



## epiqueerean

BY MEG DALY

### Northwest Industrial eating

The air quality may suck, but the food decidedly does not. The increasingly hip and happening Northwest Industrial neighborhood (an area bordered by Northwest Yeon Avenue, St. Helens Road and Nicolai Street) is home to some of the city's funkiest new cafes. I ventured around the outskirts of this Esco-polluted area to ferret out some culinary gems.

#### Industrial Cafe and Saloon • 2572 N.W. Vaughn St.

Westward the course of Empire takes its way," reads the emblem on the menu at this 3-month-old establishment.

Rather than Imperialist cuisine, however, you will find the best of what the Northwest has to offer in straightforward, good food. For lunch, try the hand-carved ham sandwich with sharp cheddar cheese, accompanied by a spinach salad so crisp you could bounce a hazelnut off it. At night, the metal and chrome interior turns swanky with inventive lighting, but the meals stay homey. A perfectly cooked salmon steak with mashed potatoes and butternut squash set me back only a mere \$12. Ms. Margaret's Chocolate Chip Cake sent me summarily over the hazy moon.

#### Emanon Cafe • 1000 N.W. 17th Ave.

Don't be deceived by the plump artichoke against a rainbow background that makes up Emanon's logo. This is no earthy-crunchy, patchouli-scented, health food hang-out. Which is not to say that the food isn't healthy. Although "The Story of Emanon" told on the menu invokes a northern Italian artichoke with aphrodisiac powers, the offerings themselves range from Southwestern to just plain American. Artichoke hearts only pop up in three dishes. At a recent lunch, both the chicken Caesar wrap and the Southwest wrap burst with tangy flavor, perfectly grilled chicken and happily unlimp lettuce. The homemade potato chips are a nice touch at this pub-style sunken dining room just west of the Pearl. I'd say go if you're in the neighborhood and feeling hungry—or if you want to cruise the guys working construction next door.

#### Portland Brewing Tap Room • 2730 N.W. 31st Ave.

Epicer of Northwest Industrial eating, the Tap Room is also home to the city's best brewpub grub. A small oasis in the warehouse desert, its garden patio and bright, cheery dining rooms are always bustling. For starters, the rosemary garlic fries are a must. A burger, a grilled portabella mushroom sandwich or fish tacos will more than satisfy. Or try the excellent grilled chicken salad on baby greens with feta, hazelnut and red pepper. For heartier fare, try the shepherd's pie or the pot roast. Wash it all down with their signature MacTarnahan's Amber Ale or creamy Black Watch Porter. Ahh...and you may just run into some of those babes who work over at Rejuvenation!

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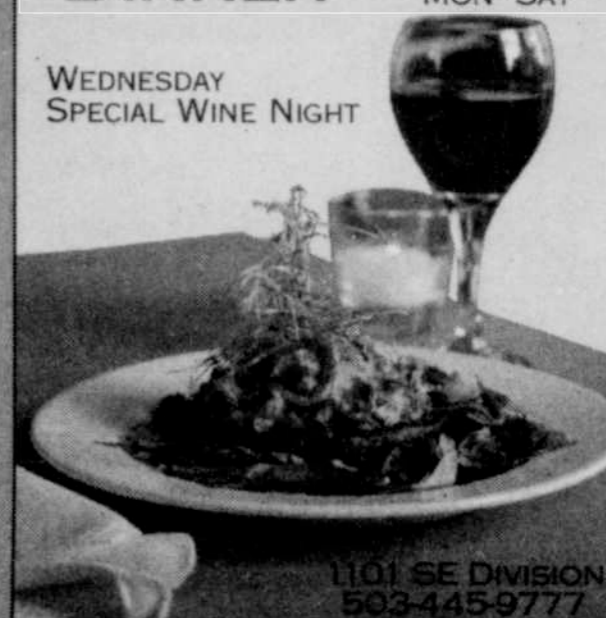
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