

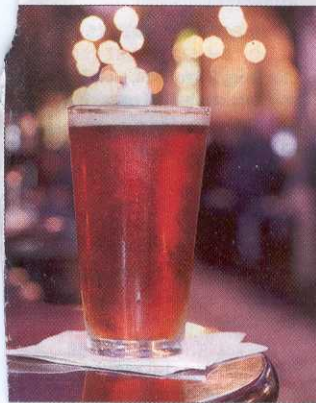
FAM  TRIP

HELLO, Columbus!

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OLUMBUS IS REALLY a series of small, friendly towns strung like pearls along the city's grand avenue, High Street. The pearl that the city is proudest of is right in the middle—a vibrant downtown where visitors can shop, dine, barhop or just catch the sports fever radiating from the populace, who fervently support their Blue-hawks of the National Hockey League at **Nationwide Arena**, and their beloved grid-iron heroes, the Ohio State Buckeyes, at **Ohio Stadium**.

Stay downtown in the **The Lofts** or the **Crowne Plaza**, and it's a pleasant stroll down North High Street to **The Elevator Brewery and Draught Haus**, where the electric blue-and-gilt glow of the Art Deco interior and a mug of 13th Floor Pale Ale are bound to lift your spirits. Also downtown is the **Ohio Judicial Center**, where outrageous Depression-era murals, mosaics and bas-relief sculptures mingle classically posed Greek and Roman gods with dour Indian chiefs and bare-backed, brawny industrial workers. Nearby is the 1928 Spanish Baroque **Ohio Theatre**, built on State Street as a movie palace for the common man, with a theater organ that would make the Phantom



13TH FLOOR PALE ALE
At The Elevator Brewery and Draught Haus

of the Opera jealous. For a little comic relief from all this high culture, duck into the **Thurber House**, where author and cartoonist James Thurber and his family lived. Their life and hard times have been frozen in time so visitors can sit back in Victorian-era chairs, bounce on beds or play "Bye Bye Blackbird" on a windup Victrola. Every bit as much fun is the city-owned **Topiary Garden**, a 3-D and million-leaved re-creation of pointillist Georges Seurat's lush painting of a Sunday afternoon in France. Can you say plants with hats? A tad more high-minded but also firmly rooted in the city's horticultural and agricultural roots is the multi-paned **Franklin Park Conservatory**. The 1895 Chicago Exposition-style glass palace houses 73,000 square feet of "biomes," from the rarest of orchids →



CREATIVE CUISINE
Dessert as art at The Refectory

"CHEESE MIKE"
Knows his Curds & Whey.



What you need to UNDERSTAND about Columbus, Ohio, is that it's a city that goes long for good football and good food.