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NORTHWEST news

THE SLAUGHTER HOUSE

New owners take the reins at Old Town nightspot

Hey, it's official! Portland has a new gay-owned gay bar. Well, OK, the bar isn't exactly new, but the owners definitely are. Final approval from the Oregon Liquor Control Commission came through Aug. 13, allowing partners Bruce Rice and John Houston to finalize the purchase of C.C. Slaughters.

THE QUEER PROFIT

by
Marty Davis

Partners for six years and Portland residents for longer, Rice and Houston bring combined skills and experience in the mental health and mortgage fields to their new careers. Houston will be keeping his day job, but you can expect to see a whole lot of Rice as he savors his new experiences managing his restaurant and nightspot.

C.C. Slaughters has been a destination bar for gay guys for more than 20 years, first on Stark Street and for the past several years in Old Town. Established, comfortable and accepted, the new owners plan no drastic changes in the look, feel and style of the bar.

"Everything stays basically the same," Rice says. "As we improve and build, it will be on the existing platform."

Slaughters is best known for its variety of nightly themes and its efforts to appeal to all and make everyone feel at home. Theme nights will still include Latino Night, Boot-Scootin' with Crystal and Saturday night crowd favorite High Energy with DJ Harmonix.

Jen Wilson will be staying on as general manager and reigning goddess of Slaughters, but she's not the only familiar face you can count on still seeing. She says, "The entire staff at Slaughters supports the new ownership 100 percent."

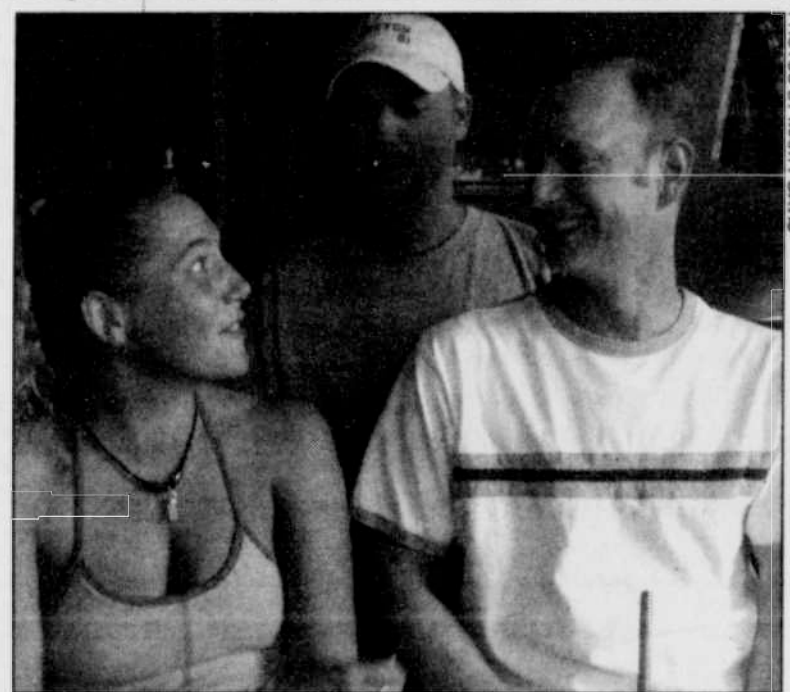
Aug. 16 will be a great time for you to meet and congratulate the new owners. Stop by the club and celebrate at the second annual Block Party.

The ownership change at Slaughters does not affect the Eagle PDX, which remains under the management of John Adams Jr. Incidental-

ly, the Eagle recently was awarded the "Business of the Year" title from Blackout Leather Productions.

Across town, partners Lara Miller and Kristy Rastle also made the decision to live and work together as small-business owners. In March they took over at Blend, a cozy and comfy coffee spot on inner East Burnside Street. Best known as the former Burnside Bean, the cafe is showing the polish and shine of now being an owner-operated business.

Miller had lost her job as corporate sales manager with the WNBA when her employer, the Portland Fire, ceased to exist. Rastle, well known as a popular DJ at the Egyptian Club, was employed but bothered by injuries. Out of adversity came the decision to strike out on



From left, Jen Wilson, John Houston and Bruce Rice promise no drastic changes in the look, feel and style of C.C. Slaughters

their own. And so far it's working out very well.

Many improvements in food and beverage quality as well as quicker and more efficient service are evident to Blend customers. A popular enhancement has been the addition of wireless Internet. Customers can savor their favorite beverage or treat while browsing the Internet—and there's no charge for this service. If you're not into carrying your computer around, Blend offers just about every free paper available so you can catch up on your reading while enjoying a vegan pastry. (You don't have to like vegan food, though; the cafe sells "real" goodies, too.)

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