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**epiqueerean**

BY MEG DALY

**A day in the life of an Epiqueerean**

Readers, I have failed you. My dining adventures in the past month did not yield a unifying theme. I blame the snow storm—the city's handy whipping boy for all manner of sour moods and slacker behavior at the new year's advent. I couldn't park in those ice ruts! And while, yes, I could have taken a bus, I would have fainted with low blood sugar before I reached my destination. Luckily, the ice melted and on one humble Monday I traveled the city far and wide to dine at these three fine eating establishments.

**St. Honoré Boulangerie • 2335 N.W. Thurman St.**


Dashing to work, I stopped off at my new neighborhood French bakery, which has been packed since it opened a few months ago. So big and airy and bright. So tempting to linger and flirt with the beguiling woman behind the counter. But I had a restaurant profile to write (see Page 41), so I departed with what I discovered to be the most perfectly browned, flaky and buttery croissant this side of the Seine. Don't miss the pain au chocolat or brioche either.

**Milo's City Cafe • 1325 N.E. Broadway**

By noon, I was famished. Admittedly, I didn't get much protein for breakfast, and the sensual buzz from the bakery had long since faded. So it was off to Irvington neighborhood establishment Milo's—the place to go for omelets. Seeing as how it was lunchtime, my choice became more complicated. Should I go for the Marianne Benedict (filet mignon and béarnaise), the Pesto Penne Primavera or a gigantic Cobb Salad? I decided to carry the butter theme over into midday with a Monte Cristo french toast sandwich with ham, turkey and Swiss. Hey, it's winter, I need the extra calories. It was delicious.

**Caffe Allora • 509 N.W. Ninth Ave.**

I stepped inside this narrow Pearl bistro and was transported to a cosmopolitan European city like, say, Milan—where owner Paulo Parrilli hails from. Small tables are comfortably close together, and people linger over their meals while disco music reigns in the background. Finally, I managed something healthy for the day: The arugula salad with apples comes alive with fresh vinegar and coarse black pepper. The ravioli sampler is incredibly vibrant and simple; pumpkin, spinach and porcini mushroom were the evening's flavors, all sautéed lightly in—you guessed it—a sage butter. An unbearably handsome waiter gives me a knowing look. Perhaps he's the one Paulo tells me is gay but doesn't know it yet? I'll send my friend Jim on a reconnaissance mission and get back to you.



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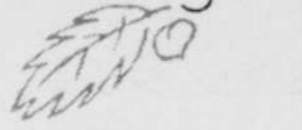
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