



We seem intent on making Skynet a reality.

@mjzalewski via Twitter

## OK Supercomputer

Absolutely fascinating article [“The Computer That Will Change Everything,” February]. Its processing capability is almost beyond comprehension. Imagine speed increasing a trillionfold in just the last 40 years!

Robert Bruner via Facebook

What happens when you combine revolutionary software advancements in AI with revolutionary hardware advancements such as exascale computers that are a trillion times faster? I don’t know. But I know society is not ready. **U.S. representative Ted Lieu (@tedlieu) via Twitter**

**SETTING THE BAR**  
Nine Bar getting the No. 1 spot is well deserved [“Best New Bars,” February]. But it’s also probably the only new bar I’ve been to in years. **@jennypfafflin via Twitter**

I just may have to take up drinking again. **Chris LaMorte via LinkedIn**

What classifies as new? Easy Does It has been a wonderful pandemic outdoor option since it opened in August 2020. **@ArchiJake via Twitter**

**THEY SAW THE (HAND-PAINTED) SIGNS**  
This is a great story [“The Art of Oxtails (\$4.99 a Pound),” February], but it’s just begging for more photos. I want to see the inside of this shop so much. **@Phineas via Twitter**

**TRAIN TROUBLES**  
The L can be dangerous because there’s no support for the community that uses it [“How to Save the L,” March]. Invest in that community by lowering rent and supporting those who use drugs by making sure they can do it safely, instead of on the train. Also, those conductors need to be paid more. **@thequeerstray via Instagram**

Might be as simple as electing leaders who care about restoring safety and reliability. **@jfox285 via Instagram**

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Q:

**Why is Chicago mail postmarked “Carol Stream” and “South Suburban”?**



### CITY OF BIG QUESTIONS

ANSWERED BY EDWARD ROBERT McCLELLAND

I have a box full of old letters, mostly from the 1990s—the last decade when people wrote letters. One envelope from 1993 is postmarked “Chicago, IL 606.” You won’t see that anymore, though, thanks to the centralization of mail processing.

In the old days, postal substations canceled their own mail, says Charles Berg, owner of Stamp King in Norwood Park. “As the post office has automated more, they resorted to using more sophisticated machinery,” Berg says. “Small stations can’t operate that way.”

The Chicago postmark disappeared altogether in 2012, when the processing center at 433 West Harrison Street stopped canceling mail and that function was centralized in Carol Stream and Bedford Park. Drop your mail at a North Side station, and it will get canceled as “Carol Stream”; on the South Side, “South Suburban.”

There are exceptions for first-day covers—that is, mail affixed with a new stamp on the day it is made publicly available—and ceremonial mail. I collect first-day covers of famous authors and have a Richard Wright one, issued in 2009, postmarked “Chicago.” When Barack Obama gets his presidential stamp, you can bet that first-day cover will be postmarked in Chicago, not Carol Stream.

Email your questions about the Chicago area to [emcclelland@chicagomag.com](mailto:emcclelland@chicagomag.com).