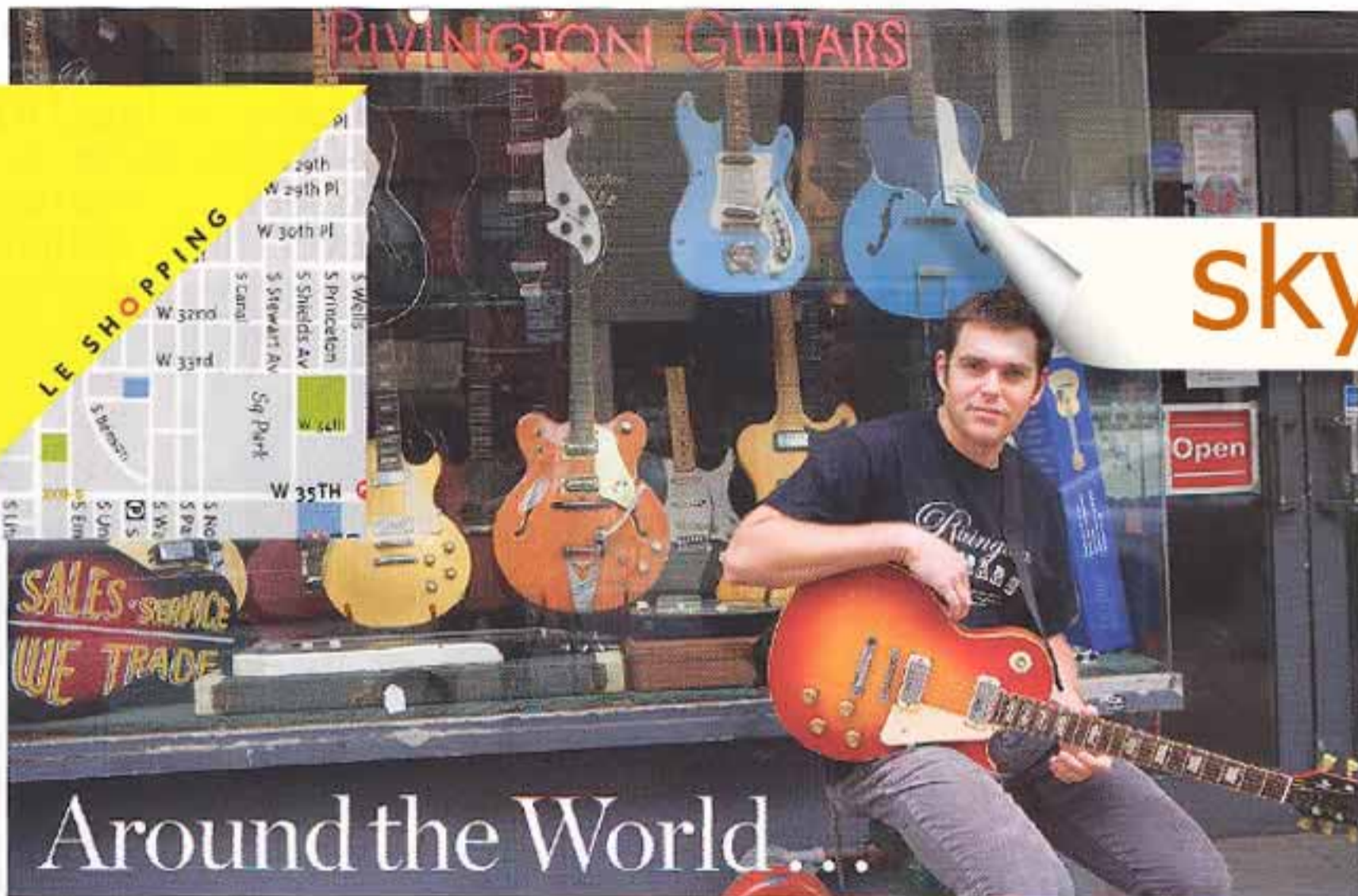


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Around the World...

... in just eight blocks. A shopping tour through New York's Lower East Side yields beautiful objets from Australia to Syria.

Manhattan's Lower East Side was once the world's most densely populated neighborhood, jam-packed with tenements that housed wave after wave of immigrants—Irish, Italian, Jewish, Chinese and Hispanic. And there are still plenty of reminders of the area's melting-pot past. On Orchard Street, once renowned for vendors hawking bargains out of pushcarts, you can still buy a crisp half-sour pickle from **Guss' Pickles**, a stand that's been operating since 1920 and is located these days at No. 85–87. And for real immersion in history, don't miss the **Tenement Museum** (212-982-8420, www.tenement.org), at No. 108, where you can tour several apartments preserved as they would have looked in the late 1800s and early 1900s. (The gift shop also offers great New York souvenirs, such as plates edged with a silhouette of the skyline.) →

GUITAR HERO

Chock-full of pristine Fender Stratocasters, Gibson Les Pauls, and many more models from more obscure manufacturers, **Rivington Guitars** (212-505-5313, www.rivingtonguitars.com), at 125 Rivington Street, is a music-lover's mecca. Even if you aren't in the market for a new axe, you can take a lesson (\$30 for 30 minutes or \$50 for one hour) or pick up a 1960s-era guitar strap, such as one embroidered with purple owls (\$24.95 and up).



OUT OF AFRICA

Step across the threshold at **Sheherazade** (212-539-1771, sheherazadenyc.com), at 121 Orchard Street, and be instantly whisked on a tour from Istanbul, Turkey, to Cairo, Egypt. This well-appointed home-furnishings store can help you add the perfect amount of exotic flair to your décor, with gilded tea glasses from Morocco (\$8 each); a lush leather pouf (\$195), also from Morocco; or a jaw-dropping mother-of-pearl inlay dresser from Syria (\$2,400).

THE LOW DOWN

1. A Casa Fox
2. Alife Rivington Club
3. BBlessing
4. Doyle & Doyle
5. Economy Candy
6. Guss' Pickles
7. Honey in the Rough
8. Hudson Street Paper
9. MooShoes
10. Narnia
11. Rivington Guitars
12. Sheherazade
13. Tenement Museum

GIMME SUGAR

Veruca Salt would swoon at the array of sweets for sale at **Economy Candy** (108 Rivington Street, 212-254-1531, www.economycandy.com). This store, family-owned since 1937, is packed from floor to ceiling with every type of candy imaginable: an entire wall of Jelly Bellies, three different kinds of candy cigarettes, British candy bars, swanky Belgian chocolate and bulk boxes of Blow-Pops.

