30 am-2pm, 5:30-10 pm; Sat, Sun 11:30-10 pm. Dress code. \$\$\$\$

Kosher. Most of Chicago's strictly kosher eateries are way up north, in Rogers Park and Skokie. One, however, is near at hand. LA MISADA, in the Hyatt. The food tends to be American, rather than Jewish, in style. Mon-Thu 11:30 am-2pm, 5:30-10 pm; Fri 11:30 am-2 pm; Sun 10 am-2 pm, 5:30-10 pm. \$\$

Mexican. SU CASA, 49 E. Ontario (River North), 943-3041. Good, reasonably authentic Mexican. Mon-Thu, 11:30 am-11 pm; Fri 11:30 am-midnight; Sat noon-midnight; closed Labor Day. \$

Pizza. Pizza in Chicago is serious knife-and-fork food, not a quick snack. The celebrated Chicago-style pizza is several inches thick, dripping with cheese, and usually takes at least half an hour to cook. But it's worth waiting for. (Whatever you do, though, don't order pizza from the Hyatt.)

PIZZERIA UNO, 29 E. Ohio (River North), 321-1000. **PIZZERIA DUE**, 619 N. Wabash (River North), 943-2400. Both of these places feature the same menu. Uno, founded in 1943, is the birthplace of classic Chicago pizza: Deep dish pizza with dense crust, a thick layer of mozzarella topped with your choice of ingredients and a zesty, chunky tomato sauce. Weekdays, they offer a \$3.95 express lunch from 11:30 am-3 pm. Uno: Mon-Fri, Sun 11:30 am-1:30 am; Sat 11:30 am-2:30 am. Due: Mon-Thu 11:30 am-1:30 am; Fri 11:30 am-2:30 am; Sat noon-2:30 am; Sun noon-midnight.

EDUARDO'S, 521 S. Dearborn (South Loop), 939-3366. In our opinion, this is Chicago's best. If Uno is the origin of Chicago pizza, Eduardo's is its evolution. Their stuffed pizza is sublime, and well worth the cab ride. And anyway, they deliver. Look for a two-inch thick, dense cheese filling packed with your favorites and stuffed between two thin crisp crusts with a topping of tangy tomato sauce. We like ours with pesto, sausage, mushrooms and garlic, but the famous spinach pizza is nothing to sneeze at either. Mon-Thu 11 am-11:30 pm; Fri 11 am-12:30 pm; Sat noon-12:30 am; Sun noon-11:30 pm. €

BACINO'S, 75 E. Wacker (Loop), 263-0070. Decent stuffed pizza closer at hand. They also offer Italian beef and meatball sandwiches. They deliver, too. Sun-Thu 11 am-9 pm; Fri, Sat 11 am-10 pm. €

Ribs (bbq). In Chicago, barbecue means pork ribs, often baby backs, smoked and served with a tomatoey sauce. Some places have sweet sauces and some have spicy ones; texture ranges from fork tender to gnaw-off-the-bone chewy.

HOT LICKS, 61 W. Hubbard (River North), 645-0788. Ribs, bbq chicken, pork chops, chili and other spicy fare are the specialties here. They also have salads and sandwiches. Mon-Thu 11 am-11 pm; Friday 11 am-midnight; may or may not be open Sat. Closed Labor Day. €

ORIGINAL A-1 BORDER BEANERY, North Pier, 455 E. Illinois (Streeterville), 644-0300. Ribs and a variety of Tex-Mex offerings in campy surroundings meant to evoke the ambience of Juarez. Jalapeno-tinged skirt steak is another good selection. The food is tasty, but by no means authentic. Mon-Thu 11:30 am-10 pm; Fri, Sat 11:30-midnight; Sun noon-9 pm. \$ +

CARSON'S, 612 N. Wells (River North), 280-9200. These aren't Chicagoland's best ribs, but they're close. Tangy but sweet sauce glazes deliciously chewy baby backs. They do great steaks, too. Mon-Thu 11 am-midnight; Fri 11 am-1 am; Sat noon-1 am; Sun 11 am-11 pm. \$

Ribs (prime). **LAURY'S THE PRIME RIB**, 100 E. Ontario (River North), 787-5000. This restaurant in the former McCormick mansion serves only one dinner entree — excellent prime rib, which they bring out in silver servers that look like headless horse armor. You can choose how you want it done and how thickly you want it sliced, but that's about the only thing to decide. Salad, mashed potatoes, Yorkshire pudding and horseradish cream come with the meat. You can order sides of baked potato, peas or terrific creamed spinach. There's said to be more variety at lunch. Mon-Thu 5-11 pm; Sat 5-midnight; Sun 3-10 pm. \$\$

Seafood. **SHAW'S CRAB HOUSE** and **BLUE CRAB LOUNGE**, 21 E. Hubbard (River North), 527-2722. Wide range of excellent fish and seafood dishes, but not too many options for meat eaters. Try the blue crab fingers as a starter. If they have it, the lobster bisque is wonderful. The Blue Crab Lounge features an abbreviated menu and an oyster bar ambience. Crab House: Mon-Thu 11:30 am-2pm, 5:30-10 pm; Fri 11:30 am-2 pm, 5-11 pm; Sat 5-11 pm; Sun 5-10 pm. \$\$ Lounge: Mon-Thu 11:30 am-10 pm; Fri 11:30 am-11 pm; Sat 5-11 pm. \$ +

Spanish. **Cafe Ba-Ba-Reeba!**, 2024 N. Halsted (Lincoln Park), 935-5000. You'll need a cab to get here, but it's loads of fun. A tapas bar, where you can order plate after plate of small dishes while sipping sherry or sangria. Don't miss the lobster soup, the cold veal with raspberry vinaigrette and the goat cheese baked in tomato sauce. You can have a proper American-style meal of appetizer, entree and dessert, but grazing through the tapas is more fun. Mon 5:30-11 pm; Tue-Thu 11:30 am-2:30 pm, 5:30-11 pm; Fri 11:30 am-2:30 pm, 5:30-midnight; Sat 5 pm-midnight; Sun 5-10:30 pm. \$ +

Thai. **DAO**, 105 E. Ontario (Streeterville), 664-9600. If you like it hot and cheap, this is the place. They deliver, too. Mon-Thu, Sun 11 am-10 pm; Sat, Sun 11 am-11 pm. €€

STAR OF SIAM, 11 E. Illinois (River North), 670-0100. A little tonier, but equally spicy. They have fun seating. Mon-Thu 11 am-9:30 pm; Fri, Sat 11 am-10 pm. €

Vietnamese. The best of Chicago's Vietnamese restaurants are clustered in the area known as New Chinatown. Though smaller than the older Chinatown, this neighborhood also features some interesting shops. Don't stray too far from the Broadway/Argyle intersection; the

+ Restaurants marked with a + are part of the Lettuce Entertain You chain. If you decide to eat in one of these, when you get your bill, try telling them you've forgotten your card, but your Frequent Diner's number is 100747; sign your name Richard H.E. Smith on the slip. Thank you.

surrounding Uptown neighborhood is a bit rough. To get to New Chinatown, take the Howard El (see the notes about construction earlier to determine where to catch it) north to the Argyle stop (note that Argyle is an "A" stop, so be sure that you take a train marked "A" or "AE").

>>MEKONG, 4953 N. Broadway (New Chinatown), 271-0206. Shrimp wrapped in rice paper with rice noodles and springs of fresh mint are a must to start your meal. Lemongrass chicken or any of the wrap-it-yourself dinners are good bets for entrees. Skip the Iced Vietnamese coffee (unless you like it strong and sweet and with condensed milk) in favor of homemade lemonade. Sun-Thu 10 am-10pm, Fri, Sat 10 am-11 pm. \$

Of course if you're a muzhik who doesn't care what they think of you and will never be back again, anyway, it doesn't matter how you tip. But if you expect to return often, it pays to be liberal.

Remember that 10 per cent is no longer sufficient for a waiter. He ought to get 15 to 20 per cent.

Lait and Mortimer, *ibid.*

Shopping. The glitziest, most expensive shopping district in town is the Magnificent Mile, which runs along Michigan Avenue from Ohio north to Oak Street at the western edge of Streeterville. At the north end are the urban shopping centers, 900 N. Michigan and Water Tower Place. If you're after Bloomie's, Henri Bendel, Tiffany, Gucci, et al, this is the street. Some of the most exclusive shops, such as Ultimo, are on Oak Street. If you're shopped out, let horsedrawn carriages bring you and your purchases south.

State Street in the Loop is the site of Chicago's flagship department stores, Carson Pirie Scott at 1 S. State, and Marshall Field's at 111 N. State. The Carson's building is notable for its Louis Sullivan exterior. But do your shopping at Field's. The store has recently been renovated with a gorgeous central atrium, but the important thing is that this is where Frango Mints come from. The classic Chicago chocolates make a perfect gift for the folks back home. There are several restaurants in the building.

North Pier, 455 E. Illinois (Streeterville), is a renovated terminal, now filled with boutiques, eateries, nightclubs and a maritime museum. Not to mention Battletech, but we're sure you've heard plenty about that already.

For out-of-the-ordinary souvenirs, check out the City of Chicago Store, 174 W. Randolph (Loop), which sells old parking meters, street signs, manhole covers and other retired public works items, along with t-shirts, posters, postcards and the like. There's a branch in North Pier, too. The Illinois Artisans Shop in the State of Illinois Center, West Lake and South Clark streets (Loop), sells handcrafted items from the state's most talented artists. It's open weekdays only. Museum gift shops are also a good source of nifty souvenirs.

Most downtown stores close at 5:30 or 6 p.m. Smaller shops may not be open Sunday and almost everywhere is sure to be shut on Labor Day.

Theater. Chicago is a tremendous theater town. You can get half-price, day-of-performance tickets at Hot Tix, 24 S. State (Loop), 977-1755. They're open Mon noon-6 pm, Tue-Fri 10 am-6 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm. Most of the theaters are on the North Side and will require a cab.

Among the notable shows now playing around town are: "Cannibal Cheerleaders on Crack," Torso Theater; "Hunting of the Snark," Next Theater; "Lend Me a Tenor," Royal-George Theater; "Prelude to a Kiss," Wellington Theater; "Shear Madness" (now in its ninth year), Mayfair Theater; "Sylvia's Real Good Advice," Organic Theater.

If comedy and improv are your thing, Second City is a cab ride away at 1616 N. Wells (Old Town) 337-3992. Late night improv shows are free.

If you're bored with Chicon's movie program, which includes little unavailable at the average video store, the Fine Arts Theater shows many independent and foreign films at 410 S. Michigan (Loop), 939-3700.

Clubs. If you can't get your fill of jazz in Grant Park, Andy's, 11 E. Hubbard St., 642-6805, is one of the better, if grittier, places, with music at lunch, 5 and 9 p.m. Blues on Friday night. Decent food, too. Buddy Guy's Legends, a cab ride away at 754 S. Wabash (South Loop), 427-0333, is the place to go for blues. Dick's Last Resort, in North Pier, 435 E. Illinois (Streeterville), 836-7870 is raucous and vulgar, but hot Dixieland jazz and blues are distractions on stage. They serve good but messy food. You can get loud rock and roll at the Baja Beach Club, also in North Pier, 222-1993. Call for show info and cover charges.

Views. Want to go up to look down? Take our advice and skip the observation deck in the Sears Tower, South Wacker and West Jackson (Loop), and go instead to the Images Lounge on the 96th floor of the John Hancock Building, 875 N. Michigan (Streeterville), where you can buy a drink and enjoy the view for the same price you pay just to look out the Sears Skydeck. You're seven floors lower down, but you can still see plenty.

Art. Chicago's hottest art scene is the SuHu area around Superior and Huron Streets in River North. There are scores of galleries in that neighborhood and somebody is sure to be having an opening. Most are open Tue-Sat 11 am-5 pm. Then, again, you could go to the Art Show and buy a picture of Spock Data.

If you want to look at Old Masters, there's nowhere like the Art Institute, Michigan Avenue at Adams (Loop), 443-3600. The museum is known for its collection of French Impressionists. A special exhibit on now is "Degenerate Art: The Fate of the Avant-Garde in Nazi Germany," a recreation of an exhibit once put on by the Third Reich's art police. Mon-Fri 10:30 am-4:30 pm; Sat 10 am -5 pm; Sun noon-5 pm. \$6. Lesser known is the Terra Museum, 664 N. Michigan (Streeterville), 664-3939, which features three centuries worth of American Art. Tue noon-8 pm; Wed-Sat 10 am-5 pm; Sun noon-5 pm. \$4 The Museum of Contemporary Art, 237 E. Ontario (Streeterville), 280-5161, is a small collection of 20th century art. Tue-Sat 10 am-5 pm; Sun noon-5 pm. \$4

Museums. There are dozens of museums around town and we're sure you can find out what you need to know about the bigger ones elsewhere, so we'll just point out a few of the lesser known nearby.

The Oceanarium at Shedd Aquarium, 1200 S. Lake Shore Dr. (South Loop), 939-2426, isn't one of those but what is not widely known is you have to get tickets in advance through Ticketmaster, 559-1212. The sea otters are cute; the rest is a kind of miniature indoor Sea World. The rest of the Aquarium, for which you don't need advance tickets, is neater -- dark and spooky. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. \$7 (\$3 Aquarium only)

The Museum of Broadcast Communications, 800 S. Wells (South Loop), 987-1500, boasts a tremendous library of old TV shows. It's worth going just to take a look at River City, the building it's in -- you'll think you've wandered into an episode of "The Jetsons." Wed-Fri, Sun noon-5 pm; Sat 10 am-5 pm. \$3

The Museum of Holography, 1134 W. Washington (Near West Side), 226-1007, displays laser holographs and how to make them. Wed-Sun 12:30-5 pm. \$2.50

The Printers' Row Printing Museum, Lakeside Press Building, 731 S. Plymouth Court (South Loop), 987-1059, is a replica of a 19th-century printer's shop. Wed-Fri hours vary -- call; Sat 9 am-5 pm; Sun 10 am-3 pm.

The Spertus Museum of Judaica, 618 S. Michigan (South Loop), 922-9012, is the largest Jewish museum in the Midwest. Be sure to see the Bernard and Rochelle Zell Holocaust Memorial. Mon, Wed, Thu, Sun 10 am-5 pm; Tue 10 am-8 pm.; Fri 10 am-3 pm. \$3.50; \$8 families

Tours. If you can resist them, skip the commercial tours, especially the Wendella boat tour, and instead go on one offered by the Chicago Architecture Foundation. They have daily Loop walking tours, boat tours of the River on Tue, Thu, Sat and Sun, and a bus tour on Sat. Call 782-1776. Friends of the Chicago River also offers Saturday walking tours, 10 am-noon. Call 939-0490. Inexpensive CTA Culture Bus tours visit 40 attractions around the city; they run constantly on Sunday, Labor Day, 10:30 am-5 pm; call 836-7000.

Jazz Festival. The 13th annual Chicago Jazz Festival will fill the lakefront with a mix of traditional and contemporary jazz sounds Thursday through Monday in Grant Park. It's free. The music happens at two stages each day.

PETRILLO BANDSHELL, between Monroe and Jackson drives, east of Columbus: 6-10 p.m. Thursday -- Ramsay Lewis, Dr. Billy Taylor, William Russo and the Chicago Jazz Ensemble with Lee Konitz, Vandy Harris and the Front Burners, Marilyn Crispell Trio, Wynton Marsalis; 6-10:30 pm Friday -- Johnny Frigo Quartet, Lorez Alexandria with the John Young Trio, Gary Burton Quintet, Ray Anderson Quartet, Jay McShann, Milt Hinton, Claude Williams, Buddy Tate, Bobby Durham; 5-10:30 pm Saturday -- Paul Wertico's Quintet Thing, Wardell Reese and the Jazz Motivations, Quatre: Enrico Rava, Franco D'Andrea, Miroslav Vitrous, Daniel Humair, Abbey Lincoln, The Chicago Cantata by George Gruntz; 5-10:30 pm Sunday -- East St. Louis Sr. High School Jazz Band, Judy Roberts Quartet, Ralph Moore Quintet, Yosuke Yamashita, Elvin Jones Jazz Machine, Hugu Masekela.

JAZZ ON JACKSON, noon-5 pm: Friday -- Mothra, Swing Summit, New Horizons Ensemble, Lee Konitz with the Lawrence Hobgood Trio; Saturday -- Eddie Johnson, Paul Serrano Quintet, Kathy Kelly and Vibration, Reggie Willis and Visions, Michael Cloutier Trio; Sunday -- Kelly Brand Quartet with Ron Dewar, Edwin Sanchez, Edward Petersen Quintet with Fareed Haque, Danny Baker's Palm Court Jazz Band.

Chicago has always been unique, strident, obtrusive, pugnacious and self-sufficient. Chicago hangs on to much which has long been wiped out elsewhere, a throwback of its past, on which it built a tremendous city on an uncharted prairie and always did it singularly. That is Chicago, America's last frontier. A city of colossal dimensions in every way, with one of the largest foreign born populations in the world, drawn from all quarters of the universe, it is more American than any other....Chicago's provincialism is delightful, refreshing, relaxing, exasperating and smug. Chicagoland flaunts and independence in speech, attire, ethics and human equations that sets it out from what snobs might call the nations 'main current' but which is really only an irritation along the periphery. New York, San Francisco, New Orleans, Miami aren't America; Chicago is. Chicago doesn't give a damn about the rest of the nation nor a thought for the rest of the world.

Lait and Mortimer, *ibid.*



Downtown
CHICAGO

River North

Streeterville

Hyatt

Loop

South Loop

Lake Michigan

Grant Park

COLUMBUS

Grant Park

Chinatown

CHICAGO

Confidential

CHICAGO
SUPERIOR
HURON
ERIE

ORLIANS

WELLS

DEARBORN

STATE

WABASH

ELISH ST

MICHIGAN

ONTARIO
OHIO

GIRARD
ILLINOIS
HUBBARD

LAKE ST.

LA SALLE ST.

RANDOLPH
WASHINGTON
MADISON

MONROE
ADAMS
QUINCY

JACKSON BLVD.

VAN BUREN

CONGRESS

HARRISON

WELLS ST.

CLARK

DEARBORN

STATE

WABASH AVE

HALSTED

ROOSEVELT

JEFFERSON

CLINTON

CANAL

18th ST.

CERMAK