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3D Music Company

by Joyce Campisi



This month Nightwire is very excited to tell you about 3D Music Company, Pittsburgh's premiere operator for amusement machines, vending equipment, music jukeboxes and much more!

Are you a business owner and tired of living with outdated jukebox/amusement equipment, bad repair service and too many excuses. Nightwire is here to help, we at Nightwire continually strive to recommend and support local small family owned businesses and 3D Music is just that! You can always count on 3D Music to provide professional quality service by trained knowledgeable personnel. They will help you with any of your needs to ensure that you are receiving the highest rate of return. Give them a call, they will be more than happy to come out to your facility or business and evaluate your needs "Free of Charge." Remember, CD Jukeboxes are a thing of the past. Touchtunes Digital Jukeboxes will, at least, DOUBLE your existing revenues! Call them to find out how you can increase your revenue in music! They will be happy to answer any of your questions you may have on what machines would be the best fit for your business or even home entertainment!

3D Music Has Been Around a Long Time! Established in 1932 a little company known as Schenley Vending Company planted it's roots in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. The founder of the company, Lawrence Daurora Sr. provided vending services to local businesses in the area. An extremely interesting fact, Andy Warhol, yes, the real icon Andy Warhol was one of the very first employees at Schenley Vending and a personal friend of the family. Check it out on their website! At the time, Schenley Vending Company provided Wurlitzer Jukeboxes© exclusively to establishments for entertainment purposes for their clientele. 70 years later Schenley Vending Company, now operated by son, Larry Daurora, Jr., is continuing to carry on with the same values and traditions his father created. Larry's commitment to service and taking care of customers, the old fashion way, is unduplicated in the marketplace today! 3D

Music always puts their customers needs first and foremost!

Larry said, "At 3D Music Company our mission is to provide the latest technology along with the highest quality products, with a commitment to an even higher level of customer service that you can depend on. At 3D Music you are not just a customer, you become part of the 3D Music Company family! We provide our customers with the advanced technology, service, training and maintenance needed in today's marketplace in order to thrive."

Find out what a TouchTunes Virtuo SmartJuke can do for your business. This amazing SmartJuke features PhotoBooth, an interactive fun feature, which is totally spontaneous and will keep your customers coming back for more. With PhotoBooth, your customers can "Capture the moment." Plus, it also offers karaoke, music and so much more – this total interactive machine is a "Must have" for every business out there. This is definitely not your ordinary Jukebox, Virtuo offers the latest state of the art technology available and is something you should definitely look into if you want to increase profits and sales.

Nighthwire highly recommends 3D Music and strongly suggests you contact them at 1-800-242-1291 or send them an email to info@3dmusiconline.com for "free" information or a "free consultation." You'll be glad you did and don't forget to tell them your friends at Nightwire sent you!

3D Music

contact them at 1-800-242-1291 or send them an email to info@3dmusiconline.com for "free" information or a "free consultation."

Sports - A Bounce Back Season in Pitt's Last Big East Hurrah

By: Stacy Kauffman Nightwire – Sports Feature Writer, Photos by Pitt Athletic Media Relations



Ah, that elusive NCAA Championship . . . The University of Pittsburgh men's basketball program has had one Final Four appearance. Before I was born. Probably before you were born too: in 1941. And that's when the tournament field included eight teams. So getting to the Final Four required winning just one game. It's not that impressive. But there has been a lot of impressive regular season success for the program since the turn of the century. Coach Jamie Dixon is in his 10th season as head coach with a laundry list of accomplishments during his time leading the program. He currently holds the NCAA record for most wins as a head coach after his first eight seasons at 216. That's an average of 27 wins a year. After last season, Dixon became the winningest head coach in Big East history, passing up legendary names such as Jim Boehim, Jim Calhoun, Lou Carneseca and John Thompson with his .661 winning percentage in conference play.

There's also been a lot of potential for postseason success, with the Panthers reaching the Elite Eight in 2009, 35 years after their last appearance in 1974. During that span, they reached the Sweet Sixteen four additional times. Besides the '74 team, all of those appearances came under the Ben Howland and Jamie Dixon coaching regimes (2002, 2003, 2004, 2007, and 2009). But they haven't been able to get to that next level in the tournament and seriously compete for a national title.

They do have the 2012 College Basketball Invitational (CBI) title. In fact, this is their only postseason tournament championship, besides the four Big East Conference tournaments which they won (1981, 1982, 2003, and 2008).

Of course, success in sports is measured by championships. In this case, NCAA tournament championships. This is the basis for every Jamie Dixon detractor argument as to why he should be replaced. He can't get over the hump. He can't coach in the postseason. A CBI title just won't do.

Now, you can ask anyone on that 2011-12 team and they would probably tell you that they are proud of continuing to play basketball even when they were down and out, missing the NCAA tournament field for the first time under Coach Dixon. But that they are also hungry to erase the taste that last year left in their mouths. I doubt you will see any banner hanging at the Peterson Events Center for the CBI title.

As a matter of fact, starting point guard, Travon Woodall said after the win, "This season wasn't a great season. We just wanted to finish on a high note. We all wanted to play more games. We didn't want to end our season on a low note.

"We've got to be ready for next year and this is great preparation," added Woodall, who is looking to rebound from an injury-riddled season himself.

By shooting 50 percent from the floor and protecting the ball with just three turnovers in the title clinching game, I'll say it was great preparation. They set the tone for the work they needed to do to prepare for the following year. And so far this young season has been the backdrop for offensively efficient play without turning the ball over nearly as much. (More on one of my biggest pet peeves, turnovers, later.)

As they open the 2012-13 season, the Panthers are without talented shooter, Ashton Gibbs, who graduated as the ninth all-time leading scorer in school history with 1,719 points. He tested the NBA draft waters after his junior year, but came back to Pitt and was named the preseason Big East player of the year. Gibbs missed the final two games of his college career with an ankle injury during the CBI, which wrapped up a season that didn't go as well as most expected. Now the smooth shooter is lending his talents to Panionios of the Greek Basketball League in hopes to make an NBA roster sooner rather than later.

Also graduating was Nasir Robinson, who I jokingly referred to as "King Tut" throughout his senior campaign, influenced by the ancient Egyptian-inspired beard he sported, of course, not to mention how he held court in the lane. Robinson began



this season playing professional basketball in Slovakia, for MBK Rieker Komarno; however, he was just released due to paperwork issues.

A new player has stepped in to stretch the consecutive Robinson-on-the-roster streak to five years. Freshman, James Robinson, keeps the surname chain linked, but the question is, for how long? He is that good.

It's hard to escape playing in the shadow of a seven-footer, as highly touted fellow freshman, Steve Adams, gets most of the pub and love in the media. The college basketball analyst consensus is that the New Zealand import will be a possible one-and-done candidate and head off to the Association since he will grow smarter and stronger throughout the season as he acclimates himself to American basketball and to Pittsburgh.

But James Robinson has a few of his own claims to fame. For one, the Panthers have been recruiting him since ninth grade, and he was considered to be ranked in the Top 60 recruits nationally. This past summer, he helped win the Gold Medal for U.S.A. Basketball's Under 18

team at the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) Americas Championships in Brazil, where he led the team with a 6:1 assist to turnover ratio.

That type of in control floor general is exactly what Pitt needs. Last year they averaged just over 15 assists a game, but also nearly 13 turnovers a game, which always sent my pet peeing into high gear. Robinson's quality ball handling is a welcome help in turning around what boils down to an assist to turnover ratio of 1:1. So for every help on a basket, the Panthers gave another offensive possession to their opponent. It's hard to win many games like that, and Pitt came awfully close to watching their consecutive 20 win season streak come to a woeful end. They ended up with a 22-17 record and are looking to improve on that this year. A lot.

Another new face sure to be a big part of Coach Dixon's plans for a bounce back season is junior transfer, Trey Zeigler, who played his first two seasons of college basketball at Central Michigan University (CMU). At the dawn of Pitt's resurgence as a dominant force in the Big East conference and annual contender, when Julius Page, Brandin Knight and Jaron Brown prowled the floor, there was an assistant coach named Ernie Zeigler. Trey's dad sat a folding chair or two away from head

coach at the time, Ben Howland and his successor, Dixon, during the 2001-03 seasons.

According to the Pittsburgh Panthers' player profiles, a young Trey Zeigler idolized Brandin Knight during those years, and is now playing for Knight, an assistant coach with the program since 2008. When of age, Trey played for the school where his dad was head coach, CMU, and entered the Mid-American Conference with lots of hype. He was the first ever freshman to earn a preseason First Team All-MAC nod. He passed up opportunities to play at some of the most iconic men's basketball programs including Duke and UCLA, along with big name schools Arizona and LSU, to transfer to Pitt.

This year's two seniors, Travon Woodall and Dante Taylor, head up a team that has regained its signature depth on the bench, an inside presence and will have a good opportunity to end up near the top of the Big East conference in its last season before moving to the ACC.

Coach Jamie Dixon was one last second, literally, defensive breakdown away from reaching college basketball's Holy Grail in 2009, the Final Four. Why not cap off the Pittsburgh Panthers' run in the Big East by finishing the job?

Keep watching. It could happen.



Stacy Kauffman, Sports Feature Writer for Nightwire Magazine, has appeared on numerous sports media outlets including Fox Sports Pittsburgh and ESPN Radio. She can be reached on Twitter @SportsnWhatnot or at sportsnwhatnot@gmail.com

Latitude 40 - Now Open!

by Joyce Campisi



Pittsburgh's 'entertainment for everyone' venue opened for business on Tuesday, November 13 with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The Montour High School Marching Band was on hand to help kick off the grand opening of Latitude 40™, a 65,000 square foot, all-inclusive entertainment center located in Robinson Township at 200 Quinn Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15108.

Latitude 40™ offers the most desirable entertainment options available in the Robinson Township area. On the first floor you will find the 360 Grille™, Suite 40 (executive boardroom), the latest in cutting-edge interactive video & prize games, a sports-theater, luxury bowling lanes (The Lanes at Latitude 40), and an intimate movie cinema with food service, The CineGrille, which is scheduled to open early in 2013.

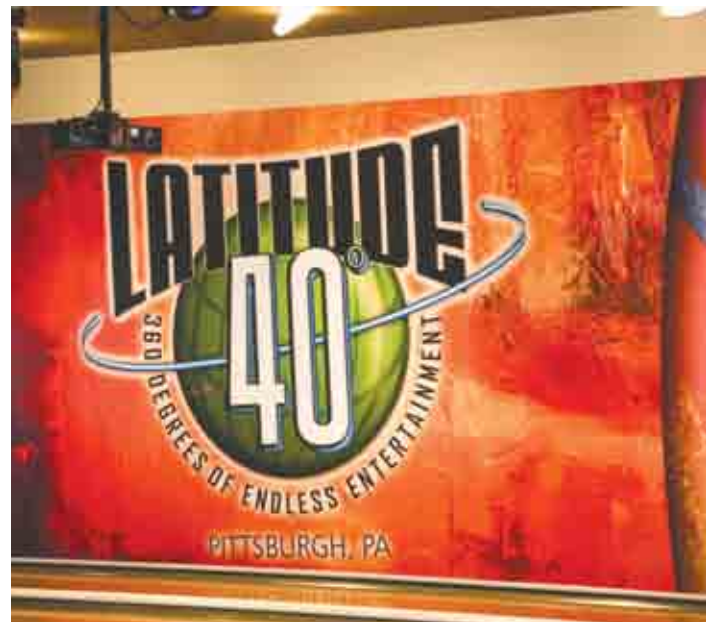
Upstairs you will discover a spectacular main bar with stage and dance floor (AXIS Bar), another set of bowling lanes (24 lanes in all), The Patio Loft with HD flat-screens and a Vegas-style showroom that can host well-known entertainers. "As a Robinson native, we were ecstatic to have found a location on Summit Park Drive for our venue and hope all the residents of North Fayette Township and beyond enjoy all the dining and entertainment options that Latitude 40 brings to the area. It is my goal for Latitude 40 to become the ultimate entertainment destination for Pittsburgh," stated Brent W. Brown, CEO/ Founder and Chairman of the Board of Latitude Global.

The executive team is confident that Latitude 40™'s 'one-stop destination' is an attractive concept.

"Currently, a night out or weekend get-together can involve driving from one place to another,

making multiple stops, or trying to convince everyone to settle on the same choice," said Philip A. Alia, Chief Marketing Officer. "Latitude 40 provides a way to satisfy all of the individual interests to settle on the same choice. Our location offers the convenience of multiple leisure options in one destination – a huge, upscale venue that offers excellent entertainment value."

"In addition to excellent food and service, we have created the ultimate mix of entertainment options for all ages to enjoy. Latitude 40 performances will range from children's and youth-oriented programming during the day to headline music, comedy and magic performers in the evening to an ultra-lounge ambiance with DJs and VJs for a sophisticated



Latitude 40's operating hours are Sunday through Wednesday 11am - 12am, Thursday and Friday 11am - 2am and Saturday 10am - 2am. For more information, please visit www.Latitude40Pitt.com or become a fan on their Facebook page at facebook.com/Latitude40.





nightlife experience. We will be bringing Las Vegas and New York caliber entertainment to Robinson Township,” stated General Manager, Robert Wolfinger.

Brown and his partners brought in industry experts from around the country to advise them about each aspect of the facility, leaving no detail overlooked in their quest to provide their guests with every possible convenience and comfort. An industry leader in retail entertainment concepts consults Latitude 40 on a weekly basis and has been involved since concept development.

The 360 Grille™ menu features a wide variety of distinctive, made-from-scratch offerings of family, regional, and national favorites. 360 Grille™ menu items include but are not limited to: crisp salads, hand-crafted sandwiches, hearty ground burgers, hand-tossed pizzas, piping hot pastas and signature entrees.

Guests will also experience state-of-the-art technology in Latitude 40 via one-hundred and six (106) HD TVs; multiple projection HD screens in the sports theater, ‘hassle-FREE’ high-speed WiFi plus two 70 foot digital video walls and an HD LED wall in their performance theater. In addition, Latitude LIVE and The CineGrille offer professionally mastered HD sound, video and animation production for LIVE broadcasts and streaming within Latitude 40 as well to any television/satellite station and/or website.



Diamondmill Auto Spa - A Very Special Place

by Joyce Campisi



Owner, Jamil Goudelock

Diamondmill Auto Spa is definitely the only place to take your vehicle for a hand wash or any detailing service this winter. Located in the North Hills on Babcock Blvd. across the street from Shenanigan's Bar & Grille. Owner, Jamil Goudelock has over 18 years in car detailing. He and his highly trained professional staff provide the ultimate in customer service and satisfaction. At Diamondmill Auto Spa, just as the name implies, you and your car will be treated like a precious gem! Jamil has been owner operator for over 5 years and has excelled at detailing and definitely far exceeded industry standards year after year by providing the most reliable and highest quality service possible. At Diamondmill Auto Spa they take great pride in their work ensuring 100% customer satisfaction to all of their clientele from the North Hills as well as the surrounding the Pittsburgh area.

My personal experience with Diamondmill Auto Spa has been nothing but fantastic. From the moment I walked through the door, I felt the caring and professionalism making me truly feel like a rock star! Their clientele is so diverse from Bentley's to Toyota's it doesn't matter, each and every vehicle and customer is taken care of and made to feel extremely special. Their reception/waiting area is extremely clean, comfortable and inviting. If you can't bring your car to them, they can make arrangements to pick your vehicle up and return it to you, call and ask them about their pickup and delivery services. Best of all, they offer packages to fit every budget and need.

If maintaining and keeping your vehicle sparkling clean is a priority this winter you definitely need to check out Diamondmill Auto Spa. Some of the services they offer are a quick wash, a hand wash/dried with a water blade for only \$17 or a basic hand wash/dried with a microfiber towel, outside windows cleaned and tire dressing for only \$25. Vacuum – front and back floors/seats \$6.

Plus numerous other services.

Interior detailing services start at \$100 with a full detail starting at only \$135. Their special package pricing starts at only \$45 a month. For complete pricing on wash and detailing services contact them at Diamondmillautospa@yahoo.com or you can call them at 412.415.1411 – Diamondmill Auto Spa is located at 2311 Babcock Blvd. Suite D - Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

So, if your looking for a great gift this Christmas, why not give the gift that everyone would surely appreciate – a gift certificate to Diamondmill Auto Spa! Call Jamil today and tell him Joyce from Nightwire told

you to call! Remember... support local family owned businesses, we all need and appreciate your support!



**Diamondmill Auto Spa
is located at
2311 Babcock Blvd. Suite D
Pittsburgh, PA 15237.**



Phone: 412.415.1411

email: Diamondmillautospa@yahoo.com

Interior detailing services start at \$100 with a full detail starting at only \$135. Their special package pricing starts at only \$45 a month. For complete pricing on wash and detailing services contact them today!

Travel - Flavors Of Ft. Lauderdale

Inaugural 'Flavors Of Fort Lauderdale' Delighted Taste Buds With Four Days Of Festivities



More than 1,500 Foodies Gathered for First-Ever Flavors Dine Around, Late-Night Flavors, Flavors After Dark & Flavors Grand Tasting

Nightwire was very excited and honored to have been invited to one of the most highly anticipated inaugural event. Flavors of Fort Lauderdale took South Florida by storm the second week in November this year. Flavors of Fort Lauderdale welcomed more than 1,500 attendees for an array of exciting tastings, parties and delectable dining experiences emphasizing the area's culinary lifestyle and the importance of sustainable seafood.

The week kicked off with a Mayoral Proclamation from Mayor John P. 'Jack' Seiler. During a City Commission meeting on Thursday, November 6, Mayor Seiler honored 'Ambassador of Flavor' Chef Allen Susser and proclaimed the day 'Flavors of Fort Lauderdale Day.' That evening, the Flavors Dine Around took place at select restaurants throughout Fort Lauderdale, allowing attendees the opportunity to enjoy unique tasting and pairing menus created especially for Flavors week. Thursday culminated with Late-Night Flavors, an over-the-top celebration presented by the International Special Events Society (ISES), South Florida/Caribbean Chapter, and hosted by Y100 personality Chris Cruz.

The VIP Flavors Launch Party took place Friday night at the Westin Beach Resort & Spa in Fort Lauderdale. Several hundred area A-listers came together for an incredible evening celebrating the arrival of Flavors weekend, with poolside food stations ranging from sushi to paella and delectable desserts.

Flavors After Dark, Featuring the Five Fabulous Female Chefs took place Saturday at the Las Olas Marina, offering a sneak peek of Sunday's Flavors Grand Tasting. The evening program highlighted the culinary talents of a five Fort Lauderdale-based female chefs, with each conducting a live demonstration and offering tasty samples.

Flavors came to a close with Sunday's Flavors Grand Tasting, which took place at the Las Olas Marina and featured nearly 100 restaurants, specialty food purveyors and activities. Highlighting the finest offerings from local restaurants and chefs, as well as world-class wines and spirits, were a variety

of themed pavilions. Attendees also enjoyed interactive lifestyle experiences from participating partners like Bocce Nation.

The 2012 Flavors of Fort Lauderdale was presented by numerous local, regional and national businesses and organizations, including Supporting Partner the Fort Lauderdale Beach Business Improvement District. Other partners included the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association; Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce; Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau; Hugh's Culinary; International Special Events Society – South Florida & Caribbean Chapter; Southern Wine & Spirits; JM Lexus, General Cigar, TravelHost and many more.

A portion of the proceeds from the inaugural Flavors of Fort Lauderdale will benefit Feeding South Florida. Dates for the 2013 Flavors are expected to be announced in the coming weeks. Watch the Nightwire Travel section for more information. The Flavors of Fort Lauderdale is one event you will definitely do not want to miss next year. So when planning travel for 2013 make sure you include the Flavors of Fort Lauderdale in your future travel plans! Fort Lauderdale has so much to offer and The Flavors of Fort Lauderdale promises to be more amazing next year, we highly recommend planning to attend in 2013. Flavors of Fort Lauderdale (www.FlavorsofFortLauderdale.com)



NIGHTWIRE Last Minute Holiday Gift Guide



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aWearness

This store is full of hidden treasures and a place where you will definitely find something for everyone on your list. They offer new and gently worn designer clothing, shoes, handbags and accessories at amazingly low prices. They are the distributor of the newest and hottest trend in vapor electronic cigarettes Totally Wicked E-Smoking Liquid. Stop in and check it out! Located in Lawrenceville – 5171 Butler Street – 412.782.2730



Emporio Tobacco



The ultimate shopping experience for that special someone in your life who enjoys a fine cigar or any tobacco product. Emporio Tobacco is your one stop shop for the finest selection of tobacco products, cigars and so much more. They have great stocking stuffer items and don't forget to pick up some lottery tickets!! Located downtown across from Macy's at 410 Forbes Avenue, Downtown 15219 – 412.391.7700

Adam & Eve

Adam & Eve is the perfect place to shop for that naughty or nice "special someone" in your life. They offer a wide range of gifts from sensual to sexy. They have everything from lingerie, massage candles, shoes, books, toys and DVD's. They also offer free gift wrap with every purchase. Whether you are looking for stocking stuffers or gifts that are sure to please, Adam & Eve has it all..... located in the North Hills on McKnight Road - 7775 McKnight Road Pittsburgh, PA 15237 - Phone: (412) 548-3384 or browse their website www.adamevepittsburgh.com



Boccheri Golf Heavy Putter



Boccheri Golf's Heavy Putter features additional weight in the head and grip that automatically engages the body's larger, more stable muscles to promote greater stability, consistency and control. Each model is available in the popular belly length that has gained traction recently among Tour players. The company offers more belly style putters than any manufacturer in the world, including a variety of premium blade and mallet options. Trusted by superstars on the PGA, European, Nationwide, Champions and Asian Tours. www.bocchierigolf.com

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Sharp Edge



Sharp Edge is your Holiday Beer Basket Headquarters....Gift Baskets start at only \$30 up to \$60 - Sharp Edge has the very best beer baskets around! The perfect gift for any beer lover! Stop in today and pick up your gift basket and take a break and sample one of over 70 ++ Christmas Beers!! With 5 convenient locations - check them out on the web at www.sharpedgebeer.com for a location near you!

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- www.kentwoolsocks.com



Bon Jovi Tickets



Perfect last minute Christmas gift. Bon Jovi in concert at Consol Energy Center, Thursday, February 21 - Tickets starting at only \$19.50! . Visit www.BonJovi.com for up-to-date information. #BecauseWeCan

Izzazu

There isn't a person on your list that wouldn't love a gift certificate from Pittsburgh's Number One Styling Salon and Spa. Their highly trained professional stylists can create a new look or update an existing style for that special someone in your life. With so many services and products to choose from Izzazu is the place to find that perfect gift. They have two convenient locations, Downtown. 301 Fifth Ave, 15222 – 412.325.1600 or Wexford – 100 Village Club Drive (at the Oxford Club) 15090 – 724.933.0100



Diamond Spa



Diamondmill Auto Spa - Nothing could be better than a sparkling clean car when old man winter sets in, give that special someone a gift sure to please. A gift certificate for a hand wash, wax or complete detailing will make everyone on your Christmas list smile!

Located in the North Hills at 2311 Babcock Blvd - Pittsburgh, PA 15237 - 412.415.1411

Chimay Trappist Beers

Imported by: Manneken-Brussel Imports

by Steph Doan



One in eight sounds like pretty good odds, so it is almost a guarantee drinkers will love a beer from Chimay, one of only eight Trappist breweries in existence. Located in Belgium, you can't get a truer Belgium-style beer than this.

The Cistercian Trappist monks who call Chimay home began brewing to support their needs and those of their foundations. It has been roughly 150 years since, and the full-bodied beers are still a success. Their three main beers are "Chimay Premiere" also called the Red Cap, first brewed in 1862; the blue cap or Christmas beer that was crafted in 1948; and the white cap triple in 1966.

Trappist beers are defined by three rules making them a truly unique craft. One, they must be brewed within the walls of a monastery. Two, the monks living in the monastery must have full control of the productions. This means there is no room for outside investors. Finally, 90 percent of all net proceeds from production must go to charities.

Chimay has rules itself. The monastery uses no pesticides because they are also organic farmers, said Bobo Van Mechelen the brand ambassador. Year after year the grains are grown according to the monks' requests by nearby farmers. This attention to detail keeps the beer pure as the saints who brew it.

Quality control is very important to the monks. One of the crafters is Father Theodore, who spent three years choosing the perfect yeast. He began isolating yeast cells and

developing them in 1948. Chimay still houses a laboratory that houses ever-developing tools for crafting the beer's distinct taste. Mouthfeel, aroma and fullness are continuously evaluated and improved.

Bobo asks Pittsburghers to try one of the three Chimays. It's a different taste from a different culture, but one that beer drinkers of all regions can enjoy.

"I'm sure they will like them," he said.



Checkout the website to not only learn more about the beers but also a few recipes using them. www.chimay.com

BEERS

The Chimay Red Cap

Red in packaging and color, this beer dates back to 1862. The craft glistening copper craft is the abbey's flagship beer. Its taste is silky with a light bitter touch concealing hints of dark fruit, malt, caramel and nuttiness. The beer has seven percent alcohol.

The Chimay Triple

This blondie is no dummy. The beer is a smartly crafted delight. The amber-blond triple is newest to the Chimay family and is also Bobo Van Mechlen, Sales Manager for Manneken-Brussel Imports, favorite beer. The fresh hops and yeast are balanced with a touch of bitterness. It smells and tastes tangy with hints of tangerine sours. The triple has an eight percent alcohol.



The Chimay Blue Cap

A blast of flavor in a bottle, Chimay describes this beer as the one with the strongest personality. Formerly a winter seasonal, it's now found year-round since 1954, due to its popularity. It makes up 52 percent of the abbey's production. Dark, rich and malty, this authentic Belgian beer is light while still full of caramel. The full body carries hints of tobacco and raisin. It has a higher alcohol of nine percent.



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"Make real beer for good people."

That's the motto and reason behind this great island brewery. It all started with two beer enthusiasts who were also longtime friends and home brewers. The fates of Mark and Pete were intertwined not only by chance but also their dreams of starting Blue Point Brewing Company, something that was not an easy task.

The facility sits on the waterfront property of the former Penguin Ice Factory in downtown Patchogue. Most of the equipment is from the auctions of defunct breweries all over the U.S. It truly has been a brewing of collaboration since opening in 1997.

This Long Island located brewery is not a "west coast" style beer. These beers are all about balance says their director of branding and communications Curt Potter. But the beers can still pack the bitterness of a nice double IPA he says, promising drinkers will always taste a nice, enjoyable beer.

Today the brewery distributes in 16 states, with plans to expand further says.

"We have our eyes on a couple more states – possibly not too far from you," Curt hinted.

The brewery has a lot in the works. Curt says the White IPA is "picking up steam." So is the Black IPA, which originally debuted with proceeds going to oil cleanup in the ocean. The gulf may be cleaned up but the beer remains as dark and tasty as ever, with new packaging.

"The cans are really cool," Curt said. "They look like little barrels."

Blue Point is all about lending a helping hand. Right now the

brewery and a handful of others are in the works of creating a collaboration beer with proceeds helping Hurricane Sandy victims. The revenue from the beers will also help rebuild the damage done to Barrier Brewing Company, located in Oceanside, NY.

Last month, the brewery also participated in No-Shave November for prostate cancer awareness, raising over 15,000 dollars. Also they hold a cask fest each spring and a ten-mile run to the brewery in January, a favorite of Mark who is a former runner. This brewery loves keeping the community involved in more than just drinking!

One exciting bottle release is the Sour Cherry Imperial Stout – a beer that's more sweet than sour. It's a classic Russian style beer with smooth notes of coffee, sherry and real sour red cherries. The breweries doing a limited sendout, so grab it off shelves while you can.

A few of Curt's favorite crafts are the Hoptical Illusion and No Apologies IPA, which is his top pick. The IPA isn't around much so he relishes it when he can. He encourages beer-lovers to try all of the Blue Points, they're all great craft beers.

"Try something new, always," Curt said. "You're not gonna go wrong trying a Blue Point."

Come Visit

It's not a fancy brewery with shiny, copper kegs and hands-off machinery, but that is part of the beauty of seeing Blue Point in action. It's not uncommon to find owners Mark or Pete hanging around.

"People coming in on a Saturday are like, 'There's the owner!'" Curt says about the experience the average visitor can expect.

Visitors travel in from upstate New York to places outside the country like Spain to visit Blue Point. There's a solid local crowd too, Curt said, that hangs around the tasting room. Curt says visitors can expect not just great beer but a great experience too.

"You're going to be able to taste things here in the tasting





blueberries squished into every batch. The aroma reeks of sweet fruit and the taste follows suite while still having the balance of a good beer. It has a low 4.6 percent alcohol, so feel free to throw back a few.

RastafaRye Ale

This is a chill beer with a conscious – every bottle directly benefits underprivileged children and orphans living in the Caribbean and beyond. Not only will drinking this beer make you feel good, it'll make you feel real good. The taste is that of a fine copper ale with a twist of spice and floral from the hops. It's balanced with a rye malt and uses West Coast hops. It has a 7.5 percent alcohol percent.

Pale Ale

Traditional, lovable and classic are three words to describe this beer. It's the beer sitting next to you at the game. The beer is hopped at four-different stages and although light-golden in color it is packed with flavor. Its English malts create the perfect floral-citrus taste of a great ale. It's a hop-lover's heaven. The craft holds a 5 percent alcohol.



room you can't get in a package," he said.

As a rare experience for drinkers, the brewery has a cask of brew open in the tasting room so they can see the difference from drinking out of a keg.

The Blue Point tasting room is open Thursday through Saturday, with tours given only on Saturdays. Checkout the website to see what's on tap and don't forget to "like" Blue Point on Facebook.

Beers

Toasted Lager

"Toasted" is an understatement for this flagship craft. Copper in color, the craft uses six different malts for its toastiness. Balance is a key flavor in this blend of light malt, honey and crisp taste. It has a 5.5 percent alcohol percent.

Hoptical Illusion

A craft that comes with a brief history lesson: Egyptians used to stuff their pillows with hops thinking they brought vivid dreams. Now, you may not see things after drinking this beer but drinkers will be "hop-happy." It has citrus bursts balanced by a malty background. A great beer for hop lovers. It has a higher alcohol level of 6.8 percent.

Blueberry Ale

Fruity to the max, this craft lives up to its blueberry name. There are 732 pounds of fresh, plump and juicy handpicked

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(continued)

It is great to drink beer to celebrate different occasions in peoples lives, and then it is great to celebrate by drinking beer during the best time of year. It is time again to have Christmas beers, to indulge in the diversity, and to taste the greatness of these beers. Christmas are not a style of beer but rather a beer that the beer master gets to throw styles out the window and brew what they deem to be their personal style. Christmas beer isn't generally recognized as a unique style because its interpretations are as various as the breweries that make it. It tends to be a big malt beer, meaning that lots of sugar goes into the kettle. This can result in a beer with higher than usual alcohol or a very sweet flavor profile more often, but usually not both.

The Sharp Edge Restaurants has the reputation as having an unmatched beer list. This year we will have at one time or another over 50 different Christmas beers on tap and having over 70 total different offerings from different breweries from around the world. Christmas beers are usually brewed at a higher alcohol content and seasonings to relate for the cold holiday season. Christmas brews are heavier and richer than regular beers meant for drinking in warmer times. But there are some traits common to all of them, flavors like cinnamon and chocolate that evoke the holidays and other spices. And like the holidays, they last a short time and are made in limited quantities. Some of the most popular from Belgium are Scaldis Noel (12%), Corsendonk Christmas (8.5%), and St. Bernardus Christmas (10%). A few from the states include Anchor Steam Christmas, Rogue Santa Reserve, and locally is the Great Lakes Christmas from Cleveland. So stop in and have one of these fantastic beers to share with someone you love!

BEER ♦ ASK AN EXPERT

Beer Lovers Time



Jeff Walewski

is the owner of five Sharp Edge Restaurants in the Pittsburgh area. In 2005, he was knighted by the Belgian government for his promotion of Belgian beers in the United States. His establishments have been the recipient of numerous awards, including "Best Belgian Beer Bar in the USA." E-mail Sir Jeff at www.sharpedgebeer.com



History

Not sure how to say the name? No worries, it's a common snag. Say it like it, "why-er-bock-er" and you've got it down. Keeping alive a morphed spelling of this traditional German family name are founders of the brewery, Dan and Sue Weirback. (Note the change in spelling.) The husband and wife thought the original name would be perfect for their brewery.

It all started when the two Weirbacks casually visited Long Trail brewery, located in Vermont. While scoping out the basement brewery, they got the notion that Dan's simple home brewing could be more than just a hobby. He said he had a love for home brewing and craft beers for several years, but seeing Long Trail was what gave him the confidence to embark on his own brewing journey.

Two years following that fateful day, Dan and Sue opened Weyerbacher brewery, located in Easton, PA. It was 1995, and pale ales were the trend. Originally that's when Dan jumped on the bandwagon, crafting a Pale Ale and ESB.

That quickly proved to be problematic. Back then every brewery made a Pale Ale. The solution: the birth of the Blithering Idiot in '98 and the Merry Monks Ale in '99, originally seasonals. Both helped the brewery stand out from the competition.

"Before we knew it we were generating a lot of free press and interest in these styles, and that's when we decided to plunge headlong in this direction," Dan said. "The rest is history at this point."

The two beers are still offered as year-rounds, and the company is stronger than ever, having moved from its original space of 4500 square-feet, including a brewpub, into a larger space about 10 years ago. Although there is no longer a

brewpub, the brewery now has nearly 20,000 square-feet to craft its magic and distributes in 18 states.

Always striving to sit apart from other breweries, Weyerbacher became the first ever U.S. brewery to produce and bottle a quadruple in 2000 as well as to bottle a bourbon-barrel aged beer in 2004.

Looking to warm up to a great December season? One of their best seasonals is actually a quadruple, Dan said. The QUAD is a Belgian-style craft that is perfect for a nightcap or special occasion gatherings. It'll warm up any holiday affair.

"Its complexity is an epiphany in itself," Dan said.

The state-of-the-art brewery is open for visiting on Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Visitors are encouraged to stop in and learn, sample, and connect while tasting some great crafts. Check the website to see what's on tap.

Year Round Beers

Last Chance IPA

Never thought you'd hear "lacking in balance" as a pro? This craft will make you look at hops in a whole new way. Released just last May it's a west coast-style Indian Pale Ale, using a combination of Centennial, Cascade, Simcoe and even Columbus hops. It has a fruity taste and contains 5.9 percent alcohol. For an added bonus, Weyerbacher donates money to regional animal rescue operations, giving this "Last Chance" beer its name and a great cause. So far \$9, 881.50 has been donated.

Double Simcoe IPA

One hop, one way is the motto of this beer. But do not let the lack of variety fool you: this hoppy beer packs a punch using



only Simcoe hops. This beer is both hoppy and malty, making it a well-rounded beer that finishes clean.

Blithering Idiot

A copper-colored ale made in the British style of traditional barley wine. Its smell is sweet like sugar cookies and molasses. The taste is rich with figs, candied malts and raisins. Sip it in a brandy snifter or wine glass. It has a high alcohol content at 11.1 percent, which means it will keep and grow more complex with age.

Old Heathen

This is a delightful and robust imperial stout with a dry finish. Its coloring is as dark as its name. The smell is fruity, but the taste definitely harbors notes of espresso. Weyerbacher says it's their take on an 18th century English brew. Pair it with flavorful stews, oysters and meats. It has an 8 percent alcohol content.

Tiny

Tiny by name but not by flavor, this is a dark Belgian-inspired Imperial Stout. Balance is still key with this beer made from Abbey yeast. Containing lots of roasty malts, the beer plays dark chocolate in color and in flavor. It has an 11.8 percent alcohol level, so enjoy sparingly. Available only in 750ml corked bottles.

Verboten

Formerly known as "Alpha," this Belgian-style pale ale is transformed into an American classic. It's made with wheat malts and both Centennial and Cascade hops. "Verboten" means forbidden in German, but this beer with its low 5.9 percent alcohol is anything but off-limits.



Merry Monks

Not only a medal-winning Belgian-style tripel but also Dan's hands-down favorite. He describes Merry Monk as a "bold but elegant beer." It is aged for added character and made in the style of trappist beers. Made with pilsner malts, it has notes of apricot and earthiness. The beer is bottled-conditioned, meaning that sugar and yeast is added just before bottling the beer. This ensures the tasty beer is as creamy as ever. It has a 9.3 percent alcohol level.



Wine and Spirits - Glenfiddich

Glenfiddich – Pioneer of Prestigious Malt Scotch Whisky! In the summer of 1886 founder, William Grant, set out to fulfill a lifelong ambition of creating the 'best dram in the valley'. With the help of his seven sons and two daughters, William built his distillery in a single year. Their hard work was rewarded on Christmas Day 1887 when the first drop of spirit flowed from the small copper pot stills. William named his distillery Glenfiddich, Gaelic for 'Valley of the Deer'.

Over 120 years later, Glenfiddich is one of the few single malt distilleries to remain entirely family owned and their whisky has become the world's most awarded single malt, a true reflection of the passion, integrity and innovative spirit that have been passed down through the generations.

FRESH PEAR AND SUBTLE OAK - 12 YEAR OLD

The pioneer of the prestigious single malt Scotch whisky category, Glenfiddich 12 Year Old is today enjoyed by more people around the world than any other single malt whisky.

Their original, signature single malt Scotch whisky has matured for at least 12 years in American and Spanish oak casks. The quality of these casks is exceptional as all are individually tended by their experienced team of on-site coopers, ensuring their whisky develops complex, elegantly rounded flavors with notes of fresh pear and subtle oak.

HONEY, RAISINS AND WARM SPICE - 15 Year Old

The richly layered Glenfiddich 15 Year Old single malt Scotch whisky is innovatively matured in three types of oak cask: sherry, bourbon and new oak, before being married in our unique, handcrafted Oregon pine Solera vat. Year on year, this Solera vat is never emptied but is always kept at least half full creating a deliciously harmonious and intense whisky which gets more complex and intriguing every year.

BAKED APPLE, CINNAMON AND ROBUST OAK - 18 Year Old

Produced in small, individually numbered batches, Glenfiddich 18 Year Old combines a touch of fruity sweetness from the Spanish Oloroso wood and an oakiness from the traditional American casks. After being married in wooden tuns for at least three months, its rich, mellow flavors come together, creating an exceptionally smooth and remarkably deep single malt Scotch whisky with notes of baked apple, spice and robust oak. Each batch is unique and is of an extraordinary quality.

OUR FINEST DOUBLE-MATURED WHISKY

For 125 years, five generations of Malt Masters have helped make Glenfiddich the World's Most Awarded Single Malt with their pioneering techniques and unrivaled expertise. Glenfiddich's sixth Malt Master, Brian Kinsman, continues our tradition of innovation with his latest creation. The Malt Master's Edition is matured twice, each time for a number of years, in two separate casks consecutively. First the whisky is aged in traditional oak for



a period of years then in the highest quality sherry casks for its final years of maturation. This creates a rich, complex whisky with flavors imparted from both woods.

This labor-intensive process differs from finishing in that there is a balance of maturation for several years in two distinct woods, not long-term aging in one type of wood followed by a short period spent in another. As a result of these efforts our "Double-Matured" Malt

Master's Edition has a truly unique taste. Bottled at 43% ABV, the nose entices with damp earth and whisky-soaked wood intermingling with vanilla and smoky embers. On the palette, zingy sherbet leads but this slowly turns to plum and spice with hints of almond and wedding cake. The finish is silky smooth.

The Malt Master's Edition is worth seeking out. Finding a bottle could not be easier, simply use our "Find Your Glenfiddich" tool. The Malt Master's Edition was selected out of over 1,000 entries at the 17th annual International Spirit Challenge to receive a Gold Medal. This latest win is a tribute to over a century of pioneering spirit and innovation.



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Sharp Edge Sewickley Bistro

by Suz Pisano , Photos by Man Nguyen



Wild Mushroom & Leek Tart - Paired with Petrus Oud Bruin



Chorizo & Habanero Mussels - Paired with Over the Edge

Recently we stopped by our friends at the Sharp Edge to get some information on their Christmas Belgian Beer selection (which is awesome!) and before we knew it, we were invited to visit the Sewickley Bistro for some fantastic food and beer pairings. The Sharp Edge really knows craft beer and their Christmas selections are far too numerous to begin to mention. They have over 70++ Christmas beers! The Sharp Edge is your Belgian Beer connection.

With five locations, the notorious Beer Emporium in Friendship, the Creekhous in Crafton, the Brasserie in Scott Township (remember the burgers we told you about!), Loft at Penn Downtown and the Sewickley Bistro, they felt we needed to tell you about their food which is so much more than just burgers. Every Bistro location gives their Chef the opportunity to create a few signature dishes monthly as part of their Chef's Feature Menu and each menu varies by location. The Pubs have daily specials and seasonal feature menus. I can't wait to tell you about what we got to try!

The Sewickley Bistro is located at 510 Beaver Street Sewickley, where there is plenty of parking close by and after 5pm, parking is free! With all the crazy meter changes in the City, free parking is almost too good to be true! On the day of our visit, I was anticipating sampling some of the Bistro

menu knowing that they would be paired with great beers. My anticipation turned to excitement with the first appetizer - the Wild Mushroom and Leek Tart (\$10) paired with a Petrus Oud Bruin a Flanders style top fermented dark beer, which was likened to a "Flemish Sour", or tart beer. Paired with the Mushroom and Leek Tart it was delicious and quite different from any other dark beer I have tried. The tart consisted of wild mushrooms braised in a Belgian Double with fresh leeks, chives & shallots atop a crispy pastry topped with a panko parmesan crust drizzled with aged balsamic. In other words- heavenly. Our next selection a Chef's Feature, the Chorizo and Habanero Mussels (\$11 individual or large serving for 2-3 \$26) paired with Over the Edge a Belgian Triple IPA. The Mussel's were sautéed with chorizo, roasted red peppers, garlic, shallots & cilantro tossed in a spicy Habanero oil & butter. I swear I ate them right out of the cute little pot they came in, they were so delicious, spicy and flavorful AND beautifully presented. Once again, I was glad that part of the Nightwire crew didn't sample the mussels. I ate their share with absolutely no guilt! The hoppiness of the beer complemented the spicy chorizo so well. All bistro locations have mussels but offer different preparations. If you're a fan of mussels, definitely give them a try and don't ever be afraid to ask your server for a beer paring suggestion.

All Sharp Edge Bistro's serve an amazing selection of soups & salads. On this night, we tried the Flemish Onion (\$7) a delicious take on classic Onion Soup with an addition of Augustin Abbey Ale to add that something special flavor. We also tried from the Chef's Feature menu the Guinness Beef Stew - slow cooked with Guinness Stout and topped with a flakey puff pastry crust. Salads we sampled included a Field Green Salad (\$6 side, \$9 full) with fresh baby greens and crisp romaine topped with crumbled chevre, toasted pecans, dried cranberries and sliced gala apples; and the Spinach Salad (\$6 side, \$9 full) spinach topped with roasted walnuts, crumbled bleu cheese, crispy bacon, grape tomatoes and red onion. The salads were very fresh and flavorful with excellent mixes in each. All dressings are house made but be sure to sample the raspberry, it's my personal favorite! I couldn't say which salad I liked better but I'm glad to report that the salads can also include grilled chicken, marinated flatiron steak, grilled salmon, or a grilled marinated Portobello cap. There's something on their menu to suit every taste or mood and a beer to be paired with every selection. Again, don't be



Flemish Onion Soup - Guinness Beef Stew - Paired with Scaldis Noel



Grilled Chicken Pesto Pizza - Chicken Avocado Club Panini - Paired with La Chouffe

afraid to try something different or ask for help in choosing the perfect pairing.

Next, we sampled the Grilled Chicken Pesto Pizza (\$13) basil, pesto, tomato, artichoke hearts, wild mushrooms, and fresh grilled chicken, asiago & provolone cheeses atop a perfectly thin crust. It is large enough to share but when you take a bite you might not want to - paired with La Chouffe a Belgian Strong Ale with its strong, spicy, lightly hoppy, bottle conditioned and unfiltered without any additives, this was an instant favorite. I've had this beer before and highly recommend it not only with the Pesto Pizza but it's also a nice pairing with the Chicken Avocado Club (\$12). The Chicken Avocado Club was served panini style with fresh grilled chicken, crispy bacon, tomato, baby greens, Swiss, avocado and herbed aioli. Not one bite remained of this sandwich and I could taste why it's a best seller.

Our final pairing, Duck Sausage and Gravy with Cheddar Biscuits served with a Fig & Pear Salad (\$16) is another Chef's Feature and was my personal favorite of the evening. Duck sausage gravy served over cheddar cheese biscuits, topped with two sunny side up eggs and paired with Gulden Draak, a Belgian Strong Dark Ale (10.5%) felt like a meal fit for a king. The Gulden Draak is often served as an aperitif or dessert and it was a nice compliment to the spiciness of the sausage and the richness of the gravy. This entrée is only available on the Sewickley Bistro menu and it's totally worth the drive. We sipped our Gulden Draak and caught our breath until we

something for every taste! I'm glad we got to try the Sewickley Bistro. General Manager Gino Susi has an extensive knowledge of Belgian beer and would love to have you try his location. Hours are Monday through Thursday 11am until midnight, Friday & Saturday 11am until 1am and Sunday 12pm until 9pm. Hours vary by location. www.sharpedgebeer.com

One last note the Sharp Edge boasts an award winning Happy Hour and for the past 18 years the best beer selection in the city. Check them out and as always- tell then your friends at Nightwire sent you!



Duck Sausage & Gravy with Fig & Pear Salad - Paired with Gulden Draak



Linderman's Framboise Cheesecake - Paired with Linderman's Faro

were presented with a Sharp Edge favorite -Lindeman's Framboise Cheesecake (\$6). I personally think it's a "must have" and my favorite pairing with the Lindeman's Faro. This beer is made from malt, wheat, hops, water and yeast. Candy sugar is added before the bottling takes place. It produces a clear, light red colored faro lambic with a small creamy head. If you're familiar with the other Lindeman's lambics such as Pesce, Pomme or the Framboise, the Faro is highly recommended. Its sweet clear flavor certainly left an impression on my palate.

The Sharp Edge is a Nightwire favorite for so many reasons - so many convenient locations, so many menu varieties, constantly changing Chef's Feature menus, so many Belgian beers, so many different and exotic burgers, duck sausage, top quality, fresh ingredients, excellent value, I could go on & on. If you've never tried the Sharp Edge, check out their website, pick a location or compare menus. They have

**The Sharp Edge Sewickley Bistro is located at
510 Beaver Street
Sewickley, PA 15143**

(412) 749-0305

**or visit them on the web for a listing and menu
of all their locations at
www.sharpedgebeer.com**

Dining: Empire Palace

by Stacy Kaufmann , Photos by Man Nguyen



When I was called to do this sampling and review of Empire Palace, what you might think of as a usual Chinese joint, I jumped at the opportunity. As a little girl, growing up with my brother and a single dad, we ordered takeout fairly often. Chinese food was a staple in our home. We always ordered from the town's token main street Chinese food place, which was aptly dubbed "The Great Wall." I used to be annoyed at how the number of sweet and sour duck sauce packets was always insufficient in relation to the soy sauce and mustard packets that were generously tossed in the brown craft paper bags stapled shut with a menu or two attached. I can still remember the typical order - pan fried dumplings, pork fried rice, chicken lo mein, sweet and sour chicken and General Tso's chicken. I used to believe the latter were actual, real, authentic toes of a military officer. When I bit into a crunchy piece of chicken "toe" as a young girl, I literally thought it was a toe bone. I've gotten smarter since.

My expectations were shaped by my takeout experience during my childhood. Fried was a common denominator for our family's Chinese food choices. And if you want that, you can



have it at Empire Palace. But if you want fresh food, baked, steamed or raw, you can find that there as well.

What I realized while eating at Empire Palace was that Chinese food is not Chinese food anymore. I had to throw out my preconceived notions about this food, along with my lifelong mission to find eight-toed Chinese generals, and open my mind to the new Asian cuisine (what we at Nightwire like to call "Asian Fusion"). It's not Chinese. It's not Japanese. It's not Thai. It's all of it. It's anything you want, the way you want it.

On the outside, cruising by T.G.I. Friday's and its next door neighbor on McKnight Road, you might judge Empire Palace to be just another Chinese food buffet. And you wouldn't be more wrong.

Once you walk through the doors at 5100 Corporate Drive, a welcoming, warm atmosphere greets you with an equally as pleasant host to seat you. If there's a wait, no worries! A fully stocked bar with everything from a Cabernet to a Captain and Coke is available to keep you company. As a matter of fact, Empire Palace has a great happy hour complete with high definition flat screen televisions to watch your favorite sporting events.

The daily happy hour runs from 5 to 7pm with \$1 off all draft beer, \$2 off all glasses of wine and \$5 martinis. On Friday and Saturday nights, they also have an evening happy hour from 9 to 11pm, plus every Thursday, 12 ounce Miller Lite drafts are just a buck. That's ONE DOLLAR. Can't beat that.

The décor is a neutral mix of modern design and traditional Asian styling, sure not to ruin your appetite. Booths and chairs alike were comfortable and cozy with plenty of room for any number of dining partners. What makes Empire Palace unique is the variety of offerings for any and every type of Asian cuisine enthusiast. We tried out a couple of dishes from their Dim Sum menu, which I would like to rename "Gimme Sum" after tasting these delectable bites. Dim Sum is traditional Asian tapas, which is prepared by a Hong Kong trained specialist. Just like their Latin counterparts, the Asian tapas are



small plates meant to be shared.

I did not want to share. At all. The Sesame Seed Balls (\$4) were the perfect blend of crunch and fluff, as the round mounds of rice flour were stuffed with a sweet lotus seed puree, rolled in sesame seeds and fried to a golden brown. The second Dim Sum dish was the Taro Dumplings (\$5). I scarfed one of these bad boys down without knowing what was in it. And I'm glad I did because they were DELISH. I am not a fan of mushrooms, but these crispy mashed taro puffs stuffed with shiitake 'shrooms and minced pork and shrimp were not what I expected. Another winner from the Dim Sum menu.

Of course, we had to test out how amazing their Amazing Chicken (\$13 for the dinner entrée, \$8 for the lunch special) was, and it lived up to its name with crispy white meat, perfectly sauced. As much as I love the fried staples from the traditional Chinese food menu, I couldn't wait for the bevy of beautiful Maki Rolls about to come our way.

The colors on the plates were vibrant, living and fresh. The presentation was picture perfect. Both the Tiger Roll (\$16) and the Pink Lady Roll (\$14) were scrumptious, and if you are a sushi, sashimi or maki roll novice, these dishes need not intimidate you. The Pink Lady is Empire Palace's best seller, with the shrimp tempura, salmon, avocado mix leaving no doubt as to why. The Tiger Roll is similarly yummy with crabstick, cucumber, shrimp, tuna and salmon tickling your taste buds.

I took a raw food rookie with me. He ate octopus. I ate octopus. It was delicio-pus. Opening your palate to new, somewhat exotic food choices can have you wondering, "What else am I missing?"

If you are not feeling adventurous and want your seafood cooked, they can hook you up nicely with a flower basket (\$19) full of tasty lobster tail, jumbo shrimp, scallops all sautéed with vegetables in a special sauce. The dish is served in a basket made of crispy noodles which is just as tasty as its contents.



Fresh was the overall feeling, taste and smell of every dish. In addition to the traditional favorites, Dim Sum, sushi and seafood, other menu items include Lamb, which is the manager Kevin's favorite dish, and many vegetarian and lighter options as well. Lunch specials run daily from 11am to 3pm so you can try out smaller portions of their entrees along with soup or an egg roll and rice.

My favorite fortune cookie fortune reads "The time's always right to do what's right." Empire Palace does EVERYTHING right. It's time to go there. Now!

Empire Palace is located at:
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Phone: 412.367.2337 or 412.367.2338
visit www.empirepalace.net

Theatre - Mannheim Steamroller Christmas at the Bennedum Dec 11 and 12



Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Chip Davis has been America's favorite holiday celebration for over 25 years. Grammy Award winner Chip Davis has created a show that features the beloved Christmas music of Mannheim Steamroller along with dazzling multimedia effects performed in an intimate setting. The spirit of the season comes alive with the signature sound of Mannheim Steamroller. Don't miss this ultimate holiday tradition from the #1 Christmas music artist in history!

Pandora's Unforgettable Moments Presents Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Chip Davis will be performing at the Bennedum Center on Tuesday, December 11 and Wednesday, December 12, 2012 at 8:00 p.m. For information and tickets (\$37.25 - \$82.25): visit www.Trustarts.org, call (412) 456-6666, or in person: Theater Square Box Office, 655 Penn Avenue. To purchase 10 or more tickets at discounted rates, please call (412) 471-6930. The performance is a part of the Cohen & Grigsby Trust Presents series presented by The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust.

Created and founded by Chip Davis, Mannheim Steamroller is embarking on their 27th tour this Christmas season. Business Week says, "Mannheim Steamroller Rules Christmas! It's the top selling act ever in the holiday music category." And the Dallas Morning News: "Mannheim Steamroller is the most popular Christmas act of all times.....a lush version of "Deck The Halls" is one of the act's most popular songs." Mannheim Steamroller's music is best described as 18th Century classical rock with a musical fusion of acoustic, analog, digital and electronic sounds.

Chip Davis began piano lessons at age four and composed his first piece of music at age six. He graduated from the University of Michigan, School of Music— specializing in bassoon and percussion. Before founding Mannheim

Steamroller, Davis' early musical career included touring with the Norman Luboff Choir and later working for a Nebraska advertising agency writing jingles. These included spots for a local bakery featuring the fictional trucker C. W. McCall. The spots were co-written with advertising writer William Fries, who became the voice of McCall. The spots were so popular Davis and Fries were persuaded to begin writing non-advertising songs featuring McCall. The most famous of these is the 1975 "Convoy". The duo released a total of five albums between 1974 and 1979, and Davis was named ASCAP Country Music Writer of the Year in 1976.

Chip Davis overcame across-the-board skeptics to found Mannheim Steamroller and produce a Christmas album. Named after an 18th Century musical term that now translates as "crescendo," the group's popularity began in the 1990s with their album "Fresh Aire." When Davis could not find anyone to distribute it, he created his own record label, American Gramophone. The album became one of the best-selling independent releases in the U.S. and Europe, and the seventh recording in the Fresh Aire series received a Grammy Award for Best New Age Recording.

In 1984, Davis decided to release a Christmas album which went on to sell 5 million copies. He approached the Christmas genre very differently than other artists, and its modernized, electronized versions of classic songs like Deck the Halls were very popular with audiences everywhere. The current show features hits like Silent Night and Angels We Have Heard on High, and the concert will feature the group's distinctive Christmas music from many of their multi-platinum award holiday albums heard over the past 25 years. Chip Davis comments, "The music, along with our state of the art multimedia production, is meant to make this an experience for the whole family."

Christmas Eve Shopping:

A couple was Christmas shopping at the mall on Christmas Eve and the mall was packed. As the wife walked through the mall she was surprised to look up and see her husband nowhere to be found. She was quite upset because they had a lot to do. Because she was so worried, she called him on her mobile phone to ask him where he was. In a calm voice, the husband said, "Honey, you remember the jewelry store we went into about 5 years ago where you fell in love with that diamond necklace that we could not afford and I told you that I would get it for you one day?" The wife choked up and started to cry and said, "Yes, I remember that jewelry store." He said, "Well, I'm in the bar right next to it."

Three Blondes and The Texas Highway Patrol:

Three blondes were all applying for the last available position on the Texas Highway Patrol. The detective conducting the interview looked at the three of them and said, "So y'all want to be cops, huh?" The blondes all nodded. The detective got up, opened a file drawer, and pulled out a folder. Sitting back down, he opened it, pulled out a picture, and said, "To be a detective, you have to be able to detect. You must be able to notice things such as distinguishing features and oddities like scars and so forth." So saying, he stuck the photo in the face of the first blonde and withdrew it after about two seconds. "Now," he said, "did you notice any distinguishing features about this man?" The blonde immediately said, "Yes, I did. He has only one eye!" The detective shook his head and said, "Of course he has only one eye in this picture! It's a profile of his face! You're dismissed!" The first blonde hung her head and walked out of the office. The detective then turned to the second blonde, stuck the photo in her face for two seconds, pulled it back, and said, "What about you? Notice anything unusual or outstanding about this man?" "Yes! He only has one ear!" The detective put his head in his hands and exclaimed, "Didn't you hear what I just told the other lady? This is a profile of the man's face! Of course you can only see one ear! You're excused too!" The second blonde sheepishly walked out of the office. The detective turned his attention to the third and last blonde and said, "This is probably a waste of time, but.....". He flashed the photo in her face for a couple of seconds and withdrew it, saying, "All right, did you notice anything distinguishing or unusual about this man?" The blonde said, "I sure did. This man wears contact lenses." The detective frowned, took another look at the picture, and began looking at some of the papers in the folder. He looked up at the blonde with a puzzled expression and said, "You're absolutely right! His bio says he wears contacts! How in the world could you tell that by looking at his picture?" The blonde rolled her eyes and said, "Well, Helloooooooooooooo! With only one eye and one ear, he certainly can't wear glasses."

Politically Correct Version Of The Night Before Christmas:

Twas the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck...
How to live in a world that's politically correct?
His workers no longer would answer to "Elves"
"Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves
And labor conditions at the north pole
Were alleged by the union to stifle the soul
Four reindeer had vanished, without much propriety
Released to the wilds by the Humane Society
And equal employment had made it quite clear
That Santa had better not use just reindeer
So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid
Were replaced with 4 pigs, and you know that looked stupid!
The runners had been removed from his sleigh;
The ruts were termed dangerous by the E P A
And people had started to call for the cops
When they heard sled noises on their roof-tops
Second-hand smoke from his pipe had his workers quite
frightened His fur trimmed red suit was called "Unenlightened"
And to show you the strangeness of life's ebbs and flows
Rudolf was suing over unauthorized use of his nose
And had gone on Geraldo, in front of the nation
Demanding millions in over-due compensation
So, half of the reindeer were gone; and his wife
Who suddenly said she'd enough of this life
Joined a self-help group, packed, and left in a whiz

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Demanding from now on her title was Ms
And as for the gifts, why, he'd ne'er had a notion
That making a choice could cause so much commotion
Nothing of leather, nothing of fur
Which meant nothing for him. And nothing for her
Nothing that might be construed to pollute
Nothing to aim. Nothing to shoot
Nothing that clamored or made lots of noise
Nothing for just girls. Or just for boys
Nothing that claimed to be gender specific
Nothing that's warlike or non-pacific
No candy or sweets ... they were bad for the tooth
Nothing that seemed to embellish the truth
And fairy tales, while not yet forbidden
Were like Ken and Barbie, better off hidden
For they raised the hackles of those psychological
Who claimed the only good gift was ecological
No baseball, no football ... someone could get hurt;
Besides; playing sports exposed kids to dirt
Dolls were said to be sexist, and should be passé;
And Nintendo would rot your entire brain away
So Santa just stood there, disheveled, perplexed;
He just could not figure out what to do next
He tried to be merry, tried to be gay
But you've got to be careful with that word today
His sack was quite empty, limp to the ground;
Nothing fully acceptable was to be found

Something special was needed, a gift that he might
Give to all without angering the left or the right
A gift that would satisfy, with no indecision
Each group of people, every religion;
Every ethnicity, every hue
Everyone, everywhere ... even you
So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth ...
"May you and your loved ones enjoy peace on earth"

Immediate Downsizing Measures Employed

The recent announcement that Donner and Blitzen have elected to take the early reindeer retirement package has triggered a good deal of concern about whether they will be replaced, and about other restructuring decisions at the North Pole. Streamlining is due to the North Pole's loss of dominance of this season's gift distribution business. Home shopping channels, the Internet, and mail order catalogs have diminished Santa's market share. He could not sit idly by and permit further erosion of the profit picture. The reindeer downsizing was made possible through the purchase of a late model Japanese sled for the CEO's annual trip. Improved productivity from Dasher and Dancer--who will retrain at the Harvard Business School--is anticipated. Reduction in reindeer will also lessen airborne environmental emissions for which the North Pole has received unfavorable press. I am pleased to inform you that Rudolph's role will not be disturbed. Tradition still counts for something at the North Pole.

Is There A Santa?

A few days after Christmas, my six year son and I were talking. He asked, "Mom, is there a Santa Claus?" "Well, what do you think?" I asked him. He replied, "Well, my X Box that I got and my gifts from Santa were wrapped in the same kind of wrapping paper." He thought for a minute and said, "I'll tell you what ... you and Dad can go on buying me presents and let's just forget we ever had this talk!"

Rudolph:

A Russian couple are walking when it begins to precipitate. The man, Rudolph tells his wife it is raining but she insists that it is snowing. Again and again she says that it is snowing but again and again he says that it is raining. Once more she says to him, Rudolph, it definitely is snowing to which he replies, "Rudolph the red knows rain dear".

Annual Office Christmas Party:

FROM: Patty Lewis, Human Resources Director

TO: All Employees

DATE: December 1

RE: Annual Office Christmas Party

I'm happy to inform you that the company Christmas Party will take place on December 23, starting at noon in the private function room at the Grill House. There will be a cash bar and plenty of drinks! We'll have a small band playing traditional carols. Feel free to sing along. And don't be surprised if our CEO shows up dressed as Santa Claus! A Christmas tree will



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be lit at 1:00 p.m. Exchange of gifts among employees can be done at that time, however, no gift should be over \$10.00 to make the giving of gifts easy for everyone's pockets. This gathering is only for employees! A special announcement will be made by our CEO at that time! Merry Christmas to you and your family.
Patty

FROM: Patty Lewis, Human Resources Director
TO: All Employees
DATE: December 2
RE: Holiday Party

In no way was yesterday's memo intended to exclude our Jewish employees. We recognize that Chanukah is an important holiday, which often coincides with Christmas, though unfortunately not this year. However, from now on we're calling it our "Holiday Party." The same policy applies to any other employees who are not Christians or those still celebrating Reconciliation Day. There will be no Christmas tree present. No Christmas carols sung. We will have other types of music for your enjoyment. Happy now?
Happy Holidays to you and your family.
Patty

FROM: Patty Lewis, Human Resources Director
TO: All Employees
DATE: December 3
RE: Holiday Party

Regarding the note I received from a member of Alcoholics

Anonymous requesting a non-drinking table... you didn't sign your name. I'm happy to accommodate this request, but if I put a sign on a table that reads "AA Only" you wouldn't be anonymous anymore. How am I supposed to handle this? Somebody? Forget about the gift exchange, no gifts are allowed since the union members feel that \$10.00 is too much money and executives believe \$10.00 is a little chintzy. NO GIFT EXCHANGE WILL BE ALLOWED.

Patty

FROM: Patty Lewis, Human Resources Director
TO: All Employees
DATE: December 7
RE: Holiday Party

What a diverse group we are! I've arranged for members of Weight Watchers to sit farthest from the dessert buffet and pregnant women will get the table closest to the restrooms. Gays are allowed to sit with each other. Lesbians do not have to sit with gay men, each will have their own table. Yes, there will be a flower arrangement for the gay men's table. However, to the person asking permission to cross dress, no cross dressing allowed. We will have booster seats for short people. Low-fat food will be available for those on a diet. We cannot control the salt used in the food we suggest for those people with high blood pressure to taste first. There will be fresh fruits as dessert for Diabetics; the restaurant cannot supply "No Sugar" desserts. Sorry! Did I miss anything?!?!?

Patty



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FROM: Patty Lewis, Human Resources Director
TO: All Employees
DATE: December 10
RE: The Holiday Party

Vegetarians!! I've had it with you people!!! We're going to keep this party at the Grill House whether you like it or not, so you can sit quietly at the table furthest from the "grill of death," as you so quaintly put it, and you'll get your salad bar, including organic lettuce and tomatoes. But you know, tomatoes have feelings, too. They scream when you slice them. I've heard them scream. I'm hearing them scream right NOW! I hope you all have a rotten holiday! Drive drunk and die, you hear me?
Patty

FROM: Joan Bishop, Acting Human Resources Director
DATE: December 14
RE: Patty Lewis and Holiday Party

I'm sure I speak for all of us in wishing Patty Lewis a speedy recovery and I'll continue to forward your cards to her. In the meantime, management has decided to cancel our Holiday Party and give everyone the afternoon of the 23rd off with full pay. Happy Holidays!
PS: HAVE A FANTASTIC WEEKEND!!!

Mistletoe:

It was the beginning of December. The trip had gone reasonably well, and he was ready to go back. The airport

on the other hand had turned a tacky red and green, and loudspeakers blared annoying elevator renditions of cherished Christmas carols. Being someone who took Christmas very seriously, and being slightly tired, he was not in a particularly good mood. Going to check in his luggage (which, for some reason, had become one suitcase with entirely new clothes), he saw hanging mistletoe. Not real mistletoe, but very cheap plastic with red paint on some of the rounder parts and green paint on some of the flatter and "pointier" parts, that could be taken for mistletoe only in a very Picasso sort of way. With a considerable degree of irritation and nowhere else to vent it, he said to the lady attendant, "Even if I were not married, I would not want to kiss you under such a ghastly mockery of mistletoe." "Sir, look more closely at where the mistletoe is." (pause) "Ok, I see that it's above the luggage scale, which is the place you'd have to step forward for a kiss." "That's not why it's there." (pause) "Ok, I give up. Why is it there?" "It's there so you can kiss your luggage goodbye."

Santa Hates Your Kid

8. Kid's letter to North Pole comes back stamped, "Dream on, Kid!"
7. Kid asks for new bike, gets pack of gum.
6. Along with presents, Santa leaves hefty bill for shipping and handling.
5. By the time he gets to your house, all he has left is foam packing.
4. Christmas day,





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- your kid wakes up with a Reindeer head in his bed.
3. Instead of “Naughty” or “Nice”, Santa has him on the stupid list.
2. Labels on all your kid’s toys read “Straight from Craptown.”
1. Four words: “Off my lap, Tubby!”

Short Father Christmas

What do you get if you cross Father Christmas with a detective?

Santa Clues!

Father Christmas win a saucepan in a competition.
Now that’s what you call pot luck!

What do the reindeer sing to Father Christmas on his birthday?

Freeze a jolly good fellow !

What do you call a man who claps at Christmas ?
Santapplause !

Twinkle Twinkle chocolate bar
Santa drives a rusty car
Press the starter
Press the choke
Off he goes in a cloud of smoke !

Who delivers presents to baby sharks at Christmas ?
Santa Jaws !

Why does Father Christmas like to work in the garden ?
Because he likes to hoe, hoe, hoe !

Why is a cat on a beach like Christmas ?
Because they both have “Sandy claws” !

What’s Father Christmas called when he takes a rest while delivering presents ?
Santa pause !

Question and Answer Christmas Jokes
Q: What do elves learn in school?
A: The Elf-abet!

Q: What’s the most popular wine at Christmas?
A: “I don’t like sprouts” !

Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?
A: Frostbite.

Q: Why do birds fly south for the winter ?
A: Because it’s to far to walk.



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Q: What kind of bird can write?

A: A PENguin.

Q: What do you call a cat on the beach at Christmas time?

A: Sandy Claus!

Q: How do sheep in Mexico say Merry Christmas?

A: Fleece Navidad!

Q: What nationality is Santa Claus?

A: North Polish.

Q: What do you get if you deep fry Santa Claus?

A: Crisp Cringle.

Q: What did Santa shout to his toys on Christmas Eve?

A: Okay everyone, sack time!!

Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

A: Snowflakes.

Q: Why did the elf push his bed into the fireplace?

A: He wanted to sleep like a log.

Q: Why did Santa spell Christmas N-O-E?

A: Because the angel had said, "No L!"

Q: What goes Ho, Ho, Swoosh, Ho, Ho, Swoosh?

A: Santa caught in a revolving door!

Q: What do you do if Santa gets stuck in your chimney?

A: Pour Santa flush on him.

Q: Did you hear that one of Santa's reindeer now works for Proctor and Gambel?

A: Its true . . . Comet cleans sinks!

Q: Why does Scrooge love Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer?

A: Because every buck is dear to him.

Q: How come you never hear anything about the 10th reindeer "Olive" ?

A: Yeah, you know, "Olive the other reindeer, used to laugh and call him names"

Q: Why is Christmas just like a day at the office?

A: You do all the work and the fat guy with the suit gets all the credit.

Q: What's a good holiday tip?

A: Never catch snowflakes with your tongue until all the birds have gone south for the winter.

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Ten things to say about gifts you don't like

10. Boy, if I had not recently shot up four sizes, that would've fit.
9. It would be a shame if the garbage man ever accidentally took this from me.
8. Perfect for wearing in the basement.
7. Well, well, well...
6. I really don't deserve this.
5. Gosh, I hope this never catches fire!
4. I Love it, but I fear the jealousy it will inspire.
3. If the dog buries it, I'll be furious!
2. Sadly, tomorrow I enter the federal witness protection program.
1. To think I got this the year I vowed to give all my gifts to charity.

Ten worst gifts to buy a woman

1. Never give a woman any kind of household appliance or something that is going to make "housework" easier. For instance, a blender, a toaster, a new vacuum, one of those mops they advertise on tv that does everything but suck the life out of you, anything in a infomercial. One allowed choice is a new washing machine with a turbo spin cycle. (Makes laundry day go by pretty fast when you can at least sit on it during spin-dry and end up smiling the rest of the day.)

2. Any bulk cleaning supplies, "honey, I got you that large box of Tide you have been wanting." "This Windex should last you a while." "I got a good deal on the industrial strength toilet bowl cleaner." All I can say is, be prepared to run. I have faith that if you would have at least stopped and thought about what would be a much more intimate gift, you would have had the sense to spring for the \$5 Chia Pet you were eyeing in Kmart.
3. Any sharp objects made by Ronco which slices or dices, or a set of ginsu knives. These may one day be used as a weapon against you when you come home with lipstick on your collar after a "night out with the boys."
4. Do not buy gifts for yourself and pretend they are for her. "Honey, I'm sure you'll get a lot of use out of the new drill I bought you." By then she will have put it to good use by drilling a quarter inch hole into the side of your skull for even thinking she would accept such a lame gift. After a gift like this, you probably won't be around for NEXT Christmas.
5. Any lingerie made of flannel, such as a pair of feet pajamas with a trap door in back. A Little Mermaid or Barney cartoon character nightgown. It gives her the idea that you do not consider her the beautiful woman that she is. Take out that wallet and buy her something sexy from Victoria Secret (just like you did for your mistress or other girlfriend).
6. No name perfume which costs you \$1.99, such as Eu de Toilet, which actually smells like the bathroom, moldy fruit, or your dirty socks. If you are going to buy her perfume, spring for the brand names.
7. Any type of cubic zirconium jewelry you see on the Home Shopping Network. It will be quite embarrassing when she is showing off that fabulous diamond to her friends and tries to cut glass with it. (We actually test them you know.) Also, now would not be a good time to buy her that set of diamond nipple clamps you always wanted to, you know how we like to show off our jewelry and it could get embarrassing at the New Year's party when she decides to show them off to your buddies.
8. Please do not buy her clothes because you think for one minute you have good taste in woman's clothing. Well, perhaps you might if you are a transvestite, but all in all, believe me, she'll smile and say its beautiful while choking back tears and mumbling under her breath, "were the hell would I ever wear this outfit without being arrested for bad taste?" An additional hint, plaids do not go with stripes (even though you think your golfing outfit looks just fine). Its a known fact to the rest of the world that that is a taboo. In the Northeast, that's like wearing white after Labor Day.

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9. Do not give her a gift certificate to Jenny Craig or Weight Watchers. Most men would know better, especially the ones who have learned the correct response to “do these pants make me look fat.” If you are one of the poor souls who still doesn’t get it and purchased a gift like this, be prepared for the silent treatment for a month. (Although that may be something you would actually look forward to.) A better alternative would be hiring a Chippendale dancer as a personal trainer to get her motivated into getting fit.
10. Last but not least, never buy a woman anti-wrinkle cream, or a book on “How not to be Nasty Sunday through Saturday.” These are not considered gifts, they are considered reasons for seriously injuring the person who bought it and just may stand up in court of law.

A Martha Stewart Christmas

Dear Santa:

I rarely ask for much. This year is no exception. I don’t need diamond earrings, handy slicer-dicers or comfy slippers. I only want one little thing, and I want it deeply. I want to slap Martha Stewart. Now, hear me out, Santa. I won’t scar her or draw blood or anything. Just one good smack, right across her smug little cheek. I get all cozy inside just thinking about it.

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SOUTH SIDE

Don’t grant this wish just for me, do it for thousands of women across the country. Through sheer vicarious satisfaction, you’ll be giving a gift to us all. Those of us leading average, garden variety lives aren’t concerned with gracious living. We feel pretty good about ourselves if our paper plates match when we stack them on the counter, buffet-style for dinner. We’re tired of Martha showing us how to make centerpieces from hollyhock dipped in 18-carat gold. We’re plumb out of liquid gold. Unless it’s of the furniture polish variety. We can’t whip up Martha’s creamy holiday sauce, spiced with turmeric. Most of us can’t even say turmeric, let alone figure out what to do with it. OK, Santa, maybe you think I’m being a little harsh. But I’ll bet with all the holiday rush you didn’t catch that interview with Martha in last week’s USA Weekend. I’m surprised there was enough room on the page for her ego. We discovered that not only does Martha avoid take-out pizza (she’s only ordered it once), she refuses to eat it cold (No cold pizza? Is Martha Stewart living?) When it was pointed out that she could microwave it, she replied, “I don’t have a microwave.” The reporter, Jeffrey Zaslow, noted that she said this “in a tone that suggests you shouldn’t either.” Well, lah-dee-dah. Imagine that, Santa! That lovely microwave you brought me years ago, in which I’ve learned to make complicated dishes like popcorn and hot chocolate, has been declared undesirable by Queen Martha. What next? The coffee maker? In the article, we learned that Martha has 40 sets of dishes adorning an entire wall in her home. Forty sets. Can you spell “overkill”? And neatly put away, no less. If my dishes make it to the dishwasher that qualifies as “put away” in my house! Martha tells us she’s already making homemade holiday gifts for friends. “Last year, I made amazing silk-lined scarves for everyone,” she boasts. Not just scarves mind you. Amazing scarves. Martha’s obviously not shy about giving herself a little pat on the back. In fact, she does so with such frequency that one has to wonder if her back is black and blue. She goes on to tell us that “homemaking is glamour for the 90s,” and says her most glamorous friends are “interested in stain removal, how to iron a monogram, and how to fold a towel.” I have one piece of advice, Martha: “Get new friends.” Glamorous friends fly to Paris on a whim. They drift past the Greek Islands on yachts, sipping champagne from crystal goblets. They step out for the evening in shimmering satin gowns, whisked away by tuxedoed chauffeurs. They do not spend their days pondering the finer art of toilet bowl sanitation. Zaslow notes that Martha was named one of America’s 25 most influential people by Time magazine (nosing out Mother Theresa, Madeline Allbright and Maya Angelou, no doubt). The proof of Martha’s influence: after she bought white-fleshed peaches in the supermarket, Martha says, “People saw me buy them. In an instant, they were all gone.” I hope Martha never decides to jump off a bridge. A guest in Martha’s home told Zaslow how Martha gets up early to rollerblade with her dogs to pick fresh wild blackberries for breakfast. This confirms what I’ve suspected about Martha all along: She’s obviously got too much time on her hands. Teaching the dogs to rollerblade. What a show off. If you think the dogs are spoiled, listen to

how Martha treats her friends: She gave one friend all 272 books from the Knopf Everyman Library. It didn't cost much. Pocket change, really. Just \$5,000. But what price friendship, right? When asked if others should envy her, Martha replies, "Don't envy me. I'm doing this because I'm a natural teacher. You shouldn't envy teachers. You should listen to them." Zaslow must have slit a seam in Martha's ego at this point, because once the hot air came hissing out, it couldn't be held back. "Being an overachiever is nothing despicable. It is only admirable. Never lower your standards," says Martha. And of her Web Page on the Internet, Martha declares herself an "important presence" as she graciously helps people organize their sad, tacky little lives. There you have it, Santa. If there was ever someone who deserved a good smack, it's Martha Stewart. But I bet I won't get my gift this year. You probably want to smack her yourself.

The Golfers:

A priest, a doctor, and an engineer were waiting one morning for a particularly slow group of golfers. The engineer fumed, "What's with those blokes? We must have been waiting for fifteen minutes!" The doctor chimed in, "I don't know, but I've never seen such inept golf!" The priest said, "Here comes the greens keeper. Let's have a word with him." He said, "Hello, George! what's wrong with that group ahead of us? They're rather slow, aren't they?" The greens keeper replied, "Oh, yes. That's a group of blind fire fighters. They lost their sight saving our clubhouse from a fire last year, so we always let them play for free anytime." The group fell silent for a moment. The priest said, "That's so sad. I think I will say a special prayer for them tonight." The doctor said, "Good idea. I'm going to contact my ophthalmologist colleague and see if there's anything he can do for them." The engineer said, "Why can't they play at night?"

Eggs:

A wife was making a breakfast of fried eggs for her husband. Suddenly, her husband burst into the kitchen. "Careful ... CAREFUL! Put in some more butter! Oh my GOD! You're cooking too many at once. TOO MANY! TURN THEM!! TURN THEM NOW!!! We need more butter. Oh my GOD! WHERE are we going to get MORE BUTTER? They're going to STICK! Careful ... CAREFUL! I said be CAREFUL! You NEVER listen to me when you're cooking! Never! Turn them! Hurry up! Are you CRAZY? Have you LOST your mind? Don't forget to salt them. You know you always forget to salt them. Use the salt. USE THE SALT! THE SALT!" The wife stared at him. "What the hell is wrong with you? You think I don't know how to fry a couple of eggs?" The husband calmly replied, "I wanted to show you what it feels like when I'm driving."

Famous Quotes On Drinking:

"Sometimes when I reflect back on all the wine I drink I feel shamed. Then I look into the glass and think about the workers in the vineyards and all of their hopes and dreams. If I didn't drink this wine, they might be out of work and their dreams would be shattered. Then I say to myself, 'It is better that I drink this wine and let their

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dreams come true than be selfish and worry about my liver.”
 ~ Jack Handy

WARNING: The consumption of alcohol may leave you wondering what the hell happened to your bra and panties.

~~~~~  
 “I feel sorry for people who don’t drink. When they wake up in the morning, that’s as good as they’re going to feel all day. “

~Frank Sinatra

WARNING: The consumption of alcohol may create the illusion that you are tougher, smarter, faster and better looking than most people.

~~~~~  
 “When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading.”

~ Henny Youngman

WARNING: The consumption of alcohol may lead you to think people are laughing WITH you.

~~~~~  
 “24 hours in a day, 24 beers in a case. Coincidence? I think not.”

~ Stephen Wright

WARNING: The consumption of alcohol may cause you to think you can sing.

~~~~~  
 “When we drink, we get drunk. When we get drunk, we fall asleep. When we fall asleep, we commit no sin. When we commit no sin, we go to heaven. So, let’s all get drunk and go to heaven!”

~ Brian O’Rourke

WARNING: The consumption of alcohol may cause pregnancy.

~~~~~  
 “Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy.”

~ Benjamin Franklin

WARNING: The consumption of alcohol is a major factor in dancing like a retard.

~~~~~  
 “Without question, the greatest invention in the history of mankind is beer. Oh, I grant you that the wheel was also a fine invention, but the wheel does not go nearly as well with pizza.”

~ Dave Barry

WARNING: The consumption of alcohol may cause you to tell your friends over and over again that you love them.

~~~~~  
 To some it’s a six-pack, to me it’s a Support Group. Salvation in a can!

~ Dave Howell

WARNING: The consumption of alcohol may make you think you can logically converse with members of the opposite s e



x without spitting.

~~~~~  
And saving the best for last, as explained by Cliff Clavin, of Cheers. One afternoon at Cheers, Cliff Clavin was explaining the Buffalo Theory to his buddy Norm.

Here's how it went:

"Well ya see, Norm, it's like this... A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members. In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Excessive intake of alcohol, as we know, kills brain cells. But naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine. That's why you always feel smarter after a few beers."

WARNING: The consumption of alcohol may make you think you are whispering when you are not. Help keep Bartender's Employed - Drink more Alcohol!

Understanding Woman's Problems:

Okay, Okay, it finally all makes sense now.. I never looked at it this way before:

MENTal illness

MENstrual cramps

MENTal breakdown

MENopause

GUYnecologist

AND When we have REAL trouble, it's a HISterectomy.

Ever notice how all of women's problems start with MEN?

Things I've Learned From My Kids:

For those who already have children past this age, this is hilarious For those who have children nearing this age, this is a warning. For those who have not yet had children, this is birth control. The following came from an anonymous mother here in Pittsburgh, PA!

Things I've learned from my children (Honest and No Kidding):

1. A king size waterbed holds enough water to fill a 2,000 sq.foot house 4 inches deep.
2. If you spray hair spray on dust bunnies and run over them with roller blades, they can ignite.
3. A 3-year-old's voice is louder than 200 adults in a crowded restaurant.
4. If you hook a dog leash over a ceiling fan, the motor is not strong enough to rotate a 42 pound boy wearing Batman underwear and a superman cape. It is strong enough, however, to spread paint on all four walls of a 20 X 20 foot room.
5. You should not throw baseballs up when the ceiling fan is on. When using the ceiling fan as a bat, you have to throw the ball up a few times before you get a hit. A ceiling fan can hit a baseball a long way.
6. The glass in windows (even double pane) doesn't stop a

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- baseball hit by a ceiling fan.
- When you hear the toilet flush and the words "Uh-oh," it's already too late.
 - Brake fluid mixed with Clorox makes smoke, and lots of it.
 - A six-year-old can start a fire with a flint rock even though a 36-year-old man says they can only do it in the movies. A magnifying glass can start a fire even on an overcast day.
 - Certain Lego's will pass through the digestive tract of a four-year-old.
 - Play Dough and Microwave should never be used in the same sentence.
 - Super glue is forever.
 - No matter how much Jell-O you put in a swimming pool you still can't walk on water.
 - Pool filters do not like Jell-O.
 - DVD players do not eject PB&J sandwiches even though TV commercials show they do.
 - Garbage bags do not make good parachutes.
 - Marbles in gas tanks make lots of noise when driving.
 - You probably do not want to know what that odor is.
 - Always look in the oven before you turn it on. Plastic toys do not like ovens.
 - The fire department in Pittsburgh has a 5 minute response time.
 - The spin cycle on the washing machine does not make earth worms dizzy. It will however make cats dizzy and cats throw up twice their body weight when dizzy.

Washington Post's Style Invitational:

The Washington Post's Style Invitational asked readers to take

any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition.

Recent winners:

- Intoxication: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.
- Reintarnation: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.
- Foreploys: Any misrepresentation about yourself for the purpose of getting laid.
- Giraffiti: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.
- Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.
- Inoculatte: To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
- Hipatitis: Terminal coolness.
- Osteopornosis: A degenerate disease.
- Karmageddon: It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.
- Glibido: All talk and no action.
- Dopeler effect: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.
- Ignoramus: A person who's both stupid and a jerk.

Dear God: From The Dog!

Dear God: Why do humans smell the flowers, but seldom, if ever, smell one another?

Dear God: When we get to heaven, can we sit on your couch? Or is it still the same old story?

Dear God: Why are there cars named after the jaguar, the cougar, the mustang, the colt, the stingray, and the rabbit, but not ONE named for a dog? How often do you see a cougar riding around? We do love a nice ride! Would it be so hard to rename the "Chrysler Eagle" the "Chrysler Beagle"?

Dear God: If a dog barks his head off in the forest and no human hears him, is he still a bad dog?

Dear God: We dogs can understand human verbal instructions, hand signals, whistles, horns, clickers, beepers, scent ID's, electromagnetic energy fields, and Frisbee flight paths. What do humans understand?

Dear God: More meatballs, less spaghetti, please.

Dear God: Let me give you a list of just some of the things I must remember to be a good dog.

- I will not eat the cats' food before they eat it or after they throw it up.
- I will not roll on dead seagulls, fish, crabs, etc., just because I like the way they smell.
- I will not munch on "leftovers" in the kitty litter box, although they are tasty.
- The diaper pail is not a cookie jar.
- The sofa is not a "face towel". Neither are Mom and Dad's laps.
- The garbage collector is not stealing our stuff.
- My head does not belong in the refrigerator.
- I will not bite the officer's hand when he reaches in for Mom's driver's license and registration.
- I will not play tug-of-war with Dad's underwear when he's

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