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NORTHWEST news

GETTIN' BUSY

Pondering a career in the ol' eatery biz? Looking for a good place to grab a cup of joe? Then we've got a few juicy tidbits for you

No longer is there a Hamburger Mary's in Portland.

There is a restaurant remaining in operation at the most recent location, but the name has reverted to that of the Frontline. The Southwest 12th Avenue location no longer carries the Hamburger Mary's name and identity.

Apparently too many moves and management changes contributed to the demise of the once widely popular, "mysteriously gay" restaurant that, during the 1970s and '80s, had such a vibrant presence downtown.

While both the Portland and Seattle restaurants are gone, there still is a chance that the familiar name and menu will return to this neck of the woods.

The Hamburger Mary's franchise in Portland is available for purchase, as a new franchise, at a new location.

In a recent press release from company headquarters, Hamburger Mary's noted that an estimated 50 percent of its clientele are gay men and lesbians.

Of the five restaurants currently in operation, four are gay-owned. Surprisingly enough, the one franchise that is not gay-owned is located in San Francisco, though it has gay management and the restaurant is widely accepted and enjoyed by the gay and lesbian community.

If you've got some money in your pocket and have been thinking of operating your own restaurant, here's your chance. For more info on how to bring Hamburger Mary's back to Portland, head to www.franchisemarys.com.

If you have in mind a slightly lower-key approach to a career in restaurant management, another opportunity is available to you: 3 Friends Coffeehouse, the very popular Southeast Portland gay and lesbian hangout, is looking for a managing partner—someone who likes people, likes to work hard and would get gratification from knowing his or her efforts are working to preserve a successful future for the popular meeting place.

Interested parties should contact Dean Sidwell at (503) 788-9440.

Meanwhile, the Northeast Portland lesbian-owned Touchstone Coffee House continues to thrive under the ownership of entrepreneur Becky Bilyeu.

New and old friends are invited to Touchstone on May 3 to celebrate the coffeehouse's first anniversary. The celebration will include a good old-fashioned lesbian potluck starting at 7 p.m.

Housed inside a decidedly SoCal pink-stucco building with cozy nooks to curl up in, Touchstone also features a spacious garden with tables to enjoy our special moments of warmer outdoor weather. New murals have been added to brighten the walls and the place continues to evolve as a fine venue to hear music and meet up with people.

Bring a dish to share—and musicians are welcome to bring guitars and their songs! As a testimony to her success and continued dedication to hard work, Bilyeu has decided to extend Touchstone's hours beginning May 1 and will stay open most nights until 9 or 10 p.m.

Bilyeu encourages all individuals, groups and organizations to schedule meetings, join friends, or plan a game night at Touchstone, which is



Two friends outside 3 Friends Coffeehouse

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