

Seattle

BEST { AND WORST } OF 2003

101 TOP PICKS! SHOE STORE WOMEN'S CLOTHES FLORIST
NEWSSTAND CARD SHOP DIVE BAR CHOCOLATES FREE ENTERTAINMENT
KIDS' STUFF WINE SHOP MOVIE THEATER KARAOKE YOGA KAYAKING
CHAI HOTEL BAR HEALTH CLUB PURSE DESIGNER AND MORE!

plus!

COCKTAIL COUTURE:
DRESSED FOR EXCESS

ARTS IN CRISIS: CAN
SEATTLE'S SINKING
THEATER SCENE GET
ITS ACT TOGETHER?

FUN MINI-BITES FOR
YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY



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BEST

{ AND WORST }

OF 2003

From shopping to services to food to fun,
we present you with this year's top picks

By Janna Chan, with Sarah Greenbaum, Jay Graham and Albee Dalbotten



Feature photographs by Julia Kuskin / Icon photographs and illustrations by Aaron Bitters



New Women's Clothing Boutique

>> A shopping gem amongst downtown's chain stores, **Sway & Cake** (1631 Sixth Ave.; 206.624.2699) sports just-off-the-runway duds for fashion-hungry city girls. Opened in May, the store concentrates on "what's hip now" and boasts ultra-modern and urban lines by designers such as Rebecca Taylor, Development, Theory and Michael Kors.

New Shoe Store

>> How does one get old-school kicks without the old-school odor? Just drop by the **Seattle Retro Shoe Store** (1524 E Olive Way; 206.322.2305; seattleretroshoestore.com), which has been stocking brand-new retro remakes by



Adidas, Nike, Reebok and New Balance, as well as limited-edition sneakers since June. You won't find any white-washed tennis shoes here. Instead it's all about thin soles and flashy colors that are sure to give baby boomers a psychedelic flashback.

Men's Custom Clothier

>> Is it the suit that makes the man or the man that makes the suit? Ask tailor/designer Gian DeCaro of **Gian DeCaro Sartoria** (2025 First Ave., Ste. D; 206.448.2812; giandecaro.com) and he would probably say the latter. Rumors in the fashion world say he helped Microsoft billionaires Bill Gates and Paul Allen to trade their pleated-front khakis for custom-tailored Italian silk suits. This clothier's attention to detail has helped the Northwest move from grunge to glam.

Custom Leather Pants

>> A fashion fixture in Seattle for nearly 30 years, **Carol McClellan** (103 Battery St.; 206.956.8484; carolmcclellandesign.com) has got casual couture down to a science. McClellan has dressed the likes of Heart's Ann Wilson with her specialty-tailored leather apparel and recently introduced retail walk-in hours so that customers no longer need to make an appointment to look like a rock star.

BEST



Newsstand

>> There's a reason that **Bulldog News** (4208 University Way NE, 206.632.6397; Broadway Market, 401 Broadway E, 206.322.6397; bulldognews.com) has been around for 20 years: selection,

selection. The store boasts more than 3,000 different publications, including local 'zines, foreign newspapers, independent publications and even consignments. If you can't find what you want here, it probably doesn't exist.

New Bath and Body Boutique

>> Like a desert mirage, **Kiehl's** (University Village, 2625 NE University Village; 206.985.4414; kiehls.com) very first free-standing shop in Seattle appeared out of nowhere—but it won't disappear if you get too close. Popular for their mixture of cosmetic, pharmaceutical, herbal and medicinal knowledge as well as their straightforward no-nonsense product labels, the store maintains its Old World tradition with bath and body products such as all-natural lip balms, a soothing shaving cream for the fellas and even a mother-tested and -approved baby lotion. Don't miss their generous free samples bar behind the registers!

