



**Epiqueerean**  
BY JENNY NGUYEN

## Delicious Delicacies

**F**ew things are more thrilling than chaos—pure hodgepodge, unadulterated randomness. Such is the theme for this edition's food column: the third letter of the alphabet...squared. Here you have it, folks, Portland's food scene brought to you by the letter C and, well, the letter C.

### The Country Cat • 7937 S.E. Stark St.

Formerly of Wildwood fabledom, chef Adam Sappington has made himself quite a home on the corner of Stark and 79th. This new restaurant is bringing fine dining to a much-needed area. Although the locals have mixed feelings about this somewhat upscale Ameri-time restaurant, Sappington has elevated "down home" cookery to a whole new level. The puree of carrot and red wine soup, topped with a wild mushroom crostini, is simple and superb. The potato dumplings are plump, moist and not a hint doughy or heavy. An unlikely combination layered with caramelized apple butter sauce and the sweet acidity of cabbage slaw. The cast-iron fried chicken is lightly battered and crisp; the meat is perfectly juicy and piping hot. The mashed potatoes are simply old-fashioned and perfect. Although moderately pricey for these parts, for the all-American diner in all of us, this splendid meal was well worth it.

### Cricket Café • 3159 S.E. Belmont St.

This infamous landmark breakfast joint has a host of reputations, none of which I witnessed on my first-ever trip. A slow Sunday had my lady friend and me strolling in 'round 10:30. Basically Brunch Armageddon hour, we luckily got seated nearly straight away. The tiny, crowded cafe was bustling with chatter, newspapers and folks hammering away at their plates. The open kitchen was hittin' as hungry hipsters gorged themselves on the multitude of vegetarian options. The menu here is outrageously massive. Alas, I settled for one of the 30-something varieties of scrambles or omelets. Heaping hot food arrived shortly thereafter along with another much-needed refill of the dark Stumptown stuff we've grown to love. The only real disappointment was the cold home fries, which hopefully was just a misstep that day. Otherwise, the timeliness, food and service were good, all things I'd heard differently about. No matter, the Cricket is hopping.

### Chaos Café • 2620 S.E. Powell Blvd.

More and more vegan places are popping up these days, but they're beginning to suit everyone's fancy; it's not just for grass-munchers anymore. This coffee shop-cum-deli hosts a number of events from DJs to dominoes. And just as chaotic is its diverse menu of raw-food smoothies, wraps and deliciously meat- and dairy-free soups. Try the sweet potato fries with tahini, and you'll wish you never had to go back to wimpy steak fries and ketchup again. The wraps are hearty with various goodies like sprouts, avocado, quinoa and roasted veggies. The atmosphere is funky and welcoming. This is the type of Chaos that Powell isn't familiar with, but boy is it a welcome change. 10

JENNY NGUYEN is a food writer with flair. Count her 33 pieces of flair by writing to her at [epiqueerean@comcast.net](mailto:epiqueerean@comcast.net).

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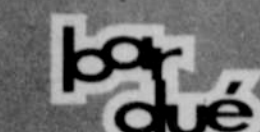


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WONDERING  
WHAT TO DO  
AFTER DINNER?

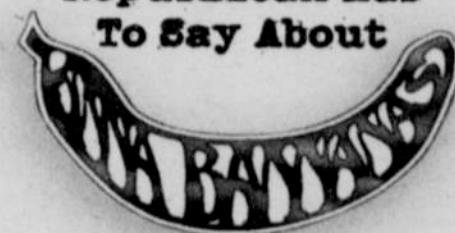
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What a Self-Loathing  
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To Say About



"Their mantra is one of homosexuality and anti-establishment. The barista had on a pro-communist shirt. This place lacks everything required to draw intelligent people to gather and converse over coffee. It is however, a great place to go if you are a disgruntled, incapable failure of a person who needs to whine and cry about everything that is wrong with your miserable life."

- Posted by b55 Portland

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