

Eye on Entertainment

Restaurant Review: Brodeurs

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As smoke hangs in the air and the smell alcohol and appetizers saturate the room, lively customers gather to play a fun, popular game. Others relax and enjoy the company of friends or the sporting event displayed on the televisions overhead. But as the questions are asked, the temptation to join the game is overwhelming.

Originally a pub game from Ireland, variations of Quizzo began emerging in Philadelphia area in the early 1990s. How many pints of blood are in the human body? What country is the largest producer of wine? It's an unruly competition as teams struggle to answer tough, pop culture questions. Four rounds, ten questions each round, with the possibility of a bonus round or tie-breaker. Teams get fierce.

Thursday nights at Brodeur's on State Street in Media, teams ban together to participate in an upbeat, fast-paced competition for prizes. As drinks are poured, questions are asked and cheers ring loud as winners of the past round are announced.

At this late night happy hour, from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. every Thursday night, the game is not the only thing to get excited about. Discount appetizers and drinks, including piled high nachos and wings for \$5 or \$3 Absolut drinks and \$2 Bud Lights help to draw in customers. Not only known for their happy hours or rousing games of Quizzo, Brodeur's on State Street offers casual eating in their Garden Room, on the front deck or patio, or a fine dining experience in the Jackson Room.

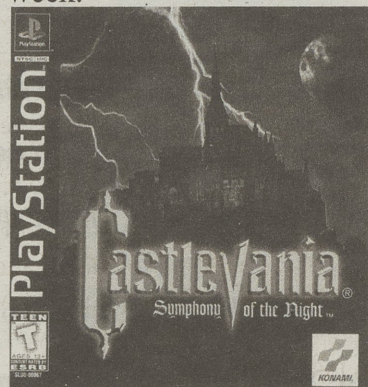
The menu's range from drinks and appetizers to delicious soups, hearty salads and full plated entrees. Executive chef, Dan Brodeur brings his award winning cuisine to the lively streets of Media, creating a menu that anyone could find pleasing.

While entrees can be pricy, Quizzo offers an excuse for students and young adults to splurge on good food and great drinks, while staying within budget. Brodeur's is a exciting spot to catch up with friends and enjoy a night out.

When the plates are empty and you find yourself staring at the bottom of your glass, the final round of Quizzo competition intensifies. Teams close to the lead know this is their last chance to make a move. Locals at the bar lean over to lend answers to competing teams.

As the teams forfeit their final answers to the judge, they anticipate the scores. One team will be victorious, winning a gift certificate to the restaurant, while others rival for second and third and leave with the hopes of a win next week.

A vigorous game filled with both excitement and frustration, Quizzo draws in crowds every Thursday at the local bar. Many think they know pop culture, but when the pressure is on and the questions are coming fast, the game becomes tougher than imagined. For more information visit www.brodeursonstatestreet.com



"Let's-Make-a-con"

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They can be seen almost anywhere. Some may call them "odd" or "bizarre". Others may say they are just expressing themselves in their own way. Whatever the opinion, one fact is clear: the Japanese animation fan-base is a growing genre in today's society.

Now, to many people, this cult genre and its fan-base may seem extraneous. A few years ago, these people would be right, but not any more. Today there are many conventions and events in cities around the United States that are based solely on anime and its following. One city in particular that has recently warmed up to the anime community and its happenings is Philadelphia.

Zenkaicon, Kosaikon, Tekkoshocoon, Otakon, and Tadokucon are just some of the anime conventions that take place in or around Philadelphia. The most recent one, Tandokucon, held in November, was a huge success. For a first year convention, the amount of guests, events and people was astonishing. In the years to come, Tandokucon and conventions alike have to nothing to do but grow in the city of Philadelphia. Let's just hope the city of brotherly love is ready for it.

Kickin' It Old School : Castlevania

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Side-scrollers have been in gaming for a very long time with games, ranging from plumbers like Mario rescuing princesses and girls in suits like Samus in Metroid exploring the galaxy. One series in particular became very popular and is still using the side-scrolling formula today. That series is Castlevania, and in particular, Symphony of the Night.

Symphony was a 2D action-adventure game released in 1997 for the Playstation One, and was published by Konami. It started out with Richter Belmont battling Dracula through the last moments of Rondo of Blood with whip in hand, but the game soon switched to Alucard who takes up the quest of entering the manifestation of Dracula's castle, "Castlevania." Taking place in 1797, Alucard ventures after his long sleep to investigate the castle and along the way meets Maria Renard who is searching for Richter.

The game plays very much like a Transylvanian Metroid, having the character explore a huge map battling monsters, collecting items and power-ups, and discovering hidden rooms. Unlike previous Castlevania games, Symphony of the Night has the protagonist Alucard wielding weapons like swords, knives, knuckles, etc., instead of the traditional whip. Also, the ability the pick up items and throw weapons like crosses, axes, and more are still present. In this game, Alucard can also transform into creatures like a bat, a wolf, and even a creeping mist. Symphony also reintroduces a concept within the Castlevania series, blending platforming with a mix of RPG. Alucard can level up and raise attributes, collect money and buy items, and summon familiars to aid him. The mix of RPG has remained in the series ever since Symphony. The music of the game, sometimes considered the best in the series, is the highest quality, blending metal, gothic, and techno.

Symphony of the Night has high critical acclaim and has a huge cult following. If you missed the Symphony train and you still itch for some monster slaying, start now. Symphony of the Night is now available on the Xbox Live Arcade and is featured in the PSP release of Castlevania: The Dracula X Chronicles. There is no escape from Dracula's lure, so step now into the castle of evil and pray there is no return.