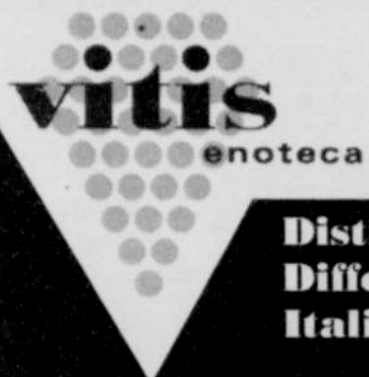


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**Distinctively Different Italian**

The Vitis Enoteca **After Hours Party** for Women has been rescheduled to Saturday, January 22nd, 10pm – 2am, hosted by Diva organizer Katharine Sprecher.

Come revel with Specialty cocktails, Italian tapas, great wines, and dazzling company.

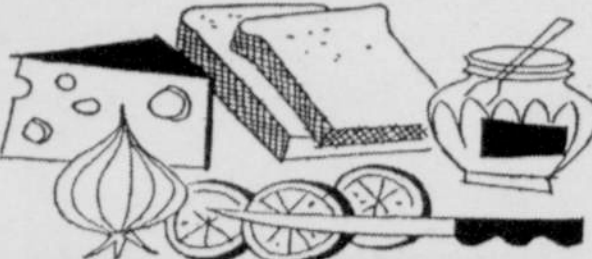
Lunch Tuesday thru Friday, 11am – 2pm • Dinner Tuesday thru Thursday, 5pm – 9pm  
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**epiQueerean**  
BY JIM RADOSTA

**Mushroom cloud nine**

Did you know Dubya abandoned the search for those pesky WMDs shortly before Christmas? Neither did I. *The Washington Post* reported Jan. 12 that hunting season has ended, but the news received little fanfare. Well, thank goodness we no longer have to worry about waiting for “the final proof—the smoking gun—that could come in the form of a mushroom cloud.”

Mmm...mushrooms.

Hey, let's celebrate Iraq's lack of biological and chemical weapons by taking a shroom trip! Not that kind, silly. Here's a handy travel guide to three restaurants that serve the best fungus among us.


**Old Wives' Tales • 1300 E. Burnside St.**

This hippie haven—located within thumping distance of Portland Foursquare Church—is renowned for its bountiful salad bar and family-friendly atmosphere, but the regulars know that it's all about the Hungarian mushroom soup. A mere \$5.35 will cover your ticket to paradise: a thick bowl of mushrooms, onions, tamari, dill, paprika, wheat flour, milk, butter and sour cream—LOTS of sour cream. You can beef up your meal with a side order of chicken or salmon for a few dollars more. Now we just need to do something about the establishment's politically incorrect name—perhaps they should consider Senior Spouses' Stories?

**Vault Martini Bar • 226 N.W. 12th Ave.**

Come for the happy hour, but stay for the magical mushrooms. From 4 to 7 p.m. weekdays (and all day Sundays), brilliant bartenders mix martinis for only \$4 a pop. (Take a chance on the habañero- and pineapple-infused vodka with fresh lemons and lime syrups—equal parts sweet and spicy, just like my server.) After you've greased your throat, The Cascade pizza will slide down smoothly. Slabs of wild mushrooms, creamy goat cheese and fresh thyme on a thin crust—divine. To enhance your buzz, try the crostini with warm mushroom ragout. Adding to the sensory-pleasing aura is the swanky scene—assuming you can tolerate the slick salesman peddling VOSS Artesian Water at a neighboring table. Grr.

**Veritable Quandary • 1220 S.W. First Ave.**

Located downtown at the foot of the Hawthorne Bridge, this eatery stays open late, but its forte is weekend brunch—particularly because diners can make reservations and, when the weather cooperates, eat outdoors on a killer brick patio. But your VQ experience will not be complete until you order Portland's best breakfast dish: the ricotta-and spinach-filled cornmeal crepes, a mouth-watering delight stuffed with wild mushrooms and cream. If you're looking for a salty-and-sweet cornmeal combo, bring a buddy and try the Johnny Cakes with honey butter and fresh local pears and apples. 

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