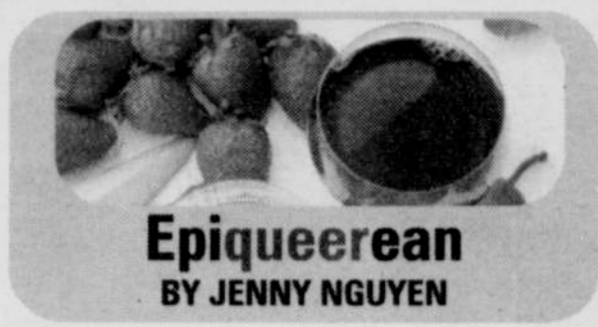


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**Epiqueerean**  
BY JENNY NGUYEN

**Clinton in '06**

I'm the last to admit Southeast is in. I'm not talking old-news Hawthorne or Belmont. I'm referring to the deep SE: Clinton. Speed bumps and high-density housing dot the once ne'er-traveled Division side street, fast becoming a thoroughfare of its own. At the center of the hubbub is the four-way stop at Clinton and 26th. This 'Couverite hopped from corner to corner in hopes of getting a taste of the faraway land.

**Noho's Hawaiian Café • 2525 S.E. Clinton St.**

This tiny Hawaiian hut packs a meaty punch with Goliath portions. Vegetarians fear not, tofu and veggie dishes are also offered, but note: The meat here is money. You choose your poison, an already big *menehune* for smaller appetites or the outlandishly enormous *blalah* for gluttons. Don't worry—sticky rice and macaroni salad accompany *everything*. Phil's Ono Chicken is the most delectable pile of melt-on-your-tongue tender chicken I've ever sampled. The Korean short ribs are unmatched in charbroil flavor from the searing hot grill, and Portuguese sausage is a nice spicy addition. Noho's is big on meat and big on big, so prepare to get more than your buck's worth.

**SubRosa • 2601 S.E. Clinton St.**

Just less than a year old, SubRosa has a devout following. No wonder: Thin-crust, oblong pizzas are brilliant with ease and simplicity. The most complex of SubRosa's pizzas, the Northwest by Southeast, is still just a straightforward crown of rich gorgonzola, crispy caramelized onions, walnuts and a whisper of rosemary. The Blue Rosa salad of roasted beets, bleu cheese and hazelnuts was well worth the measly \$4. And the 6-buck cheese plate bowed from a ginormous wedge of ultra-rich Pierre Robert Triple Cream, making it the world's best (cheap) cheese plate EVER! After paying just shy of a \$25 tab, we walked out full, happy and with leftovers as a reminder of just why SubRosa is more than "a friendly neighborhood joint." It's a bargain.

**Savoy Tavern and Bistro • 2500 S.E. Clinton St.**

Two side-by-side rooms illustrate the oft-bipolar feel of Savoy. While the tavern is a dark, boisterous room lined with mirrors and woodchuck artifacts, the bistro is bright, white-tableclothed and quiet. My "champagne tastes and beer budget" landed us a fine booth in the bar, where the crowd was so Southeast. Twentysomethings in down vests casually pounded pints from the extensive beer list while a couple of finely dressed baby boomers sipped brightly colored martinis next to us. The assemblage wasn't the only example of diversity, either. Sure, there were perfect burgers, fries and cheesy mac, but where else have you seen plump chicken croquettes with currants, breaded cheese curds, smoked trout and skirt steak on the same bar menu? Nowhere. Savoy pairs an anything-goes atmosphere with an everything's-good food den. 19

JENNY NGUYEN would love to hear from you, especially if you're the one sending the cryptic mystery packages. Write her at [jenny0080@hotmail.com](mailto:jenny0080@hotmail.com).

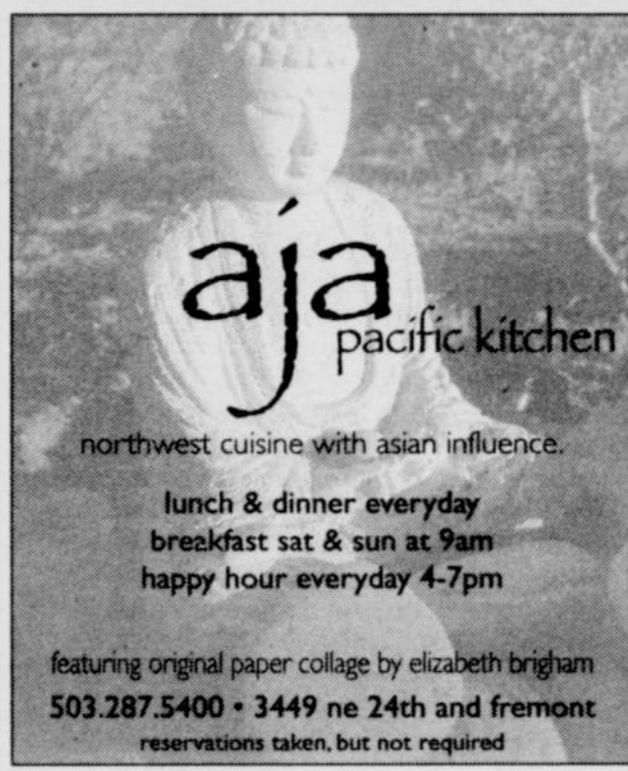


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