

what's cooking

Hail to the beet

Now it's beets' turn to get a presidential diss. "I always avoid eating them," Barack Obama reportedly has said. Yet one recipe search engine has grasped the potential for publicity here — turning beets into borscht, so to speak. FoodieView announces that its collection of beet recipes is the Internet's largest, clocking in at 20,250 recipes. (Epicurious? A paltry 259.) The question is: *Are* there really more than 20,000 recipes for beets? We got as far as No. 1,000: roasted beet and thyme risotto & halibut confit with lemons and capers from the blog, Mediterranean Cooking in Alaska. So there you go. Check out the rest at www.foodieview.com. Yes, you can!

Do right by leftovers

The Food Marketing Institute's trends reports says that 71 percent of consumers surveyed are cooking more at home and that 58 percent are eating more leftovers. That's led to a growing concern about food safety and a "Be Food Safe" campaign by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which advises: Keep your hands and food prep area clean. Eat, freeze or discarding refrigerated leftover food within three to four days. Leftovers should be reheated to an internal temperature of at least 165 degrees. (Use a food thermometer.) Sauces, soups,

and gravies should be brought to a boil. You can download a flier with more info about leftovers at www.befoodsafe.org/consumer_brochure.

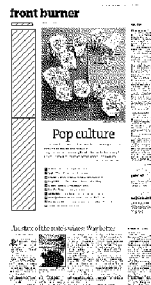
Lauded books

A quick shout-out to local authors Rae Katherine Eighmey and Debbie Miller, whose cookbook "**Potluck Paradise**" (Minnesota Historical Society Press) was nominated for a Minnesota Book Awards in the category of general nonfiction — and don't we hate those cookbooks that prove to be fiction? Also nominated in that category: Catherine Friend's "**The Compassionate Carnivore**" (Da Capo Press), in which the farmer based in Zumbrota, Minn., explores the sometimes bewildering choices confronting meat-eaters today. The Minnesota Book Awards gala is April 25.

For future reference

Valentine's Day is in the rear-view mirror, but here's some info applicable to the whole year. Bon Appetit magazine asked readers what food they would give up sex for, which hardly requires a drum roll. Chocolate, duh. More interesting was this question: What's your "seal the deal" meal? The overwhelming favorite response was filet mignon with garlic mashed potatoes. Coming in second? "Anything my partner cooks for me, even if it's horrible." Clip and save, clip and save.

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Printing imperfections present during scanning