

SAUSAGE FEST

We compare the meaty menus at two beer and sausage bars

By Erin Brereton

Since opening in August, **The Curse** (3517 N. Clark St. 773-935-6694) has established itself as Wrigleyville's resident sausage-centric sports bar. Now that beer-and-sausage spot **Bangers & Lace** (1670 W. Division St. 773-252-6499) opened its doors on the border of Wicker Park and Ukrainian Village on Tuesday, sausage fans have a new place to sink their teeth into. Which has the rarest beers—and which can satisfy your most intense cravings for a goat bratwurst? Read on to find out.



The Zambrano at The Curse
DAN PETERSON PHOTOS FOR METROMIX

THE LOOK

THE CURSE

Sporty shrine of superstition. The Cubs' Curse of the Billy Goat isn't the only jinx this casual Wrigleyville sports bar from the owners of Red Ivy pays homage to; the walls are decorated with a timeline of sports-related hexes from a variety of teams.

BANGERS & LACE

Hunting lodge meets beer palace. Wood-covered walls, mounted animal heads and a vintage icebox decorate the bar, run by the owners behind Bar DeVille, Nightwood, Lumen and Duchamp.

THE ADVANTAGE

Bangers & Lace, though we admit they have an advantage with designer extraordinaire Kevin Heisner on the ownership team.

THE BEER

THE CURSE

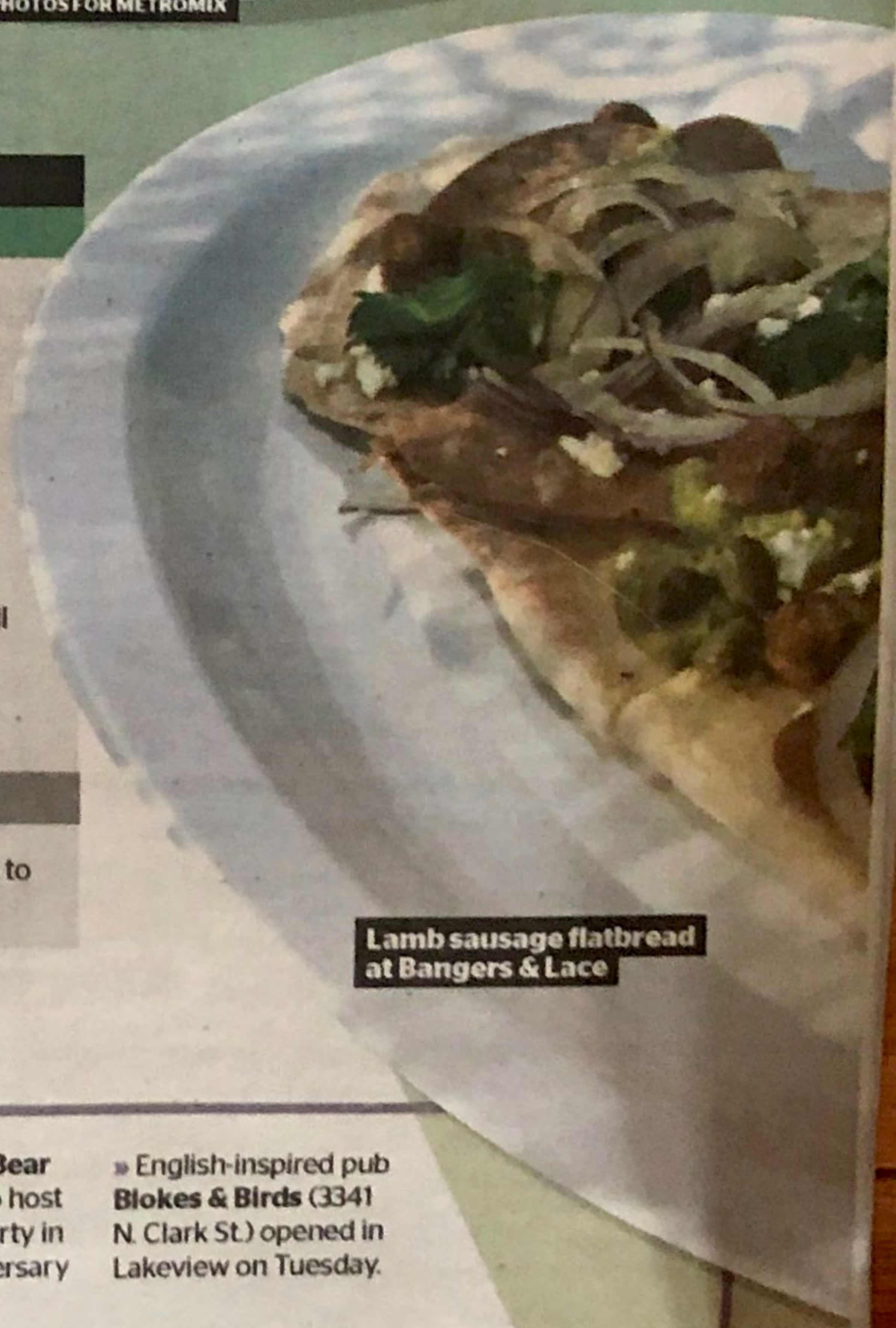
Coors Light is the sole beer on tap and the bar's stocked with about 40 bottled beers, including tasty Belgian brew Delirium Tremens (\$9) and Hopped Up 'N' Horny ale (\$4) from Wisconsin's Horny Goat Brewing Company.

BANGERS & LACE

Among 70 bottled beers on hand and 32 of them on draft, the suds selection includes unique varieties such as the slightly sour Bockor Cuvee Des Jacobins Rouge (\$8) and Genmai (a brown rice ale) from Japanese brewery Ise Kadoya (\$15 for a 17-ounce bottle). Dying for a standard domestic? It's not on the menu, but in-house cicerone (the beer equivalent of a sommelier) Ria Neri tells us they'll keep a six-pack of Miller Lite stowed in back in case a customer requests it.

THE ADVANTAGE

Bangers & Lace. Sorry, Coors Light, but more is more when it comes to on-tap options.



Lamb sausage flatbread at Bangers & Lace

THE TICKER

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» New nightclub **Hearts** opens Friday at 1115 N. Branch St. from the owners of Sound Bar, Crescendo and Y Bar on Friday.

» New brewery **Finch Beer Company** is working to open at 4565 N. Elston Ave. in spring 2011. Though it won't have a brewpub, they will give tours.

» Mike Ditka heads to **Bull & Bear** (431 N. Wells St.) on Sunday to host the Glory Days Official Fan Party in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Bears' Super Bowl win.

» English-inspired pub **Blokes & Birds** (3341 N. Clark St.) opened in Lakeview on Tuesday.