

# Food Glorious Food

## Gastronomic gays

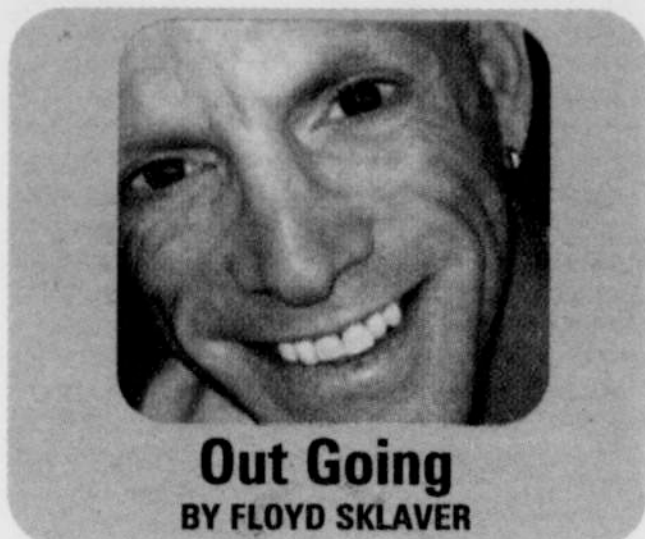
I love to eat. At parties I often circle the buffet table like a hungry buzzard. I guess I'm one of those people who gets nervous in public and has to put something in my mouth.

But the truth is that I've also met the most interesting people in the kitchen, and the recent second anniversary celebration of the Soy Boys was no exception.

Upon transplanting from Columbus, Ohio, founders **Tony Jenkins** and **Gary Hackney**, both vegetarians, began looking for new friends and dinner companions. They decided to form a monthly dining club and put a notice in *Just Out*. Proving that it pays to advertise in Portland's pre-eminent queer paper, they've accumulated a mailing list of more than 60 names with 20 to 30 attending each monthly potluck.

Now as any carnivore who's ever had vegetarians to dinner knows, vegetables are intimidating. There's all that washing and chopping that needs to be done, then once everything cooks (because vegetables aren't filling enough for just one course), it all comes out tasting like boiled cabbage anyway.

But at this feast, earthly delights abounded and astounded. I saw **David Langton** eyeing the squash lasagna with his stylish glasses while **Casey MacDonald** chowed down on chipotle. To top it all off, **Bob Wildin** and **John DePaula** brought a sweet potato pie so authentic, it made me yearn for a mint julep and the shade of a spreading magnolia tree. Fiction writer **Carl Wilson** was also there with



**Out Going**  
BY FLOYD SKLAVER

boyfriend **Evan Boone**, who's the president of the Adventure Group. Carl whispered to me that he's still a meat eater, and judging from the size of Evan's basket, who can blame him.

While we're on the subject of meat, what better way to reintroduce animal products into my system than by immediately heading to Swine at Porky's on North Lombard Street? The brainchild of **DJ Puppet**, Swine takes place every Saturday night with a different musical guest. The evening I attended, folksinger **Nicole Sangsoree** performed songs from her new album, *Stupid Love Songs That Don't Matter Compared to Voting*.

I hung out with Portland City Commissioner **Sam Adams**, who recently dropped 25 pounds by following an innovative regimen of eating less and exercising more. The beautiful **Becca Sullivan** was

also there, as were **Charlie Hodge** and **Paul Dirksen**, both of whom looked good enough to eat.

While we're on the topic of eating, Marc and I recently threw a dinner party and invited other couples who are all as passionate about theater as we are. But while I love to eat, I hate to cook, so I treated myself by hiring personal chef **Carrie Peacock** ([www.chefpeacock.com](http://www.chefpeacock.com)) to cater. Just returned from taking cooking classes in Thailand, Carrie used the freshest ingredients for **Kelsey Tyler** and **Robert Burke**, **John Oules** and **Brad Clifford**, and **Seth Olson** and his hot Latino lover, **Oscar Fernández**.

But nothing could be fresher than the coffee at the newly opened **Equator Coffee Café**, where I found myself on its opening day. Waitress **Michelle Blau** explained to me that the java comes from Eugene and that all coffee is brewed within two days of roasting. Open only for breakfast and lunch at the corner of Southeast Morrison Street and Grand Avenue, Equator plans to introduce evening hours with live music.

Speaking of live music, my favorite vegetarian, **Jen Schuch**, journeyed with me last month to Salem, where **Bea Arthur** performed her one-woman Broadway show to a glittering audience that included **Curtis Lumdell**, **Frank Schreckenger** and **Sean Brown**. With her trademark baritone, Arthur sounded like a drag queen and wore a sequined top that would make even **Darcelle** weep with envy. But having lost weight as she's



**Nicole Sangsoree** rocked the house at Swine.

aged, the golden girl looked like **Margaret Hamilton** in a **Phyllis Diller** wig.

Still, she's 100 percent gay-friendly and an outspoken advocate for our causes (at one point saying, "Anyone who doesn't believe in gay marriage is just stupid"). She's also delightfully bawdy as she sings, tells dirty jokes and relays stories about her taboo-breaking career. All in all, *An Evening with Bea Arthur* was a fine way for her to celebrate a long and distinguished career that's *Out Going*. 10

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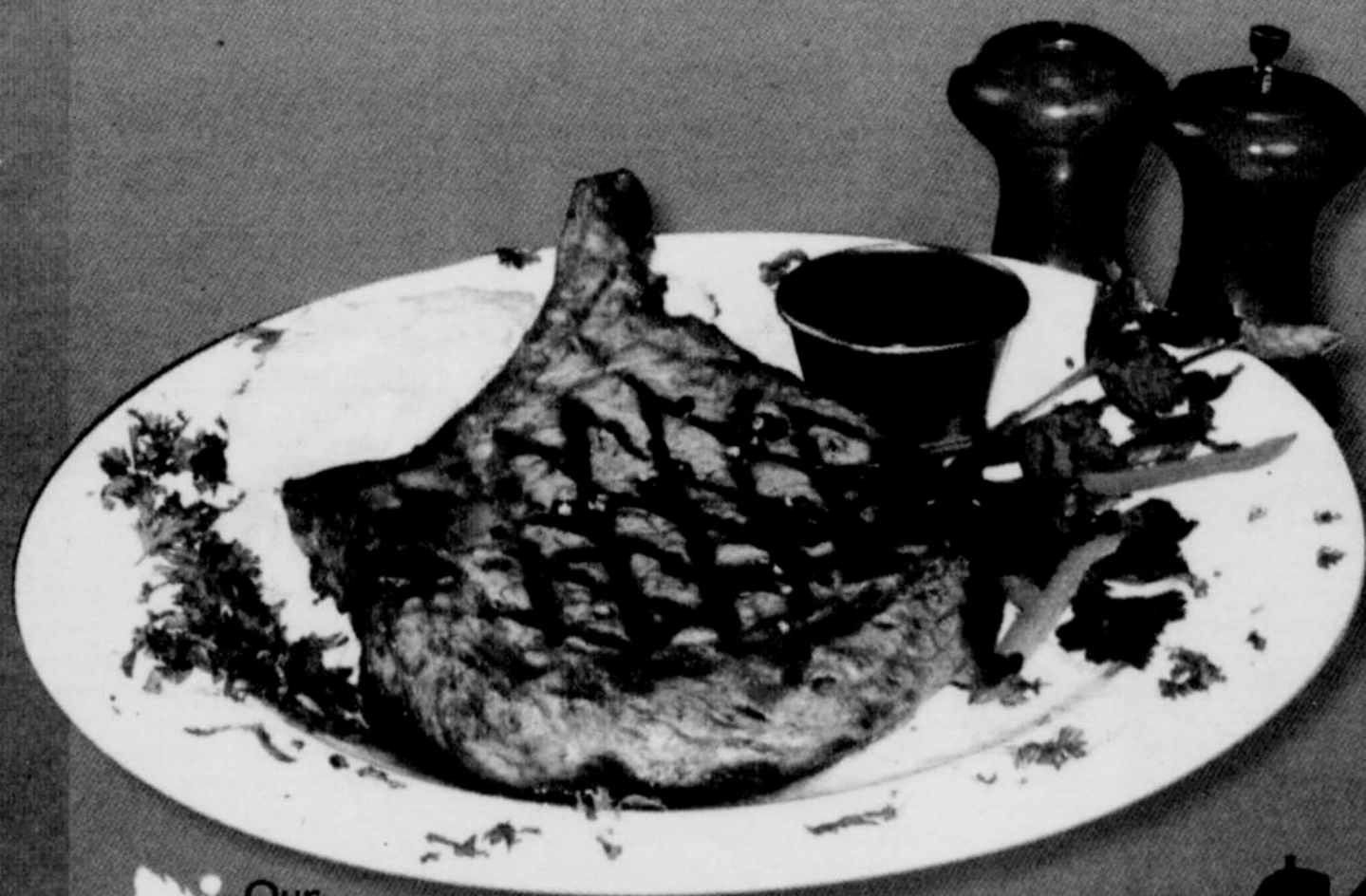
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