

THE BEARS'
JAY CUTLER:
BOMB THROWER OR BOMB?

HOW AN EX-COP
PLANS TO RESCUE
CHICAGO'S SCHOOLS

Chicago

OF CHICAGO

90
WINNERS

AUGUST 2009



CHICAGOMAG.COM U.S. \$4.99

BEST NEW BOUTIQUES

BY REBECCA LITTLE

WOMEN

CHALK

At Chalk, a sleek newcomer in Evanston, women can shop for investment pieces with a bit of an edge in a friendly environment with a neighborhood vibe. High-end lines include Narciso Rodriguez, Stella McCartney, and Jason Wu, the designer of Michelle Obama's inaugural gown. Basics include organic tanks, tees, and cardigans from BB Orange and Current/Elliott jeans. 2611 Prairie Ave., Evanston; 847-424-0011, chalkofevanston.com

KIDS

FRANKIE'S ON THE PARK

The Lincoln Park teen-and-tween store Frankie's on the Park spans two floors, running the gamut from casual-wear to special-occasion dresses and suits for girls and boys ages 7 to 16. Selections are refreshingly age appropriate, in prices ranging from \$10 to \$450. There's also a 30-foot "graffiti bar," where kids can customize their clothing with more than 500 transfer decals, and TVs and Xbox games in the dressing rooms. 2322 N. Clark St.; 773-248-0400, frankiesonthepark.com

TWINKLE TWINKLE LITTLE ONE

Roscoe Village's Twinkle Twinkle Little One offers one-stop shopping for expectant parents who care about design and quality. A lot of the furniture converts as the child ages; the hardwood cribs are built to last; the bedding and artwork are hip, not cutesy; and the gifts are adorably quirky. The robust selection comes with impeccable customer service from the owner, Rachel Glasson, possibly the friendliest shopkeeper in town. 3224 N. Damen Ave.; 773-472-3000, twinkletwinkleone.com

BABY



MICRO BOUTIQUE

SERPICO

The designer Melissa Serpico Kamhout is a master of the drape, particularly in the form of her effortless dresses. We love the silk jersey dress that can be worn backwards or forwards (\$780) and the black shirtdress with an asymmetrical hem (\$440), with leggings or without. The designer's small shop in Wicker Park, attached to her design studio, carries her collection of apparel in cotton, wool, and silk. 1514 N. Ashland Ave.; 773-252-5940, serpico-collection.com

BIG-NAME STOP

MARIA PINTO

The local designer Maria Pinto earned her fair share of ink designing for Michelle Obama and Oprah Winfrey, but she is still making clothes for the rest of us. Pinto's new West Loop boutique shows the breadth of her collection, from casual- and workwear to dramatic gowns. Confident and unfussy, the spring 2009 collection includes a jaw-dropping flapper-inspired black sequined dress and a strapless plaid dress that can double as work- or eveningwear. 135 N. Jefferson St.; 312-648-1350, mariapinto.com

ROOM SERVICE

Although everything old seems mod again, Andersonville's Room Service refines the trends by balancing a mix of mid-20th-century furniture with new accents. The mid-1950s and early 1970s furniture and accents are sourced mostly through estate sales and auctions around Palm Springs. The well-edited selection of furniture has been refinished or rehabbed, while the spectacular old lamps are mostly as is. 5438 N. Clark St.; 773-878-5438, roomservicechicago.com

HOME

