

Bored? Don't Be! Fun activities for the winter season

By Victoria Vasterling

What is a student supposed to do when they are stuck at home for Winter Break? In case you aren't from around here, or even if you ARE from around here but still have no clue what goes on during winter time, I will let you in on some of our secrets.

THE HOLIDAZZLE PARADE:

The Holidayzazzle is a parade that is hosted annually by Target, and it includes over one million bright lights, storybook characters on light floats, musical groups, and all sorts of costumed characters for you and your friends/family to enjoy. It runs Thursday through Sunday at 6:30p.m. throughout the Holiday season (beginning November 26th and running through December 19th). The wonderful Minnesotan tradition is located near the Nicolet Mall between 12th Street and 4th Street. The event is completely free. To gather any more information about the Parade, go to www.holidazzle.com.

LAKES:

If you happen to own your own skates and are looking for somewhere free to skate, try exploring one of our Minnesotan Lakes! A few you might try are Lake of the Isles, which is located in downtown Minneapolis near Lake Calhoun. Another lake which is actually a relatively close distance to Concordia is Lake Como. Not only can you enjoy

ice skating on a patch cleared off on the lake—assuming that the weather is cool enough!—but you can also find various heights of sledding hills and cross-country ski trails throughout Como.

WELLS FARGO WINTER SKATE:

is located in downtown St. Paul this year, near the Landmark Center in Rice Park. They will have a FREE refrigerated skating rink set up for your enjoyment! There are skates to rent here, if you don't have your own, and are on \$2.00 to rent! However, if you have a Wells Fargo card of some type that you can present, you would get the skates for free. There is also a warming house, and hot chocolate and snacks for sale.

For additional ice rinks, visit rinkfinder.com

MINNESOTA WINTER CARNIVAL:

The Minnesota Winter Carnival is also a thing not to be missed. It is located near the Landmark Center and Rice Park, where there are elaborate ice sculptures created each year. Other special events related to the Carnival include parades, a winter playground, a giant snow slide, ice carving contest, and a treasure hunt for the Winter Carnival Medallion which is worth thousands of dollars to the winner. For more information about the Winter Carnival visit www.winter-carnival.com

Tribute to Holiday Food What to nibble on this holiday season

By Levi Gribbon

The holidays are coming around once again and that means one thing: tasty food. Things that should be included in holiday meals are some kind of tasty meat, mashed potatoes, gravy, pie, yams, various holiday themed cookies, candies, and chocolates.

As far as meat goes, I think it goes without saying that your first choice should be between a smoked turkey, a delicious smoked brisket, or a tasty spiral sliced ham. You vegetarians are missing out. Just look at the wonderful and magical animal we call the pig. Ham, bacon, ribs, Canadian bacon, tenderloin, and pork chops all come from this fantastic beast.

As far as mashed potatoes go, all I have to say is be sure to use whole milk or butter in your mashed potatoes. That will maximize the fluffy deliciousness. Gravy is one of the best inventions in the history of mankind. It is not a holiday meal if I do not end up passed out and face down in a river of gravy. That being said, do not skimp on the gravy. When getting gravy, make sure you get enough for leftovers as well.

When picking out a pie for dessert, make sure to get one loaded with sugar and calories. As far as pie choice goes, I always vote for apple and pecan. If you don't like apple pie there is probably something wrong with your taste buds. However, there are always those in my family who prefer pumpkin pie.

Marshmallow covered yams are a must for any real holiday feast. As a little kid, I definitely did not want any green bean casserole but I could not get enough yams on my plate. Make sure to use a plethora of marshmallows. The more marshmallows the sweeter and tastier the yams and their juices will be. The juices may be the best part of the yams. I like to dip anything that isn't covered in gravy already into the juices to give my food a hint of that sweetness.

Make sure to pick up some holiday themed cookies and cooking. You have to snack on something while waiting for all the other scrumptious food to finish. If you don't have something sweet to snack on while waiting the fragrant odors emanating from your kitchen will drive you mad. Chocolate, whipped cream, cinnamon, and marshmallows! By their powers combined they are hot chocolate! It is simply a known fact that chocolate is delicious. Especially when in a liquid form. As a general rule of thumb, if your meal does not have a risk of inducing type II diabetes or cause you to pass out into an irreversible food coma, you are not trying hard enough. Anyway, have a happy holidays and a tasty meal.



Art of Native Americans

The MIA shows great art isn't only found in Europe and Asia

By Laura Gunderson

The new exhibition at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts is not just a display of Native American art; it's a venture back in time through 2,000 years and different regions. This representation of both ancient and modern Native American art brought me a greater appreciation for these cultures and reverence for these heroes.

The pieces of art come from the Thaw Collection, a body of 800 Native American works collected by Eugene and Clare Thaw. About the exhibition Eugene says, "Indian material culture stands rightfully with ancient art, with masterpieces of Asia and Europe, as their equivalent."

Eugene was dead on: these works are a great representation of Native American art and why it should never be forgotten. The exhibition starts in the Arctic and Subarctic with the Yup'ik people. What I love about this show is that every room displays art from only one region, and creates a setting with a wall-sized photo of that terrain.

There is also a subtle ambiance because every room is painted a different color according to the environment. The Arctic is purple and sets the stage for how the Yup'ik people survived under conditions even worse than Minnesota. They were heroes for surviving in the frigid tundra and made innovations that left my jaw dropped.

*Art of Native Americans
Minneapolis Institute of Arts
Now-Jan 9th*

I recommend reading the captions for all of the items because they bring new meaning when one sees the symbolism, the use, and how it was made.

For example, the Yup'ik people made goggles with thin slits – perfect for keeping reflected light out of the eyes and acting as binoculars. A coat made from seal intestines resembled coats that people wear today but was made over a hundred years ago! Every room is filled with treasures of human ingenuity created by Native Americans in the Northwest, California, the Southwest, the Great Plains and the Woodlands. Representations of weaponry, basket weaving, and beading are all here; the exhibition also features pottery from the Pueblo, whom actually invented pottery. One can see how animals, the Americans' habitat, and settlers influenced their art.

With work spanning from around 100 A.D. to the 1900s, this exhibition offers a look at how Native American art was influenced by the coming of Westerners. With the introduction of horses and silver among other things, the Native Americans had the "ability to absorb without being absorbed," especially in the creation of artworks.

The exhibition also features videos of modern and traditional dance and interviews with contemporary Native Americans. They speak about the complexities of keeping their traditions alive in a modern Western world.

People of all ages and experiences should see this exhibition because it will give them a new appreciation for Native American art and people. After leaving the galleries, I felt nothing but veneration for a people who were able to endure hard times and still make beautiful and aesthetic art. And even better – it's free for college students!

Art of the Native Americans will be on view until January 9. For more information, visit artsmia.org.