

The *Millennium Knickerbocker*, a weary 80-year-old *Chicago* landmark, is steeped in history that includes presidents, mob figures and Playboy Enterprises. True, the lobby is Old World beautiful and houses the very busy *Martini Bar* and mod-looking *Nix Restaurant*. True, it is in a fabulous location, just off Michigan Avenue, where shopping and entertainment are irresistible. However, stay away from this hotel unless you like small rooms, antiquated towels and baths too tiny to contain all your “stuff.” Hopefully there is a renovation plan in place to restore this old beauty ... or at least a planned shopping trip for new towels.

ENTREE continues to find more and good reasons to embrace our iPods. The city of *Dublin* has published a series of walking tours narrated by author, historian and artist, *Pat Liddy*, under the clever moniker, *iWalks*. Presently, three of the initial eleven 40-plus minute tours are available, including “Georgian Dublin.” Whether listening in your armchair or while walking Dublin’s historic streets in person, Pat brings legends and history delightfully alive. The *iWalks* downloads are priced to fit any budget—they are free. Of course being in mp3 format you don’t have to use an iPod, any player will suffice. Visit www.visitdublin.com and use the multimedia link on the top right.

In closing: The merger between *Fairmont* and *Raffles* isn’t going to work. Where is the synergy? And this takeover business seems to have stalled the *Savoy* restoration in London at a most unfortunate moment. Trust *Colony Capital* to proceed with the subtlety of a wrecking crew in a couture salon. If you’re prowling around the Upper East Side of *Manhattan* island thirsty for a tea or glass of bubbly and a *Choux à la Crème*, head straight for *Lady M, 41 E. 78th Street, (212) 452-2222*. This is a very small, very pleasant, very pretty patisserie with excellent tartes, cakes, sandwiches and beverages. Good news from an airline for a change: *LAN Airlines* has introduced a new *Premium Business* service, blending the best of first- and business-class service. The \$100 million concept is based on what long-haul passengers value most: the ability to rest. We applaud LAN. Can’t wait to try the full-flat 180-degree recline, down comforters and soft pillows, to say nothing of the 74-inch-wide seats, 15.4-inch individual video monitors, and signature great cuisine and wines that LAN is known for. Visit www.lan.com. A subscriber we greatly admire recently wrote to tell us what a marvelous place *La Samanna* on *St. Maarten* is. We agree this *Orient-Express* property is one of the jewels of the Caribbean. Thanks, D.B.