

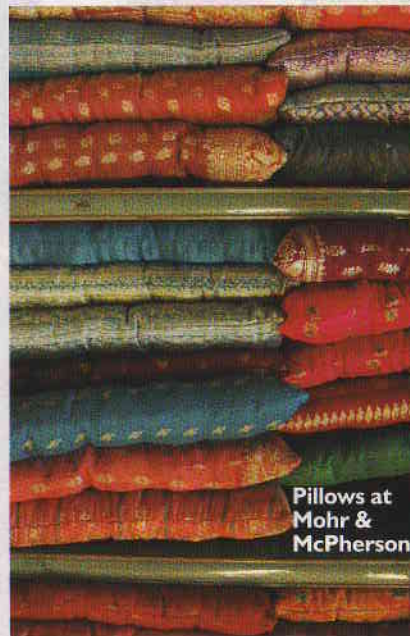
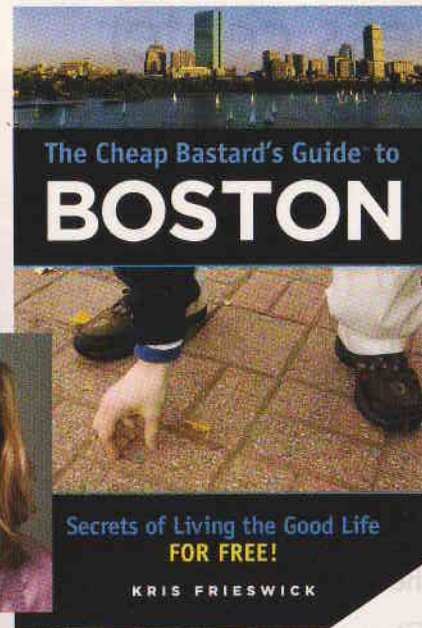
THE WORD

IMPROPER SPEAKING

SEEN, OVERHEARD OR OTHERWISE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION

Taco Trauma... South End social gatherings have been abuzz with the wretched news: The beloved, tender, crunchy, perfect-with-a-beer fish tacos have been banished from the menu at Picco! What were they thinking?! Turns out the loss is temporary: Owner Rick Katz assures us the tacos will reappear. "We wanted to change things up a bit during the winter months, when it's slower," Katz says, promising the delish dish will return by "late February, or early March at the latest." For now, make do with Picco's stellar pizza, paninis and homemade ice cream. Or just sit at the bar and cry into your lonely beer. 513 Tremont St., Boston (617-927-0066). www.piccorestaurant.com.

Frugal Finds... Has Boston's lofty cost of living always got you eyeing your next paycheck? *The Cheap Bastard's Guide to Boston*, part of a series published by Globe Pequot, may offer some relief, with more than 300 pages of tips for living on a budget in Beantown. Author Kris Frieswick points the way to freebies and discounts around the city, with info about free classes in sailing and yoga; getting into plays, films, concerts and museums at no cost; half-priced meals and free food; and where to get a free or discounted haircut. Frieswick even reveals where the city's best furnishings get trashed. "I was overwhelmed by how much really great free or obscenely cheap stuff is out there to find, with a little leg work," Frieswick says. All in the name of bargain hunting.



PaperChase... Former New York magazine designer Meghan Smith McPhail packed her bags and moved to Boston for a quieter lifestyle. And during the transition came the idea for Lee Leigh, an online stationery and invitation business. Specializing in party and wedding invitations, holiday cards and personalized letterhead, McPhail offers designs that are clean, modern and unique. Preppy stripes, snowflakes, simple hearts and flowers in pastel colors are some of the signature touches of her collection. Custom designs and one-of-a-kind pieces are available as well. www.leeleigh.com.

Finneran Again... His voice may no longer ring out in the Statehouse, but onetime House speaker Tom Finneran will soon be reaching a whole new audience. After pleading guilty to obstruction of justice and resigning from the Mass. Biotechnology Council, Finneran has landed on his feet as the host of his own morning drive-time show on WRKO, starting Feb. 12. Praising him for "intelligence, wit and passion," station execs are looking past his legal troubles. But the man claims he's ready for callers to bring any topic to the table. Dare we say, ratings...? www.wrko.com.



Please join us this Valentine's Day
to celebrate the engagement of
Kelly & Jake

Cocktails and Hon'd'Osours
Saturday, February 14th
7pm
220 Greenwich Street
Apartment 32
New York City

Regrets Only
Nicole 917.555.5555

Mohr to Come... After closing its Boston showroom in 2003, Cambridge-based furniture company Mohr & McPherson has once again

brought its import act to the city, with a new store in the Back Bay. Furniture, textiles and home accessories

from India, Japan, China and Morocco fill the new digs, and most are one-of-a-kind. Ask about the Buying Trips (featured in *National Geographic*), a service in which the company guides travelers in finding, buying and shipping furniture, textiles and jewelry from around the world. 356 Boylston St. (617-421-9500). www.mohr-mcpherson.com. —Leslie P. Kilgore