

Alternate Universe

Booty Pageant winner has balls

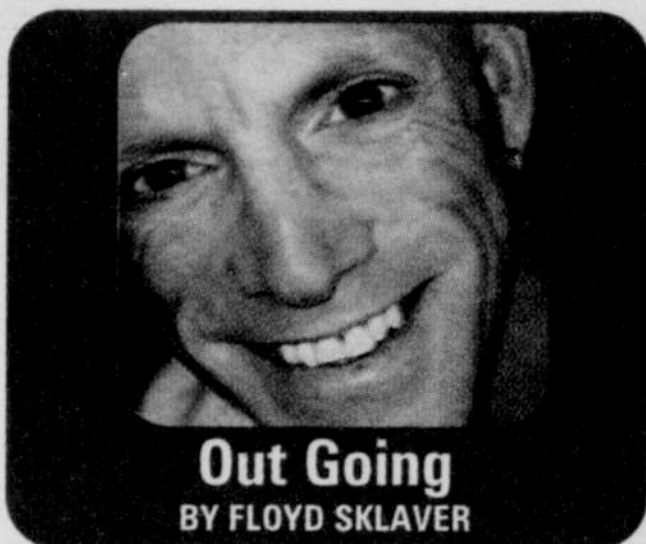
There are lots of alternatives for queers in P-Town, but one scene I've never encountered myself is, well, the alternative. So, nothing I've done prepared me for the second annual Booty Pageant, a combination of performance art and anything-goes hedonism held at Porky's Pub on North Lombard Street.

After some fantastic dance music (note to Red Dress Party organizers: Check the April availability of Booty founders **DJ Puppet** and **DJ Stormy**), four contestants competed in swim wear and evening wear categories. It was the talent competition, though, that really got this reporter's attention.

First up was **Josh Senner**, a self-described "pain-based performance artist," who created an abstract work using body paint and his own booty. Next was drag king **Max Voltage**, who portrayed "Mrs. Connor," a soccer mom juggling plastic baby dolls to a soundtrack of wailing babies.

But, in a moment I'll never forget (try as I may), pageant winner **Phillip Rogers** came onstage dressed in a granny nightgown, squatted and proceeded to pass three bouncy rubber balls out of his ass. A fourth ball refused to make an appearance (stage fright perhaps?) despite his best efforts to fish it out.

Among those in the crowd watching Phillip's astounding performance were *Willamette Week* columnist **Byron Beck**, **Charlie Vazquez** (aka Spittles the Clown), **John Doyle** (who informed me that his popular restaurant, No Fish Go Fish, plays host to Nude Nativity on Dec. 23 and Naked New Year's on Dec. 30)



The place to be seen, of course, is Salon Q-2, an offshoot of the fabulously successful monthly event where the well-heeled (and well-shod) sip and schmooze. Trying an alternative Tuesday at an alternative venue (Northwest's Apotheke) were **Philip Knowlton**, **Jason Scott**, newly transplanted **Chris Hennessy** (who plans bachelorette parties for a living) and, of course, Scott Osburne.

Speaking of well-heeled, **Bob Speltz** opened his beautifully appointed Northwest apartment to raise money for Q Center. **Gillian Leichtling** and my new best friend **Gregg Stobbs** were there, as was **Grant Fuji**. As you may know, Q Center looks to provide an alternative space for queers to gather.

And while I wouldn't call the crowd at lesbian comedian **Suzanne Westenhoefer's** performance alternative, it certainly felt like an alternative reality

because I was one of only seven men at the Aladdin—and one was straight.

As the first openly gay comic ever to appear on Letterman, Westenhoefer is a legend among lesbians. Laughing along with me in the audience were **Kathy "Dipstick" Belge**, **Tay Juncker** and "the two Gails," **Gail Croskey** and **Gail Murphy**. **Zach Wegner** was also there with **Vince Mafnas**, who, commenting on the lack of testosterone in the hall, said, "I felt like a VIP in



Booty draws alternative queers to Porky's Pub every Thursday.

and newly out **Jennifer Schuch**. (Note to my Sapphic friends: attractive, smart and articulate—pack the U-Haul.)

With **Jen Holland** as the third co-founder, Booty attracts the young and alternative to Porky's each Thursday. The crowd is as friendly and welcoming as they are tattooed and pierced.

My forays into the alternative also took me to Mississippi Studios, where I discovered **Rory Stitt**, the pixie-like pianist whose music and lyrics captivated the full house. When Rory begins to sing, his uses his whole body, and his elfin demeanor transforms into a soulful artist lamenting love, life and loss. Witnessing the metamorphosis with me were **Brent Searls**, **Gregg Moreland**, **Jim Mangan** and **Scott Osburne**, who must have stolen my datebook because, lately, I see him everywhere.

the men's room because there was no wait."

Speaking of VIPs, Portland's premier chanteuse, **Susannah Mars**, performed the latest iteration of her *Mars on Life* cabaret recently at Wilf's. Accompanied by the superb **Bill Wells**, Mars shines when her comedic timing merges with her delightfully loony personality. **Ryan Gilson** led the applause along with **Paul Scardino**, whose nationally recognized business, Paolo Designs, celebrates 10 years in the Pearl.

During intermission, at a table full of gay chorines, **Brian Rinehart** reminded me that the Portland Gay Men's Chorus performs Dec. 17 and 18 at Kaul Auditorium. Saturday night is almost sold out, so be sure to get tickets if you want to be Out Going. 10

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