



wine & dine

BEER TODAY, GONE TOMORROW

When the winter season is young and cold blasts still feel refreshing instead of life threatening, I'll sometimes have a beer.

Anderson Valley's smooth, creamy Winter Solstice Seasonal

Ale is a luscious, warming microbrew from Boonville (Mendocino County) CA. It's dark, hearty and robust, with just the right touch of Christmas (wintry) spices. Head brewer Neil Atkins, who took the bronze medal at this year's European Beer Star Awards, says he likes to think of a "warm fire, big meal and falling snow" when brewing the winning ale, which is neither sterile filtered nor heat pasteurized, and should be kept at 40-45 degrees to fully enjoy the flavor combinations. When spring arrives, try Anderson Valley's Summer Solstice—lighter with just a hint of caramel—available at the end of April, early May. —Deborah McDonald, PM Restaurant Critic

sports

DUKES REVIVAL

As soon I can figure out what I think about Duquesne winning a basketball game of some importance I will tell you. But, give me time. It's been a while.

Too long, you would certainly say if you were a Dukes' fan. And to judge by the number of people who stormed the court last Saturday following Duquesne's upset victory over the ninth-ranked Xavier Musketeers, there apparently still are some Duquesne fans out there. Good for them. They haven't had it easy these past three decades or so. The fans deserved that victory the other night. Congratulations.

I'll stop short of saying that I foresee a revival of interest in the Dukes, or that Ron Everhart is building a team that could compete in the Atlantic 10 every year, or even get Duquesne to the NCAA tournament for the first time since Jimmy Carter was in the White House. No, I think before he accomplishes that, some larger school from far away will entice him with money and the chance to win on a regular basis and he will go. As he should.

What I do see is a remarkable effort in an unlikely place and if life is fair (Duquesne fans aren't certain) it should be rewarded with an appearance in the National Invitational Tournament. "The Not Important Tournament," you say? Not to Duquesne. Not given all they've been through for all these years. In a Pittsburgh sports year already overloaded with great stories, this is as good as any. Just because nobody saw this coming, doesn't mean you can't see them now. On Sunday, they host Temple at 3 p.m. at the Palumbo Center. Don't worry, there's room on the bandwagon, if you care to hop on.

—Bill MODOONO, PM Sportswriter

nightlife

ALL THE SINGLE LADIES—AND GENTLEMAN

It's jokingly also known as "Singles Awareness Day." Although, if you're single on Valentine's Day, I'm guessing you're already aware of this. Why not head to the 12th Annual Anti-Valentine's Day Bash & Fashion Show at Zen Social Club (125 W. Station Square Dr.) on Fri., Feb. 13. Doors open at 8 p.m. and the show starts at 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 at the door, and \$30 for V.I.P, if available. Performances include Margot B and Caution Crew. Proceeds benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

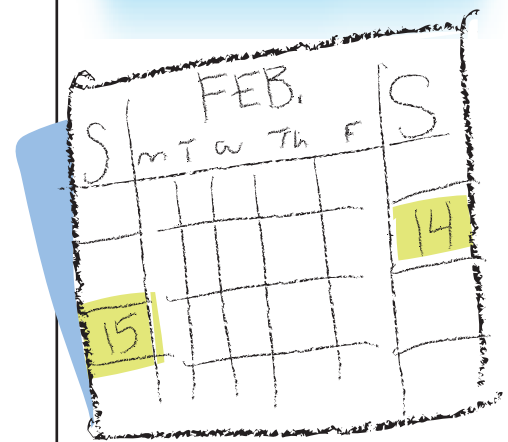
If you have someone special you'd like to treat, visit the Carnegie Museum of Art for a night of art and dining. Stroll through the exhibits and sit to a romantic five-course dinner of French cuisine and six French wine pairings. Tickets are \$90 for members and \$100 for non-members. Friday, Feb. 13 from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Call 412/622-3288 for reservations. —Mike Lee, PM Nightlife Editor

arts

HAIL TO THE CHIEF

There's a good chance you didn't make last month's Gallery Crawl in the Cultural District. You looked at the frigid weather, sighed and decided to watch "Trading Spouses" instead. These things happen. That's why many galleries have closing parties as well as opening parties—so you have a second chance to sip wine and enjoy free cheese and crackers, mingling with artists in an exhibit's final hours. In this case, Future Tenant hosts "Sworn In," a multimedia exhibit about U.S. presidents and how we perceive them. The exhibit cleverly mimics the "salon" style portraiture that hangs in the White House. Given the significance of our latest election (well, I suppose they're all significant), "Sworn In" asks us to consider what we think of the Executive Branch—not only as the highest office in the land, but as an aesthetic subject.

"Sworn In's" closing party takes place Sat., Feb. 14, 7-11 p.m. 819 Penn Ave., downtown. Info: futuretenant.org.



food find QUICK VALENTINE'S FIXES

Short on romantic plans? This year's down economy might make it easier than usual to nab a last-minute dinner reservation—lots of notable local restaurants offer special menus. Otherwise, let an affordable food- or wine-themed gift do the talking: Riedel stemware and decanters are on sale at Dreadnought Wines in the Strip through the 14th; Truly Wize, a locally-based online purveyor of organic artisan cookies has pretty Valentine's gift boxes at 20 percent off; and if all else fails, a Late Bottle Vintage Port from a PLCB store and a bar of rich dark chocolate will taste delicious. Recession or not, your sweetheart deserves some decadence!

—Kate Chynoweth, PM Food Editor