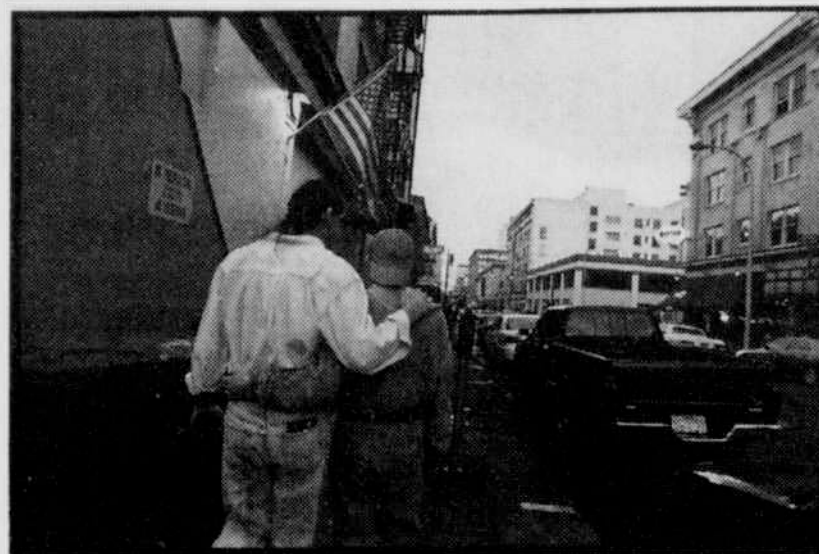


Looking for Mr. Goodbar

Continued from page 17

But how many people know the Odyssey closed? How many people knew it was there in the first place? If more people knew, it probably wouldn't have gone out of business.

How many people know that Darcelle XV has male strippers every Friday and Saturday night? They're not advertised, Darcelle says, because they're all the advertisement they need.



Stark Street strollers

Did anyone hear the rumor that Tim's Hideaway Pub went straight?

And what about the Maul? Not long ago it appeared that Portland finally had a gril rock venue, but now the phone number is disconnected and there aren't any events in the Just

Out calendar.

Come to think of it, I haven't heard a peep about Rexall Rose Cafe and Theater. They used to have bands, locally made short films...now what?

There was another place too that I remember. I stepped in from the rain while at Saturday Market and didn't even notice at first that it was a gay bar. It looked more like a cheap seafood joint, with plastic crabs attached to dusty nets and seagulls perched on driftwood. Slowly it dawned on me that there were no women in that place, and then I saw a picture of a half naked sailor and a splash of rainbow. I went there a few more times until one day it wasn't there any more. And I don't even remember it's name.

But one mustn't get misty-eyed over every failed business venture no more than one should sit at home alone because it's too hard to decide where to go. All it takes is a little research and a sense of adventure to find a good time (bathroom graffiti notwithstanding).

Seeking out new experiences is good for the soul, and it's good for the community too. It is incumbent upon every member of the sexual minority community to use his or her dollars to ensure the stability of friendly establishments. In the process, the savvy consumer can have a hand in shaping the social scene.

In the same way that heterosexuals are occasionally accused of taking over a bar, or owners



Krystl Lynn, Princess XXVIII, sets the house on fire at Embers Avenue

are accused of defecting in their favor, queers could descend en masse and seize some choice real estate too. (How about annexing Ringler's Annex? From what I hear, a beachhead has already been established.)

Even easier than taking over someplace new is changing the character of what's already there. The business world is often portrayed as cold and hostile, but bar owners are a lot closer to their patrons than, say, the CEO of Wells Fargo, so they're much more likely to go with

the flow.

For example, if a special event attracts a lot of interest, it could become a regular gig. If no one shows up for Tuesday night clog dancing, it won't last long. And don't underestimate the market force of gentle but persistent requests and/or complaints.

I could go on and on, railing against cover charges, but I wouldn't want to bore anyone.

Continued on page 21

The Guide Bar

Boxxes/Brig (1035 SW Stark St.)
Panorama (341 SW 10th Ave.)

Ambience: The "complex" is a dark, self-contained, maze like universe.

Cientele: Heavily mixed.
Best and worst: Like Disneyland, you can change themes if you get bored; the largest area, Panorama, has been largely abandoned to breeders. Its geographic compass points, think of the entrance to Panorama as straight east, while the entrance to Boxxes is queer west.

Special nights: Tuesday nights in Portland belong to Misha Rockefeller's Make-a-Date at Boxxes. If you're single, it's not to be missed.

C.C. Slaughter's (1000 SE 12th St.)

Ambience: Virtual (the restaurant is slated to open this month, with the bar following in May—until then, a sneak peek may be had on the Internet at www.eaglepdx.com).

Cientele: A little bit country, a little bit rock-and-

roll (assuming it's former customers come back).

Best and worst: New, exciting, renovated; not open yet.

Special nights: The grand opening should be fun.

Chocolate City (2845 SE Stark St., Saturdays.)

Ambience: Billed as an event for women with flava, with R&B, hip hop and other danceable music by KBOO-FM's DJ Amanda.

Cientele: Mostly over 25, all flavors welcome, about 75 percent women.

Best and worst: Just about the only purveyor of this kind of music; doesn't begin till later and starts off slow.

Special nights: Saturdays at Kokopeli's is where it's at.

Darcelle XV (208 NW Third Ave.)

Ambience: Classy cabaret—glitz glamour and comedy. Not a hangout, the shows take center stage.

Cientele: Mixed—everyone who's anyone. Strippers attract a lot of hetero females.

Best and worst: Top quality female illusionists, limo service is free with dinner for six or more; great

for an occasion, but not an everyday kind of place.

Special nights: Every Wednesday is smoke-free.

Dirty Duck Tavern (439 NW Third Ave.)

Ambience: Snug and cozy, a good place to hibernate; not a stand-and-stare scene.

Cientele: Home of the Oregon Bears.

Best and worst: Bears are a lot nicer in person than they look in National Geographic with a large fish in their mouth; then again, bears are territorial.

Special nights: Sunday afternoon beer busts with the Bears.

Embers Avenue (110 NW Broadway.)

Ambience: Drag on one side, dance club on the other.

Cientele: A couple of tables might be taken over by a straight posse, but they generally behave themselves.

Best and worst: On a weekend, despite any prior slumps, the joint is jumping; when it's particularly crowded, retrieving a coat or umbrella from the coat-check at closing time can seem to take ages.

Special nights: Break out the chaps for Embers' Country Nights on Tuesdays and Sundays.

Eagle PDX (1300 W Burnside St.)

Ambience: Dark and moody, eclectic mix of music that isn't likely to play anywhere else.

Cientele: Not as much leather as one might expect, quite diverse really. (There's even a preppy contingent, but who knows what piercings and harnesses may be hidden beneath those neatly pressed button-down shirts?)

Best and worst: Less fashion conscious and mellower than the rest of Southwest Stark Street, usually no cover; porn movies on five screens can be overwhelming and, though surely frowned upon by the establishment, it's not impossible to witness live sex acts.

Special nights: Red Hankie Social on first and third Friday of the month, dyke night on the first Tuesday.

Egyptian Club (3701 SE Division St.)

Ambience: Pool tables and juke box up front, dancing in the rear.

Cientele: Mostly women, but respectful gents are welcome.

Best and worst: Free parking and lots of it; some patrons seem to forget that pool is just a game.

Special nights: Nude revue on Tuesdays, nine-ball tournament on Wednesdays.

Extasis (2845 SE Stark St., upstairs.)

Ambience: The forbidden dance (salsa) and the forgotten decade (the 70s).

Cientele: Mixed, with a strong Latino/a presence.

Best and worst: The plastic tablecloths and streamers can help you relive the prom you never went to; limited drink selection is a downer.

Special nights: Disco Sundays, salsa on Friday and Saturday.

Fox and Hounds (217 NW Second Ave.)

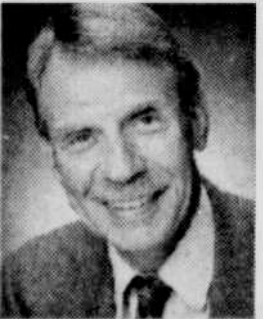
Ambience: Chummy, everybody knows your name.

Cientele: Loyal, mostly 30s and up; varied lunch crowd.

Best and worst: More on the menu than fried cholesterol balls; choosing a song for karaoke in the heat of the moment can come back to haunt you.

Special nights: Karaoke on Fridays and Saturdays, first Sunday bingo to raise money for Esther's Pantry.

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