

Try Taami

Re: *Rogers Park Restaurants, February 5*

This letter is in regards to your clearly biased and inaccurate review of Taami Restaurant at 2931 W. Touhy. You clearly were making a push for Taboun Restaurant as you mentioned it twice in your review, which is not appropriate approach. In addition there could not have been corn in the shape of a can served since there is no canned corn used. By the way this is a new restaurant which is quickly evolving and developing many fans that say that the food is superior and has more variety than to that of Taboun. In addition the kosher community is happy to have several places to go for changes and there is room for the both of them. It is not located on a sleepy stretch of Touhy, but rather is at the heart of the Chicago Jewish community with no less than 6 synagogues and the Jewish Community Center within a two-block radius.

Try and be more accurate and less biased next time.

Respectfully,

D. Benabu

The End of the Holography Museum?

Re: *"Losing Her Museum," February 12*

Thank you, Ling Ma, for writing such an in-depth and thoughtful piece. I have spent 28 of my 49 years in the field of marketing holography, and rarely seen any related story, self-interest or otherwise, given such attention in a single news piece. I visited the Billings museum only once in the mid 1980s, though had some dealings with both Loren and Robert in subsequent years. They surely were characters, and though I had no idea of their history outside holography, I am not surprised as they both seemed quite maverick to me. Really an amazing love story in the way it is told, and that alone is beautiful. Having lost a father to dementia, and with my now 89 y/o mom living with us, I am well aware of the difficulties associated with aging and families. Though from the outside no one can really know, it seems to me that this family was handling mom (Loren) in the most respectful way possible, which is to give her as much autonomy as they are comfortable with and try not to "meddle." . . . The Chicago MOH was one of the longest running (maybe is the longest running?) MOH in the U.S. If for no other reason (and I still have some very interesting color tuned 3D embossed holograms attributed by Loren to come from their very own lab), the Billingses are recognized by the holographic community for their contribution of the MOH.

Peter

It turns my stomach to think that a banker would allow a borrower to make such a loan. Even though the appropriate papers were signed one would think that the Giannoulis brothers would have made at least a courtesy call to an interested party. No one has been

as devoted to Chicago nor the science of holography than Bob and Loren Billings. They deserve a much better ending than the one the bank and courts have written for them.

John Sciackitano

I'm glad Loren and I both lived long enough that I was able to share the museum with my children and friends. My youngest son has asked me to take him there this week. I hope this won't be our last visit.

Gerry

I am the son of John Sciackitano who is quoted in the article. Back in the late 70s when I was only 12-14 years old, my father would loan me and Mike Royko's son Rob to the Billingses as cheap labor for the rehabbing of Gallery 1134, as it was known then. We would sleep in one of the upstairs galleries and Bob would wake us up early Saturday morning by blaring The William Tell 1812 Overture through giant JBL speakers. During those weekends we learned about everything from tuckpointing to philosophy, from bricklaying to art, from

mixing concrete and breaking door openings through 3 ft thick walls, to holography and classical music. Our only compensation at the end of the weekend was Bob would let us take turns driving his old Volkswagen bug around the west side, which was known as "skid row" back then. I remember thinking that Lui and Bob must be the coolest most intelligent people on earth. That building was Lui's pride and joy, and it is just a shame that she could lose it in such a scandalous way as this. She would never

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knowingly put that building at risk. Along with holography and art, it was her whole life.

John V. Sciackitano

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