

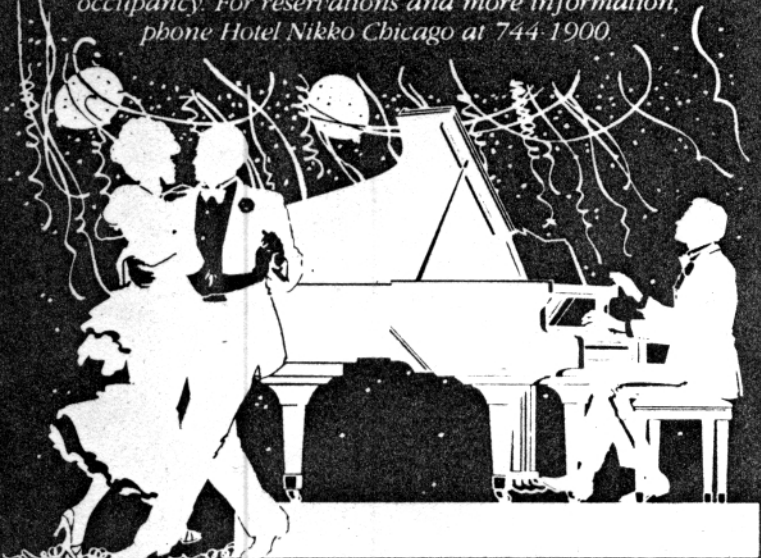
*Around town*

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**Culture in the corners**

By Rick Kogan



Every Sunday for the last year, we have explored in this space the culture that thrives in the city's corners.

Looking back over the less-than-carefully collected clips we have amassed during the last 52 weeks, we are struck at once by how quickly a newspaper starts to yellow with age and at the remarkable variety and vitality of the people, places and things that we have seen.

Just a few weeks ago, we told you about a statue of Abraham Lincoln, 100 years old and standing firm as he is once again dusted with snow, part of the great outdoor museum that is the city's public sculpture.

In a way, this impressive figure is what this column is all about. It is not about those who are given to horn-tooting and hyperbole. Its subjects tended to be quiet sorts, those devoted so strenuously to their particular art, craft or passion that they find little time for self-congratulation.

That's one of the things we've tried to do: congratulate and celebrate the people and places that have neither the time nor, in many cases, the resources to toot their own horns; those who quietly contribute, sometimes against great odds, to the city's richly textured cultural tune.

More than once we have written about the Hologram Museum. Its real name is the Museum of Fine Arts Research and Holographic Center, at 1134 W. Washington St., and it was there that its executive director, Loren Billings told us, "Not one of the organizations to which I've applied for a grant has ever sent a representative to visit the



Illustration by Mitch O'Connell

museum."

We were stunned and saddened by this, for the only way to understand the power and potential of holography—to understand it at all—is to see it. To do that is to experience wonder, a feeling not unlike that probably experienced by one seeing an early photographic image: magic.

Still, we worried throughout the year about the museum's struggle for funds and recognition. But then we recently visited its latest exhibit and were amazed at the new eye-popping delights, so much bolder and complex than what we'd seen only seven months before. And when we heard Billings tell a visitor, "This is the future, this is the 21st Century," we knew that she had faith in her being a big part of that when it arrived.

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Roy Leonard, WGN

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Hedy Weiss, Chicago Sun-Times

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Norman Mark, WMAQ-TV

**"EDWARD EDWARDS AS THE NERD IS FUNNY, FUNNY!!"**

Sherman Kaplan, WBBM-AM



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