



## Shopping CONT.>>

### **BEST BASTION OF PALM-SIZE SELF-EXPRESSION**

Recently relocated to bigger and brighter quarters on 16th Street near Guerrero, **Needles and Pens** (co-owned by *Guardian* layout designer Andrew Scott) is the premier place in San Francisco to purchase those irascible cauldrons of self-expression: zines. While most stores relegate zines to dusty and disorganized shelves near the bottom of the “Adult Graphix: 18+ Only Kidding” section, at Needles and Pens, they take center stage. Young, nubile, and vigorous zines like *Burn Collector* and *Those Fucking Unicorns* are shelved next to old favorites like *Cometbus* and *Murder Can Be Fun* on the bright, neatly organized racks. There are bike zines, cookbook zines, goth zines. It’s nonvirtual zine-a-rama, kids — come collect the wee, yummy, palm-size funs. Alternative magazines, graphic novels, indie comix, and music books bulk up the fab selection of flimsies, and — a nice touch of syner-



**The zines and other goodies at Needles and Pens keep us clapping and nabbed it the award for Best Bastion of Palm-Size Self-Expression.**

GUARDIAN PHOTO BY DAVID GREGORY

gy — Needles and Pens also carries an intriguing and ever-varying selection of clothing and accessories made by (or at least thrifted and modified by) local artists. All items are guaranteed to be the product of 100 percent “hipster slave labor.” Hey — if you read indie, why not dress indie?

3253 16th St., SF. (415) 255-1534,  
www.needles-pens.com

### **BEST FISTFUL OF JOY**

Quantity and, more important, quality are the hallmarks at **Hoogasian Flowers**, a family-owned bloom emporium that’s been providing San Franciscans with heart-melting bouquets since the 1920s. Despite the mom-and-pop shop atmosphere of its three city locations, Hoogasian is San

Francisco’s largest purveyor of floral arrangements and, as one of 125 certified members of Florist’s Transworld Delivery Association, boasts clients from all around the country. The Seventh Street store in particular is a wonderland of botanical choices, with a huge humming refrigerator full of buds that truly awe us. Besides the usual eye-popping birthday, wedding, and anniversary bonanzas, the shop also offers festive plants and balloon sculptures. When, oh when, we implore mistily, will someone surprise us with a fistful of Hoogasian?

615 Seventh St.; 1674 Lombard; 250 Post, SF. 1-800-BAY-AREA, www.hoogasian.com

### **BEST META BEST OF**

You can run, but you can’t hide. The clever souls at **Aardvark Books** on the Church Street corridor *think* they can sucker us into giving them a Best Used Bookstore award by placing this sign in their window: “Never Voted Best Used Bookstore Since 1978.” Well, the joke’s on you, page sniffers, because in the true tradition of literary irony, we are *not* recognizing that

you are, indeed, a great used bookstore, with a top-notch selection of affordable, entirely timely titles. And we’re *ignoring* that you’re one of the only places in the neighborhood whose magazine selection is an alternative to the alternative-only offerings elsewhere . . . you know, for those times when you’re just itchy for an ish of *Food and Wine* or *Domino*. Instead, we take smug pleasure in breaking your losing streak and christen your win as the Best Bookstore Never to Be Voted Best of Anything . . . or something. So there! Ha!

227 Church, SF. (415) 552-6733 **SFBG**