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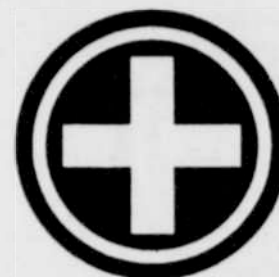
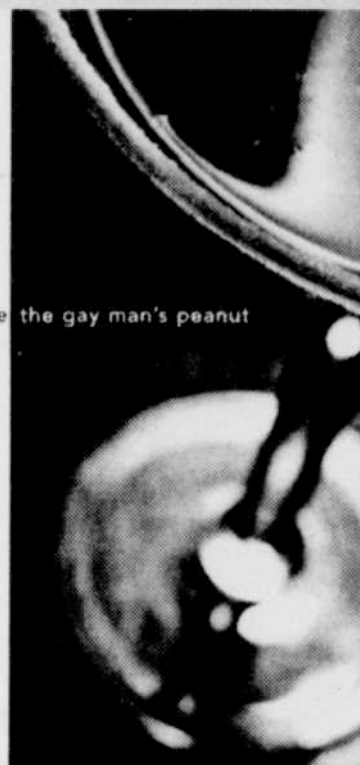
# eatingout



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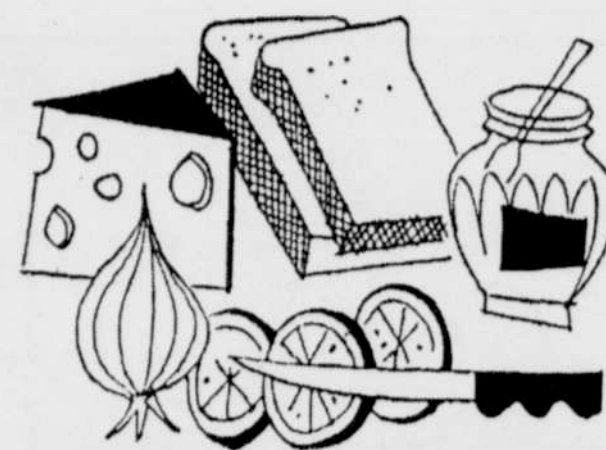
edamame the gay man's peanut



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## epiqueerean

BY CATHERINE SAMEH



### Go fish

Most fads are irritating, but when it comes to food, I can cut some slack. What's so bad, for instance, about sushi bars springing up like wildflowers? Well, nothing—but not all of them are created equal. There's nothing worse than bad sushi—a combination of raw and bad really isn't easy on the stomach—and nothing better than really good, fresh sushi.

#### Mio Sushi • 2271 N.W. Johnson St.

It's no secret that Mio Sushi has long been Portland's reigning sushi palace. In its very nonpalatial abode in otherwise fancy Northwest, Mio has been turning out excellent fishy delights long before it became the rage. Mio is still top dog, and its success—a second spot on Southeast Hawthorne Boulevard opened a couple of years ago—hasn't diminished its quality. With raw fish, fresh matters, and Mio always stocks the freshest cuts. I can't resist the albacore, yellowtail or the freshwater eel. The edamame never disappoints—moist, not soggy, with the perfect amount of sea salt—and the miso soup is full of tofu and seaweed. Not to be missed is the Sonny's Special: half-baked salmon topped with spicy tuna and a special sauce. The special sauce is so good, I dream about it. It also comes on the Baked Green Mussels. Don't miss them, either.

#### Yuki • 1337 N.E. Broadway

Relatively new on the sushi scene, Yuki offers consistently fresh and delicious cuisine. There's the great standbys—hamachi, unagi—and always a couple of fresh specials of the week. If you go in for rolls, Yuki is your spot. Their selection is extensive and unique—among the best are the deep-fried specials. I know, deep-fried seems blasphemous when we're talking about sushi, but Yuki's are delightfully light and crunchy. Try the Crunchy Spicy #1 or #2—one has squid and the other tuna, and each comes with a special sauce that melts in your mouth. The Salmon Dynamite is another favorite. The Baked Green Mussels run a close second to Mio Sushi's, but be prepared for very hot sauce. You'll want some smooth sake to wash them down, and Yuki has a great selection. Just about everything Yuki does, it does well. Just about. Steer clear of the tempura banana—it's just not cooked enough. But do try the mochi—Japanese ice cream balls encased in a chewy, sweet, doughlike coating.

Other recommendations to fill your sushi craving: Bush Garden, Todai, Koji Osakaya, Misohappy.

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