



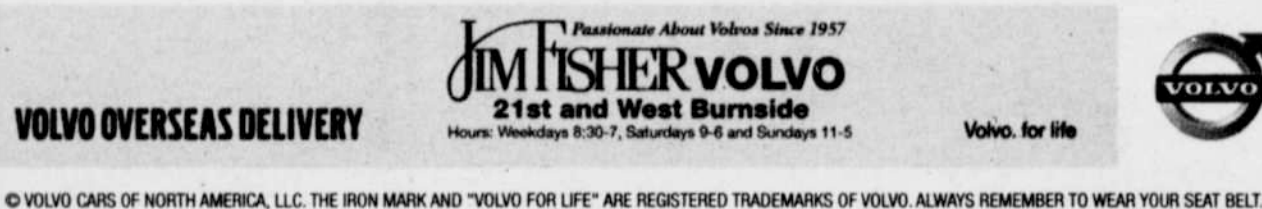
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Bring in the Flava

Chocolate City keeps the
hip-hop beat steady

In the days before "Don't ask, don't tell," gay and lesbian servicemembers were under incredible pressure to keep their sexual orientation a secret. But Chocolate City founder Marcy Dupree, who served in the Navy from 1984 to 1987, says that didn't keep them from living life.

Instead, lesbian servicemembers used the unofficial gay pass code "Are you family?" to determine who else was playing for their team. Once identified, they'd go out to San Francisco's Code Blue.

"At that time it was very much in the closet. I had a friend that was investigated for being gay," Dupree recalls. "It didn't stop me from going to the bar or having a girlfriend, it was just hush."

Upon returning to Portland, where she has spent most of her 48 years, Dupree says the lesbian scene started to fizzle. When she saw the gap created by the closing of Club 927 in 1992, she stepped up to create her own Code Blue, which ran until the emergence of the E-Room.

"I decided to do Chocolate City for women who like music with flava—that's F-L-A-V-A," Dupree says, explaining that the E-Room's deejays were too rock heavy.

She started the hip-hop night in 1997 at Mandy's Bar in Southeast Portland and it ran for about a year, until life interrupted.

"I went on a hiatus and then I had a little boy so it extended my hiatus," Dupree says. Soon, she started a company—Absolute Comfort Mattress—and was busy living life until a friend suggested in 2010 that she revive Chocolate City.

Though the dance night's revival began at Mandy's Bar, by the end of the year Dupree relocated the party to Crush.

"Since moving to Crush, the crowd has become a lot more versatile," Dupree says. "At first it was 80 percent African-Ameri-



can women, but now it's flipped and about 80 percent are Caucasian women."

Dupree says she's not bothered by the shift in demographics—it was never meant to be exclusively for women of color. She's just there to bring old-school hip-hop and R&B to the people who want to dance to it.

Chocolate City and Portland Black Pride co-host a Pride Pajama Jam, June 18, 9 p.m.; Crush, 1400 SE Morrison; \$5 with pajamas, \$6 without; chocolatecityportland@yahoo.com.

—ERIN ROOK

The Traveler and Food Connoisseur

Wyatt Riot's mouth has a
lot to say

To say Wyatt Riot is a fan of food is an understatement.

"Right now I would love a big bowl of spaghetti and meatballs," says Riot, "and a lot of really good parmesan cheese and some really good crusty garlic bread."

Riot recently created his own internet show focused on eating, *Put It In Your Mouth With Wyatt Riot*. There is a sense of play and wonder to the videos as Riot tours local eateries and interacts with the



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