

WINE AND DINE

Pirates, PABA, pinball and Poison contribute to positive queer business energy

Crush, the wine bar at 1412 S.E. Morrison St., was featured prominently in a recent issue of the *Oregonian*.

In an uncharacteristic acknowledgment of the queer community, the A & E actually managed to use—in a positive manner, mind you—the following assortment of words seldom seen in Portland's daily paper: men in drag, gay, queer-savvy, drag queens, lesbian and gay-friendly. The reviewer also made reference to "Bauhaus minimalism";

we think maybe that means the decor is a tad sparse, but it could be a reference to one of the tofu dishes or perhaps a lack of supplies in the restroom.

According to the *Oregonian*—and are they ever wrong? (remember who they endorsed for president)—people should go to Crush for the "outstanding vegetarian fare, good wine values and entertaining camp factor." *Just Out* feels compelled to add that owners Woody Clarke and Mitch Calhoun are really-cool guys, and so are all of the other people who hang out there.

In fact, this is such a cool place, *Just Out* is holding a Singles Party on Feb. 18 at Crush. All singles are invited to come join us and check out the place, and each other, as we celebrate Presidents Day in the most festive of fashions.

Remember fifth-grade civics class when you learned about stuff like the right of imminent domain? No?

Well, No Fish! Go Fish! owners Shawn Brown and John Doyle have learned more about this aspect of civil legislation than they ever hoped to

know. Last year this column announced the opening of their new storefront restaurant on Northeast Killingsworth Street, a location selected for its proximity to Portland Community College's Cascade Campus, an excellent source of customers for their tasty, healthy and affordable dishes.

Well, danged if the institution didn't get a hankering to grow larger and take over the neighborhood and, oops, goodbye No Fish! Go Fish! Many, many dollars and meetings and lawyers later, Shawn and John are ready to open again in their newest new location safely far away from any community college.

Effective Feb. 6 you can get your favorite healthy fare at 3962 S.E. Hawthorne, Suite A. An application for a beer and wine license is under way, so you soon will be able to enjoy an "adult beverage" with your yummy cream of carrot soup.

With longer hours of operation at the new location and a growing fleet of downtown-based food carts, Shawn and John are looking forward to staying in one place for a good, long time. For a daily posting of their soups and specials visit www.nofishgofish.com.

No Fish! Go Fish! shares quarters on Hawthorne with Wild

Life, a retail store featuring hip home decor and gift items. Owned by business and life partners Steve Pickering and Larry Whitacre, it offers



We've got a Crush on Woody Clarke

PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

status as a pinball wizard, I donated a couple of bucks to South Park and was rewarded with some extremely rude behavior on the part of smart-ass cartoon characters. I intend to go back soon and kill Kenny.

I didn't get a chance to check out the Tetris Megatouch because a certain restaurant owner has acquired an addiction and wouldn't budge from the machine. Apparently, it's a rather compelling game.

Salim has great vision for the space, and the future includes disc jockeys, karaoke, guest bartenders and movie nights. With the eventual arrival of spring and the opening of the patio along with the restaurant and the lounge, the Chez What? corner definitely is going to be the place for fun, food and friends. Salim is quick to add her business is open to all and especially should be considered a safe and welcoming space for women, dykes and trans people.



Keri Salim hoists a "bottle o' cheer" at her pirate-themed establishment

PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

Rose Empress XLIV Poison Waters will be the featured speaker during the next Portland Area Business Association luncheon Feb. 11. Aside from her high-profile role as an entertainer, she is also a skilled fund-raiser and speaker with an impossible-to-match energy level.

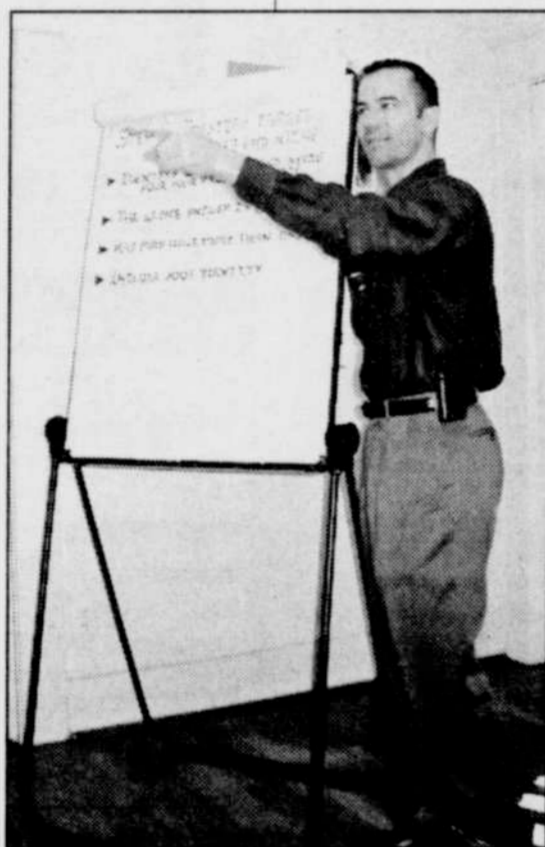
something for all tastes and, better yet, all budgets. Look for a profile in the next column.

Up at 2203 N.E. Alberta St., Keri Salim has busted through the walls of her funky diner Chez What? and tacked on the Whatever? Lounge. This is a cool albeit small space. When a lounge or restaurant is described as "intimate," this is what they are referring to.

The decor is everything you'd expect in a pirate-themed lounge, and the nonpotable specialties of the house are the Elvira and South Park pinball machines. Displaying my amateur

In an effort to provide a broader level of services, PABA recently reintroduced "The Morning Connection," a monthly early gathering featuring a guided discussion on a topic relevant to member businesses. The January program was led by Mitch Cockrum, Certified Guerrilla Marketing Coach, whose topic was "7 Steps to a Great Marketing Plan." For details on this month's gathering visit www.paba.com.

Business news with a queer bent should be reported to MARTY DAVIS at marty@justout.com.



Mitch Cockrum teaches Guerrilla Marketing to Portland businesspeople

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