

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALEKS SENWALD



own

choose your  
**SUMMER**  
adventure

Sporty jaunts, cultural delights, fodder for foodies, family fun, and more! Which is right for you?

EDITED BY NORA O'DONNELL AND JENNIFER WEHUNT

Chicago



**DURING A ROUTINE STROLL** down Clark Street, you notice something strange: Your go-to frozen-yogurt stand has turned into a travel agency. *But how can this be?* Intrigued by the sudden change, you pop in for a little PI work. As you open the door, a gentle whoosh blows your hair back like a wind machine in a music video, and a heavenly chorus (or is that Foreigner?) fills the air. An elderly woman greets you with a gummy laugh. Before you can ask about your beloved dessert spot, she thrusts a dog-eared brochure in your face and rasps, "This is the key to your best summer ever!" The cover of the pamphlet reads, simply, *Chicago*. You respond, *I'm sorry, ma'am, isn't this supposed to be a travel agency?* "You kids think you know so much with your Orbitzes and exotic vacations," she snorts, then leans forward and whispers, "but the greatest adventures happen here—in and around the best city in America." *But it's just street fests and—* A meaty palm connects with your face as your fiery fairy godmother shouts: "Don't be a fool! Everything you could possibly want is in the brochure! All you have to do is . . . choose."

» IF YOU'RE READY TO EMBARK ON . . .

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A summer devoted to all things science is like opening a portal into another world: awesome. Into the wormhole you go.



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# a SCIENTIFIC quest

» FOR EVENT DETAILS, TURN TO PAGE 69

## IF YOU'RE READING

this after Memorial Day, your first task is to build a time machine and travel back to **5/26**, when the Field Museum launched its **SUMMER OF SUE**, feting the *T. rex*'s tenth anniversary with a visit from the dino's discoverer, Sue Hendrickson (**5/29-31**). Otherwise, you've got until **9/6** to check out Robo Sue: The *T. rex* Experience, four animatronic dinos equipped with face-recognition software, allowing the critters to track visitors' movements. Don't make them angry.

**HM, YOU THINK:** If dinosaurs could have finagled a quantum leap, would they have avoided extinction? Befuddled by the basics of quarks and neutrinos, you seek answers at Chicago's genius central, **FERMI LAB**—and your timing couldn't be better. On **6/6**, a smarty-pants from the Particle Physics Division hosts the monthly **Ask-a-Scientist Guided Tour**, which includes up-close peeks at one of the lab's particle accelerators.



» If you're the parent of a future scientist more into squashing bugs than smashing atoms, wait for the **Family Outdoor Fair** on **6/13**—or turn to page 66.

**NOPE, TURNS OUT** you don't have the stomach for scalpels. You do, however, find a spare \$165,000 while searching your backpack for a barf bag. Put it—and the bag—to use by chartering a flight on **ZERO GRAVITY CORPORATION**'s vomit comet. You and 35 pals can enjoy seven to eight minutes sans gravity as a Boeing 727 makes dramatic parabolas in the sky. (Individual seats, \$4,950, aren't available until 2011.)

**CONVINCED THE UNIVERSE WOULD MAKE** more sense if you could just get a better view, you redirect to the Geneva outpost of **AMERICAN SCIENCE & SURPLUS**, where a free star party on **6/18** features the **NASA astrophysicist Michelle Thaller** pointing out heavenly bodies through telescopes set up on the store's roof.

Think civilian-sized lenses are for amateurs?

OR

Does the great wide open send your mind reeling?

Head to Northwestern, where the **DEARBORN OBSERVATORY**'s 18.5-inch telescope is open to the public every Friday, year-round.

Try seeing the world through a different perspective: bovine. Trek to the Museum of Science and Industry for a daily 30-minute tutorial in **DISSECTING A COW EYEBALL**.

**YOUR BRUSH WITH WEIGHTLESSNESS** leaves you feeling so svelte you embark on a new scientific diet. You book a reservation at **MOTO**, home of the molecular-gastronomy pro—and star of the Planet Green TV show *Future Food*—Homaro Cantu. » For more adventurous eating, turn to page 63.

## FINAL FOOD FRONTIER conquered. What's next?

Reserve tickets for the **7/16** release of **INCEPTION**, a mind-bending flick from the *Dark Knight* director and onetime Chicagoan Christopher Nolan.

There are always video games, but your new summer fling isn't hip to gaming, and you hate to rock the boat. But wait! On **8/1** the **Chicago Symphony Orchestra** plays Nobuo Uematsu's score from the **FINAL FANTASY** franchise at Ravinia. Rad!

**THRILLED TO FIND** your date digs the geek life, too, you take the big plunge and reserve tickets to **CHICAGO COMIC CON (8/19-22)**. The original *Batman* and—deep breath—William Shatner both in one place? Consider it booked—and live long and prosper.



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