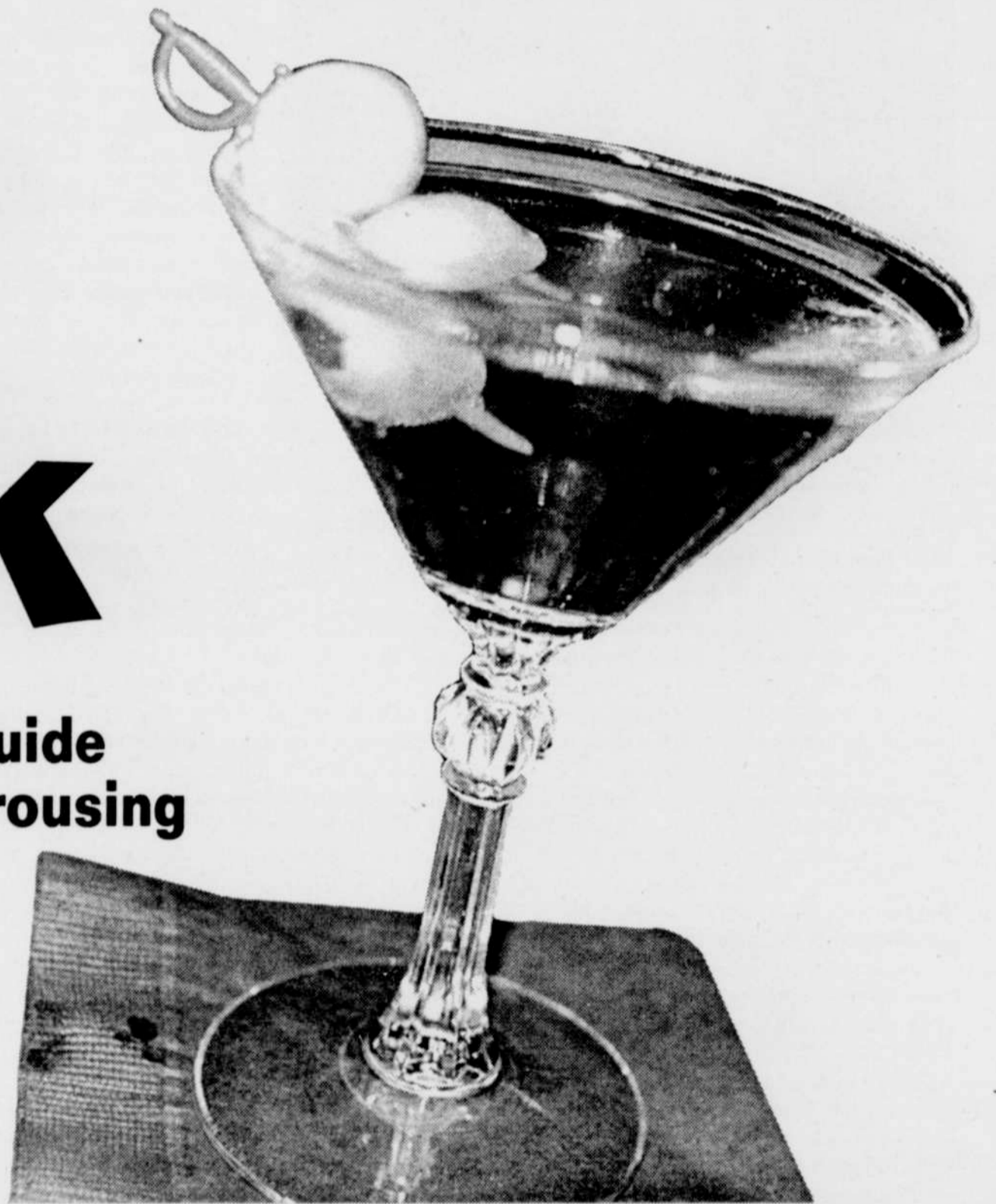




# Get your drink on

**A bitchin' guide to queer carousing**

by Michael Wayne Keck



**F**ace it, we all love to judge. It's why people turn out by the millions to vote for *American Idol* contestants (you know you do) but can't make the time to vote for a president (Al who?).

Gay, straight, it doesn't matter, we all enjoy critiquing, criticizing and giving our opinion. I guess it makes us feel important...to be heard, as if we have something profound to say.

Well, I don't have anything profound to say, but I'm the lucky little boy-bitch who got paid to review every gay bar in town. Woo-hoo!

The task was large: I was representing the gay fellas and told to check out all 17 gay bars in town. (Who knew there were so many?)

Some of them shocked me, others bored me a bit, but most were a jolly good time.

**Boxxes**, 1035 S.W. Stark St. Open seven days a week. Happy hour all day Friday and Saturday.

This seems to be a favorite for folks, especially Thursdays. We cram in there like a bunch of flamer sardines and wait 20 minutes in line for a drink. It's so worth it, especially if you order two at a time. The atmosphere is cruisy but, hey, it is a gay bar. The boys are cute, the bartenders are nice, the music is decent—and did I mention the drinks, like my ex, come cheap and stiff? Note to management: Open up the dance floor again—I promise not to do the truffle shuffle!

**C.C. Slaughters**, 219 N.W. Davis St. Open seven days a week. Happy hour 4 to

7 p.m. every day.

I love this bar! Great dance floor, kickin' music, cheap drinks and a pool table. It isn't as much of a meat market as the bars on Stark Street and actually has a less pretentious feel. I know it's off the beaten path, but I think more fags should hang here. They have bear nights and Latino nights, so pick yours appropriately. This place is shits-and-giggles, baby.

**Crush**, 1412 S.E. Morrison St. Open Tuesday to Sunday. Happy hour 5 to 7 p.m. every day.

I'd never been into this little gem of a bar before, but I'm glad I went. It doesn't look like much on the outside, but it's a trendy, funky, dare I say swanky bar—in

Southeast Portland of all places. It also has a really homey feel to it with a cool group of folks and friendly staff (attractive, too...Tim). They're known for their martinis and have good food, so this is a perfect "first date" bar.

**Darcelle XV**, 208 N.W. Third Ave. Open Wednesday to Saturday.

More a Vegas showroom than a bar, Darcelle's just may be the eighth wonder of the world. At 72, the establishment's namesake still struts her stuff for six shows a week,



Mr. Gay Oregon 29 Mark Hollywood (left) and Miss Gay Oregon 27 Jerrica Stephens-Hunter shoot it out at C.C. Slaughters

PHOTOS BY MARTY DANIS