

Beer enjoys gourmet kudos

• *Bevy of microbreweries in Portland area draws debate from residents with less refined tastes.*

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — What does it take to get a Miller Lite in this town? Oregon has more microbreweries per capita than any other place in the nation, turning out all sorts of exotic brews in hues of amber, brown and black.

Nowadays, ordering up an ordinary beer in some places can draw a haughty stare.

"If you had the choice between

Spam and filet mignon, which would you choose?" says beer drinker Spike Cornelius. "That's the problem with the typical mass-produced American beers — they're insipid."

In a town where loggers and salmon fishermen once ended the day by guzzling nickel brew in dark saloons, beer geeks with goatees now sit behind gleaming brass bars, swirling beer in their glass like Bordeaux and discussing the finer points of hoppiness and drinkability.

"People never really considered beer a cuisine before," says Mike Sherwood, director of the Oregon Brewers' Guild. "We've got juniper-flavored, chamomile, rosemary, basil, raspberry and lavender beers."

"These are sipping-around-the-fire-

place-type beers. You don't chug down a six-pack of microbrew. It stays on the palate a lot longer."

Each year, Oregon's 72 breweries churn out 1 million kegs and more than 1,000 varieties of wheat beers, pale ales, porters and stouts with such names as Pyramid, Blue Heron and Obidian.

At Portland-area supermarkets, microbrews now account for 10 percent of the market, compared with 3 percent nationwide.

Beer aisles brim with apricot ales, hazelnut stouts, blackberry wheat beers, and honey-tinged lagers.

"It's a lot different than it used to be in high school and college," says Steve Uchida, 31. "The last time I had a Miller was a couple years ago. I'm ma-

turing as a drinker. Now I try to enjoy the flavor of it."

About 60 percent of all draft beers poured at Portland bars are brewed locally. There are still pockets of resistance.

At Patty's Retreat, 55-year-old barmaid Kay Scott pulls the handle on the solitary tap and draws another pint of Pabst Blue Ribbon. "I've had people come in here and ask for microbrews, and when I tell them what I've got, they just walk out," she says.

At the bar, old-timer Eugene McIntyre cradles his glass of pale yellow suds and scoffs at gourmet beer.

"It's a fad," the 69-year-old says as a Neil Diamond tune drones from the jukebox. "I never drink the stuff. After two beers, a man doesn't really know

Last Gershwin sibling dies at age 92

Sister of Geoge and Ira earned respect as Manhattan painter

NEW YORK (AP) — Frances Godowsky, who tried out songs for her brothers George and Ira Gershwin before emerging as a respected painter in her own right, has died at age 92. She was the last of the Gershwin siblings.

Godowsky was born on Manhattan's Lower East Side and began her artistic career as a child dancer. Known as Frankie Gershwin, she never let her famous brothers forget she initially made more than they did — \$40 a week to their \$15 from their Tin Pan Alley jobs.

While Godowsky sang in a few Broadway shows in the 1920s, she soon accepted the role of supporter to George, the composer,

and Ira, the lyricist. She often was the first to sing Gershwin tunes that would become Broadway hits, giving them a test run in George's upper Manhattan apartment or experimenting with dance steps he learned from Fred Astaire.

Although his sister's voice was small by stage standards of the day, George loved her interpretation of his work and made her his personal chanteuse. The two performed together at countless New York parties in the 1920s and elsewhere.

In early 1928, she begged George to bring her along on a trip to Europe. She so impressed Cole Porter at a party that he de-

signed a Paris nightclub show for her, during which she sang Gershwin numbers with George. The limited engagement earned her numerous professional offers but she returned home to the United States.

Later Godowsky — the youngest behind Ira, George and Arthur — fell in love with one of George's poker cronies, Leopold Godowsky Jr., the son of the celebrated Austrian pianist. Her husband later invented Kodachrome, the slide film, and she played backup for him, too, posing in a bright red beret and green dress as a photo test subject.

They married in 1930 and settled in Rochester, where

Godowsky had been working as a sculptor. After George's death of a brain tumor in 1937, the Godowskys moved to Westport, Conn., where she began painting. She eventually turned out hundreds of well-received oils and acrylics.

Godowsky re-emerged as singer in the 1970s after a granddaughter suggested she get vocal training. She put out a widely praised 1975 album, "Frances Sings for George and Ira," and continued performing at clubs until two years ago.

Arthur Gershwin, who also wrote songs, died in 1981. Her husband and brother Ira died in 1983.

Mall bans smoke in with strong tobacco

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP) — The hometown of the nation's second-largest tobacco company is banning smoking in all areas.

The ban at the Hanes Mall will begin next month. Stores and restaurants in the mall will have to set their own policies.

R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. is the largest employer in town, but many in Salem are unwilling to offend those whose livelihoods depend on tobacco, and hospitals and other public places were relatively slow to ban smoking.

Hanes Mall manager Dennis Cerny said the shopping center had put off a decision on its sensitivity to the local tradition and tobacco-based economy.

"However, we can no longer delay our implementation of a no-smoking policy due to concern for the health of our employees and customers," he said.

Denny's faces religious discrimination accusations

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — A Denny's restaurant may have deliberately slipped bacon and ham into the meals of two Muslims who had requested no-pork dishes, an investigator with the Montana Human Rights Bureau says.

"The fact that the ingredients for these meals are packaged separately and do not contain any pork products... implies that these products were placed in the food intentionally," according to the investigator's report.

Two Muslims, Abdussalam Sipes and Clarence Watson, had filed a religious discrimination complaint with the bureau, seeking an apology and \$1 million each.

The investigator's report was made public this week by an Is-

lamic organization.

If the two sides cannot reach a complaint, it will go before the Montana Human Rights Bureau.

A lawyer for Denny's has been dogged by charges for years, did not return a call.

The manager of the restaurant, Richard Graves, said the incident was intentional.

Sipes, whose religion forbids eating of pork, said in an affidavit Tuesday, "My soul was purged by vomiting the meal. I was unable to read the Koran for 40 days."

The accusations arose from a March lunch at which Sipes asked that their meals be prepared in separate skillets to avoid contamination by pork.

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