

Movie theaters, music venues, mini-golf, and other ways to keep yourself amused

Fun

PLACE TO GET IN ON THE BEST FUN TREND IF YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE COMING INTO THE CITY

FACENDA-WHITAKER LANES
Not too fancy, not too dingy, with 50 lanes, a bar, idiot-proof scoring, and absolutely no pretensions (2912 Swede Road, East Norriton; 610-272-6547).

PLACE TO INDULGE YOUR INNER NERD

NATIONAL SCRABBLE ASSOCIATION CLUB #561 Every Wednesday at 6:15 p.m., word junkies from every walk of life hunker down over timed Scrabble games, placing words you never knew existed—like “qat,” “qintar” and “qoph,” three of the few words that contain Q but no U. See, we gave you a head start (Parent-Infant Center, 42nd and Locust streets; 215-878-7189).

POOL HALL

BUFFALO BILLIARDS
A reminder that pool halls need not be places you'd be embarrassed to take your mom (or to take some money off her hands in a game of nine-ball). And they have lots of tables, so you rarely wait (118 Chestnut Street; 215-574-7665).

PLACE TO SEE AN INDEPENDENT FILM

THE AMBLER THEATER
The 1920s-era Ambler has new seats and a redone lobby and concession area. It also offers a steady diet of independent and foreign films, screenings of classic Hollywood movies, and special matinees for kids on Saturday afternoons (108 East Butler Avenue, Ambler; 215-345-7855).

CHALLENGING MINI-GOLF

MARKIE'S MINI-GOLF AND CLAYGROUND With longer-than-normal holes, and greens you actually have to “read,” this is a mini-golf course even serious golfers can love. Plus, the accompanying make-your-own ceramics studio and café make this a great place for kids' parties (360 Schuylkill Road, Phoenixville; 610-935-5774).

SPOOKY MINI-GOLF

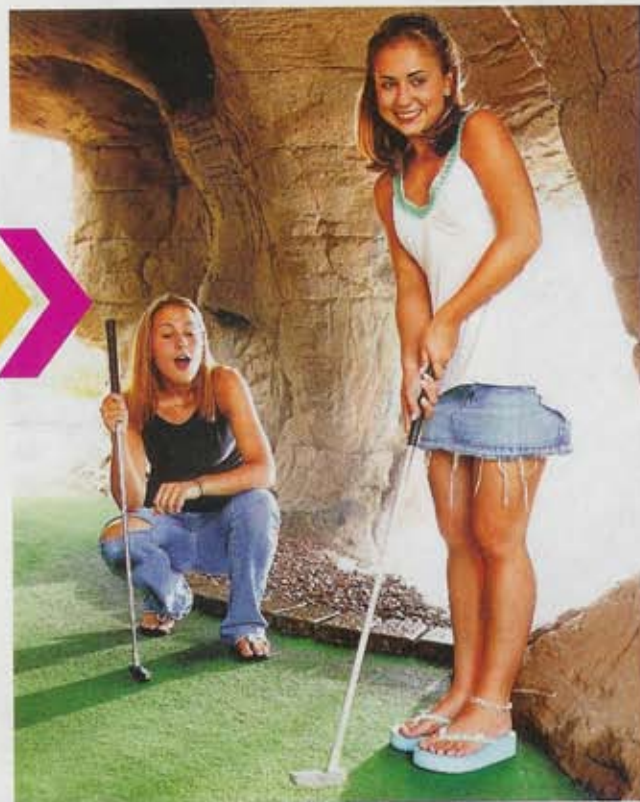
WOOD'S GOLF CENTER Leave the clowns and windmills to the amateurs. Woody's offers two mini-golf courses, one featuring dinosaurs, the other pirates, caves and, yes, fog. There's even a smoking dragon. We got a little scared (559 Germantown Pike, Norristown; 610-279-0678).

NEW MUSIC VENUE

WORLD CAFE LIVE The food can disappoint at this West Philly venture, but if you like live shows, there's no better place in town. You can actually see and hear everything, thanks to perfect sight lines and a crisp, primo sound system (3025 Walnut Street; 215-222-1400).

PLAYWRIGHT

BRUCE GRAHAM Graham has been part of the Philly theater scene for a couple of decades, but his most recent work, *The Philly Fan*, which debuted at last year's Fringe Festival, reminded us how sharp, touching and hilarious his best work can be. He's currently *(continued on page 193)*



BEST ADVICE HOW TO TELL A JOKE Shorten, shorten, shorten. Nobody likes waiting for a punch line, explains longtime stand-up comic **BIG DADDY GRAHAM**. And don't interrupt yourself every few words with the ever-annoying, “Oh, you've heard this already, haven't you?” Have confidence, and maintain eye contact. It's all about selling the joke, says Big Daddy.