

nightlife

Faith, Drink and Nudity

Trying to suss out the complex cultural heritage of Mardi Gras is like taking a drink of chartreuse and attempting to identify by taste all the different herbs it contains. As part of the Catholic tradition of Carnival (or *Came-vale*, Latin for "farewell to meat"), it stretches back to the days of ancient Rome and even past that to the prehistorical days of the pagans, whose earthy rituals were co-opted by the Roman Catholic clergy. In Catholic terms, Mardi Gras ("Fat Tuesday" in French, if you didn't know) is the final day of high-spirited pageantry preceding Ash Wednesday, which kicks off the fasting period of Lent, during which the pious sustain themselves with prayer and charity rather than food and festivities.



Mardi Gras marks the final day of high-spirited pageantry before Lent.

In a fine example of poetic justice, just as the Roman Catholics turned heathen revelry to their own purposes, Mardi Gras has been adopted by people all over the world who simply like a good street party, especially in places such as Rio de Janeiro and Salvador de Bahia in Brazil, and here in the United States in Mobile, Ala., and New Orleans. The New Orleans Mardi Gras represents an especially rich cultural diversity because of the additional influence of Native Americans, Creoles (people descended from French and Spanish settlers who colonized Louisiana before it became part of the union) and Cajuns (French Canadians who emigrated to the Big Easy after their exile by the British in the mid-1700s).

Of course, if you're a modern-day urban American, mention of Mardi Gras most likely conjures to mind images of copious beads of every color in the rainbow, mass public nudity and other forms of behavior that would get you locked up on any other day of the year. In the grand spirit of cultural borrowing with which this colorful holiday is so replete, queers have also adapted the tradition to their own uses. We are, after all, people who tend to enjoy a good party and gratuitous displays of skin.

It may not be the French Quarter, but queer party people in Portland won't want for options come the night of Feb. 5. **Silverado**, as usual, is the first name that pops up. It generally packs a capacity crowd on Fat Tuesday, and this year it expects an even bigger and better celebration than usual. All three rooms at **The Egyptian Club** will open at 9 p.m. for an all-night party featuring karaoke, go-go dancers, bead girls, DJ'd dance floors and, in the words of manager Jessie Haungs, "lots of boobs." **C.C. Slaughters** kicked off a five-day celebration Jan. 31 with a \$100 prize given away each night for "Mr. Dixie Normus" (you can figure it out), culminating in a prize package on Fat Tuesday consisting of \$500 cash and yearlong free admission to the club, among other perks. **Embers**, too, will celebrate the holiday with a star-studded show hosted by Krystal Lynn, featuring the crowning of the king and queen of Mardi Gras and, rest assured, plenty of nudity. And stop by **Scandals** and show your junk to get free beads any time between noon and 2 a.m. on this most deliciously decadent day of the year. Because a well-wrapped package is a terrible thing to waste.

—Tony LeTigre

1 BOXES/FISH GROTTTO/ RED CAP GARAGE

1035 SW Stark St. • 503-226-4171
Boxes/Red Cap Garage, the only two-in-one gay club in the city, is Portland's original gay dance club and has the most experienced DJ ensemble in the scene. Stark Street's only nonsmoking bar for the boys.

2 CASEY'S/THE TUNNEL

610 NW Couch St. • 503-224-9062
New "all-inclusive" nightclub and lounge in Old Town from the owner of the Eagle.

3 C.C. SLAUGHTERS

219 NW Davis St. • 503-248-9135
C.C. Slaughters is a great hangout. Come feel like "Norm" or shake your booty all night long to the best sound, lights and laser shows in Portland.

4 CRUSH

1400 SE Morrison St. • 503-235-8150
Crush features specialty martinis and cocktails and serves a full food menu. Hip DJs spin throughout the week, with dancing on the weekends. Happy hour is all day Tuesday, 4:30-6 pm Wednesday-Friday and 3-7 pm Sunday. Crush is now open for brunch 9 am-3 pm Saturday and Sunday.

5 DARCELLE XV SHOWPLACE

208 NW Third Ave. • 503-222-5338
World-famous female impersonators Darcelle XV & Company have been entertaining audiences from all walks of life for more than 37 years with Las Vegas-style cabaret revues of glitz, glamour and comedy. They have traveled the States presenting a show that you have to see to believe. Stop by when you are in Portland and you will be glad you did! Company parties are welcome. Showtimes are 8:30 pm Wednesday and Thursday and 8:30 and 10:30 pm Friday and Saturday. Admission is \$15. Reservations are not required but are highly recommended. Dinner seating is 5-7 pm by reservation. Male strippers at midnight Friday and Saturday.

6 THE EAGLE PDX

1300 W Burnside St. • 503-241-0105
Portland's original masculine men's bar.

7 EGYPTIAN CLUB

3701 SE Division St. • 503-236-8689
The 7,000-square-foot Egyptian Club, located in a former milk plant, features three different rooms. There's a dance floor in the Tomb; the Front Lounge offers pool tables and video games; and a third bar, the Room, features karaoke seven nights a week. The crowd is primarily lesbian.

8 EMBERS AVENUE

110 NW Broadway • 503-222-3082
Gay bar in historic Old Town. *The O Spot* starring Johnny O 10 pm Thursdays. *The Music & the Mirror* starring Miss Honey Bea Hart 9:30 pm Fridays. *Krystal Lynn Is the Nubian Princess* 9:30 pm Saturdays.

9 ESCAPE

333 SW Park Ave. • 503-227-0830
Portland's only all-ages gay nightclub. The Greater Portland Intercollegiate Queer Society hosts College Night 10:30 pm Fridays featuring different music every week, \$3 off the cover with student identification and speed friend-making (like speed dating!) for the first hour.

10 FOX & HOUNDS

217 NW Second Ave. • 503-243-5530
According to *BarFly*, this "cheery, kicked-back pub draws a convivial, mostly mature crowd to its somewhat countrified environs." Fox & Hounds regularly hosts various charity events, and the first Sunday of each month is a fun-filled bingo fund-raiser. Sheltered sidewalk seating fits a handful of tables and affords some good people-watching. \$2 well drinks and \$2 select beers 4-8 pm daily. Full menu served until 8:30 pm Sunday-Thursday and until 10 pm Friday and Saturday, with bar menu served until closing time thereafter.

11 GAIL'S DIRTY DUCK

439 NW Third Ave. • 503-224-8446
BarFly describes the Dirty Duck as an "endearingly light-in-the-loafers longshoreman-type hole in the wall, named for Shakespeare's local. Said to be haunted by its formidable former owner, Mama Bernice! Home of the Oregon Bears." Featuring pool, pinball, MegaTouch and darts.

12 HOBO'S

120 NW Third Ave. • 503-224-3285
Hobo's has been an integral part of Portland's dining and lounge experience for more than 25 years. Located in the heart of Old Town, it provides a friendly atmosphere of casual elegance and serves outstanding cuisine from both its complete dinner menu and its lounge menu. It also offers premium cocktails, an extensive wine list and bottled and draft beers. Enjoy live music Wednesday through Sunday, with pool and lottery in the game room. Courtyard dining when weather permits. Because Old Town is an energetic and vibrant part of Portland's nightlife and on-street parking is sometimes limited, Hobo's offers validated parking at its neighborhood Smart Park located on the corner of NW Davis and Front streets.

13 JOQ'S

2512 NE Broadway • 503-287-4210
Featuring the best 9-Ball Tournament 8 pm Saturdays. Possibly the best \$6 ribeye dinner anywhere. Joq's also serves up the lowest drink prices in the city. Join one of its softball, pool or bowling teams. Enjoy a good time and make a new friend at this entertaining neighborhood bar!

NORTHBANK

106 W Sixth St., Vancouver • 360-695-3862
Southwest Washington's first and only gay bar. Now smoke-free! Take \$1 off any item that costs more than \$2 on Buck-Off Monday. \$5 pasta dinners (spaghetti or fettuccine alfredo) are served with \$2 well drinks 5-9 pm Tuesdays. Licious Karaoke is Wednesday and Friday. Thursday is Girlz Night with \$3 Smirnoff and \$5.50 pitchers of Bud

and Bud Lite. Saturday is a special event or DJ. Sunday is happy hour all day with free pool.

14 SCANDALS

1125 SW Stark St. • 503-227-5887
Scandals, one of Portland's most established gay men's bars, has been a fixture on the ever-changing Stark Street for going on 30 years. It provides a cruisy street-side setting with a seasonal sidewalk cafe, great drinks and a "more than friendly" bar staff. It also features all forms of lottery, a pool table, darts and videos. DJ Duane spins classic dance music Friday and Saturday nights. Welcome to Scandals, where men meet.

15 SHANGHAI STEAKERY

16 NW Broadway • 503-228-9325
A locally owned gay bar known for good music, great drinks, the best prices in town and lottery. Happy hour 7 am-8 pm. Join the IT Club DJ boys on the first Friday of every month. Shanghai Steakery also holds other events; it's best to check with the bar for upcoming events.

16 SILVERADO

318 SW Third Ave. • 503-224-4493
Claims to be Portland's only gay-owned and -operated gay nightclub, Portland's favorite gay bar and Portland's "original" premier gay nightclub. "Where the men are hot and the party never ends...we lead the crowd, not just follow." The Ministry of Mylar (Not Your Mother's Church) Sundays. Karaoke with Rocky Rhodes 8 pm-1 am Mondays. Wednesday is Latino Night with Meesha Peru.

SOUTHSIDE SPEAKEASY

3529 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, Salem • 503-362-1139
Southside Speakeasy is the place in Salem and the central Willamette Valley for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community to meet and hang out. Free pool all day Sunday with *Desperate Housewives* at 9 pm. 50-cent tacos are served 5-9 pm Mondays with bingo at 6:30 and karaoke at 9. Top sirloin steak dinner is served 5:30-10 pm Tuesdays for \$8.95. Win points and prizes with free Texas Hold 'Em poker 7:30 pm Wednesdays and 6:30 pm Saturdays. Dance party with DJ Rosi 9 pm Thursdays. Dance party with DJ Lori 9 pm Fridays and Saturdays; cover is \$3.

17 STARKY'S

2913 SE Stark St. • 503-230-7980
"Everyday people" video bar with great martinis, two large patios, Oregon Lottery games, WiFi and private parties. Monday and Tuesday are Burger Nights, Wednesday is Mexican Night, Thursday is Homemade Meatloaf Night, Friday is Prime Rib Night, Saturday features chef's specials, and brunch is served 9 am-2 pm every weekend.

18 STEAM

2885 NE Sandy Blvd. • 503-736-9999
Portland's hottest all-male experience.

