



Photograph of Joel Pollack by Matthew Worden

Hippest New Fashion Spot

BARNEY'S CO-OP BROUGHT edgy chic to Chevy Chase and Georgetown. Now **Cusp** (Tysons Corner Center, 703-288-1940)—Neiman Marcus's hipper, boutiquey offspring—is making Tysons a destination for early adopters. Rather than going the spare route, as Barney's Co-op has, Cusp channels a bazaarlike vibe with artsy handbag "trees" and dressing rooms with shaggy,

postmodern hassocks.

Look for hard-to-find labels—Cynthia Rowley handbags, Repetto ballet flats from Paris, black-wash straight-leg jeans from Cyn—as well as such up-and-comers as Phillip Lim and See by Chloe plus perennials Velvet, Theory, and Diane von Furstenberg. Another way Cusp differs from its parent: gentler prices.

Seriously Cool Comics

"We take comics serious-

ly" is the motto at **Big Planet Comics** (3145 Dumbarton St., NW, 202-342-1961; also in Bethesda and Vienna; www.bigplanetcomics.com). The 20-year-old store caters more to adults than to kids, and that focus has yielded record sales as comics have made a comeback—attracting women and baby boomers as well as major publishers such as Random House and Simon & Schuster.

Big Planet stocks vintage

comic books aren't just for kids; ask Joel Pollack, owner of Big Planet Comics. The store—with locations in DC, Bethesda, and Vienna—sells everything from vintage titles to graphic novels.

titles, kids' comics, and periodicals, but the wide selection of new paperbacks—from book-length superhero tales to literary graphic novels—is its mainstay. Says owner Joel Pollack: "We are a readers' shop."

Best and Worst Bushisms

When President Bush trips on his tongue, Slate.com's Jacob Weisberg—author of *George W. Bushisms* and its sequels—is there to catch the humor. Here are some of his favorites from the past year:

- "You took an oath to defend our flag and our freedom, and you kept that oath underseas and under fire." (January 10)
- "I aim to be a competitive nation." (April 21)
- "I think—tide turning—see, as I remember—I was raised in the desert, but tides kind of—it's easy to see a tide turn—did I say those words?" (June 14)
- "I've reminded the prime minister . . . that it was not always a given that the United States and America would have a close relationship." (June 29, during an appearance with then-Japanese prime minister Junichiro Koizumi)
- "One has a stronger hand when there's more people playing your same cards." (October 11)