



NIGHT OUT GUIDE

2012
VANGUARD

BANG YER HEAD!

Portland’s best punk and metal venues

Nicholas Kula
VANGUARD STAFF

Straight-up punk and metal venues are slowly being phased out in the City of Roses. The town known nationwide for its hipster tint and indie rock has more clubs that cater to those types than

anything else. When Satyricon and Food Hole closed up, it left a crater in the city’s punk and metal scenes. But fear not: Tiny places around our city still dish up all the thrashy stuff you can handle.

THE KNOW
2026 NE ALBERTA ST.

Some patrons might say this is the end-all be-all of punk venues in Portland. While it certainly isn’t the final word, it is something of an institution. It’s been on Alberta since before being on Alberta was cool, and it’s about as big as a shoebox.

Thrash-punk legends like Tragedy and the united From Ashes Rise play here regularly, and the shows are famous for getting out of hand, but never dangerously so. All of the bands that feature members of those two bands play here, too. And because those bands feature members of legendary band His Hero is Gone, their shows are almost more like paying tribute.

Unfortunately, the venue is exclusively 21 and older.

Next notable show: Friday, March 23: Lebenden Toten, Nu-kle-ar Blast Suntan, FrenZy, DJ Skell. Lebenden Toten is one of Portland’s best thrash bands, and they rarely perform. Be sure to get there early for this one; it will sell out.

EAST END
203 SE GRAND ST.

Easily fitting the “tiny cramped venue” punk aesthetic, East End’s basement is the venue section of this punk bar. Featuring its own separate bar and several support pillars, many nutty shows have transpired in this basement. One memorable show East End hosted was Monotonix a couple years back, in which they tore out the sprinkler system from the roof and lit a drum kit on fire.

Next notable show: Monday, March 19: Antikythera, Towers, DJ Nate C. This installment of the month-long Portland Metal Winter Olympics pits two metal bands against each other. Who will win the gold? Who might just up and eat the gold? Nate Carson, a Portland metal journeyman, will provide the intermission soundtrack.

PLAN B
1305 SE 8TH AVE.

Nestled within the cubic wilderness of Portland’s lower industrial district, this large, open space hosts some of the best metal shows the city has to offer. More often than not, Portland metal bands cut their teeth at Plan B before going on tour. Bands like Danava and Yob went through the motions at Plan B, and now they go on tour regularly. Although its output has recently slowed down a smidge, the shows performed are as potent as ever.

Next notable show: Wednesday, March 28: Lps, Vises, Marmits. Lps is okay, Marmits is extremely okay but Vises are so full of energy they’ll tear your face off and kick it around on the ground. The band plays blistering garage rock that will leave you tingling in all the right places.

BACKSPACE
115 NW 5TH AVE.

Yes, we’re well aware that it’s an Internet café, and yes, they host all kinds of music. But Backspace also earns its stripes as a part-time punk and metal venue. They’ve hosted Thou and AIDS Wolf, two frighteningly good metal and punk bands, respectively, and they’re known to crack off the odd metal and punk show occasionally. One thing is for sure: When Backspace does it, they do it extremely well. And because the venue is all ages, you have no excuse not to go.

Next notable show: Saturday, March 17: Wizard Rifle, Youthbitch. Along with Agalloch, Billion and Billions and Purple Rhinestone Eagle, Wizard Rifle is among the very best metal bands in our fair city. Tonight, they’re playing their CD release show, and they’ve been kind enough to let people of all ages in (something of a rarity in Portland). Do not miss this one.

SLABTOWN
1033 NW 16TH AVE.

Another well-respected Portland punk and metal venue, Slabtown boasts an expansive pinball selection in a game room tucked into the back of the bar. Their show history is as decorated as any other venue on the list, but they’ve been here longer than most.

Here, you’ll find loud music, heavy pours and no BS—except for whatever horsing around you’ll find in the game room. Like Plan B, their show output has diminished slightly, but the shows they book are wonderful.

Next notable show: Sunday, March 25: Danava, Witch Mountain, Burning Leather, Shut Your Animal Mouth, The Chemicals, Cecelia und de Sauerkrauts. Wow! This bill reads almost like a who’s who of Portland metal and punk bands. Danava and Witch Mountain are Portland mainstays, but the bands you should be looking out for is Burning Leather. (Picture Motörhead with a little more punk influence and you’ve got Burning Leather.) They’re great live, too. The mention of Danava will likely sell this show out, so arrive early and drink to your heart’s content.



Corinna Scott | Vanguard Staff

IT'S LATE AND YOU'RE HUNGRY

The five best late-night eateries you may not know about

Alex Mierjeski
VANGUARD STAFF

Under rain and gray skies, Portland is alive with food, and people of all gastronomic persuasions are armed with a plethora of options. For those nights out when the pangs of hunger strike, we here at the Vanguard don't want you to be ill-equipped to face them down.

The Hawthorne food carts offer a variety of options for a late night snack.



Saria Dy | Vanguard Staff

PINE STATE BISCUITS 2204 NE ALBERTA ST.

In an unassuming brick building on Northeast Alberta Street, a staggeringly satisfying addition to the late-night lexicon lies in wait. Known for its out-the-door lines in the morning hours, this fine purveyor of southern-style biscuit sandwiches is a recent enlistee in the after-hours food selection. Though its closing time may be a bit on the early side—1 or 1:30 a.m.—it's worth it to finish your pint and make the trek from one of the nearby bars in time to order a Reggie (discounted during late-night hours) and bask in the ensuing fried chicken, bacon, cheese and gravy sandwiched between buttery, crumbly biscuits.

HAWTHORNE AND BELMONT FOOD CARTS SOUTHEAST 12TH AVENUE AND HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD, AND 4262 SE BELMONT ST.

Often praised as one of the greatest food scenes in Rose City, food-cart pods should not be overlooked as a late-night food option. These two cart communities are included for both quantitative and qualitative reasons. Open late on the weekends (on a sometimes

by-traffic basis, sometimes until 3 a.m.) these carts offer cheese-curd-topped French fries (Potato Champion on Hawthorne), bleu cheese and walnut crêpes (Perierra Crêperie on Hawthorne), and Akevitt-cured, smoked-salmon Lefse wraps with dill crème fraîche, pickled shallot and watercress (Viking Soul Food on Belmont). Close to bars and open nice and late, these food pods are valuable standbys.

THE ORIGINAL HOTCAKE HOUSE 1002 SE POWELL BLVD.

For those inevitable nights that take you across the river, there is but one option for ultra-classic late-night food. A 24-hour authority, this 55-year-old family-owned establishment offers up traditional diner fare in a classic atmosphere. A jukebox with all the classics, from "Now 17" to Shania Twain's "Come on Over," be-sparkled vinyl chairs and intimate booths feel just right to with a replenishing, greasy plate of bacon and eggs, or the ever-classic single hotcake. With a friendly staff and a large, loving crowd of regulars (not to mention the vastly enjoyable relic of a marquee sign), the Hotcake House is, and has been, a true classic.

THE ROXY 1121 SW STARK ST.

Back on the west side of the river, this classic, somewhat odd diner in "the heart of the Glamour District" is a downtown institution. Walls covered by quirky accouterments provide fun visual stimuli, and a menu composed of dishes like the "Big Fat Heart Attack Special," the "Quentin Tarantuna Melt" and the "Phil Hartman Memorial Omelette" is good for a few laughs. A paragraph gives no justice to the 24-hour enigmatic Roxy—only a visit will.

LE HAPPY 1011 NW 16TH AVE.

Nestled under the Fremont Bridge (the 405 bridge), this quaint, quiet crêpe, salad and steak haven is on the muted side of after-hours establishments. Dark red walls absorb warm, low light in the small and intimate interior, while the building front glows yellow with stringed bulbs tracing the perimeter. Open until 1:30 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights, the Chuck Palahniuk-featured, Thermals-recommended Le Happy is a comforting respite from the surrounding industrial district. Oh, and there's a full bar.

BUS, MAX, STREETCAR OR TAXI?



Drew Martig | Vanguard Staff

Gimme shelter
many MAX stops
provide printed
schedules and of-
fer shelter from
the elements.

Getting around at
night

Sam Lloyd
VANGUARD STAFF

If you're reading this, you're probably in college. That means that this weekend you're probably going to drink. Hell, if you're reading this on a Friday morning, you're probably already three mimosas deep.

Since driving drunk is a crime that can lead to anything from death to your parents getting really, really mad at you, it's wise to take note of various public transportation services around campus and Portland in general. Most prominent are the MAX train, the Portland streetcar and TriMet buses. Each does a fairly good job at ferrying students around. But keep in mind the pros, cons and general rules of late-night weekend transportation:

The streetcar and MAX both currently offer a free-rail zone, but each zone is basically limited to the downtown area. Anywhere past Lloyd Center or Southwest 10th Avenue, and you're going to have to pay for the MAX; anywhere past River Place or Northwest Glisan Street and you're going to have to pay for the streetcar.

"Whatever, I'm not going to get caught," is an easy assumption, especially after you've finished your fourth beer. Just know that a ticket purchase of \$2.50 will completely

eliminate waking up in the morning with a \$250 citation.

If your non-downtown hangout spot of choice is in Southeast or Northeast Portland, Tigard, Beaverton or Milwaukie, don't run to the car dealership or the bike store just yet. Some bus lines run out to each and every one of those spots, and all can still take you back downtown at a reasonably late hour. Folks in Southeast can catch the Hawthorne-area 14 bus, which goes downtown and east as far as Foster and 94th. Travelers coming from the Milwaukie area should hop on the 33 bus line, which extends from Northwest 6th Avenue and Flanders Street to Oregon City Transit Center.

If Northeast is your party spot, select the Burnside-based 20 bus. It can take you home all the way from Gresham Transit Center. Tigard-area students can take the Southwest/Barbur-based 12 bus, which goes all the way to Tigard Transit Center, and the Beaverton/Hillsdale Highway-centered 54 bus goes all the way out to Beaverton Transit Center. The final departure times for all of these buses vary, but if it's a Friday or Saturday, you'll be fine if you get to your stop by midnight.

The MAX runs later than buses and the streetcar and spreads out across the Portland-metro area. The Blue Line train, running from Willow Creek Transit Center all the way to Cleveland Avenue, runs until 1:20 a.m. on Friday nights and 1:50 a.m. on Saturday nights. The Red Line train runs until 12:45 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights and goes from the airport all the way to Beaverton Transit Center.

And hey, if you find yourself drunkenly stumbling up to your stop right as the last bus, train or streetcar is leaving, you could always call a cab. Portland Taxi Cab Company and Broadway Cab both run 24/7, charge \$2.50 per mile with an added cost of \$1 for each additional passenger, and can be booked 24 hours in advance online. This is obviously not as cheap as TriMet, but it'll get the job done.

So finish that last mimosa, down a Red Bull and go out and party, because you're in college for God's sake. Just make sure you know when and how you're going to get home safely. For a complete list of schedules and contact information for the public transportation systems, check trimet.org/index.htm for the buses and MAX trains and portlandstreetcar.org for the streetcar.



The Southeast Grind offers a late night espresso to drive away your drunken regret.

Miles Sanguinetti | Vanguard Staff

THE PLACE TO
LAY DOWN YOUR HEAD
THE ROXY, 1121 SW STARK ST.

You can find yourself in a weird headspace at 3 a.m. Tiredness setting in, drunk wearing off, a lingering headache crawling around in your skull. For those who want to slump back and sit-out the midnight hours, this diner offers pleasantly dim booths set in corners, where you can order greasy American-traditional food under the warm polaroid smiles of Bill Clinton and John Lennon.

THE PLACE TO HANG OUT
THE SOUTHEAST GRIND COFFEEHOUSE,
1223 SE POWELL BLVD.

You might remember this place as the Fireside Coffee Lodge. It's still around, under new management. The Southeast Grind is lit better than The Roxy, but the staff is every bit as pretentious. You're more likely to find people reading or bathed in the glow of laptop screens than staring haggardly at the wall, too, which is a plus to a certain type of person, I suppose.

Their espresso is great.

SO YOU'VE MISSED THE MAX

How to occupy yourself after
last call

Randall Theil
VANGUARD STAFF

You've done it now.

You stagger out of your favorite watering hole. While others make quick feet to their cars, you check your cell with a growing sense of dread. Yes, it's after two, and depending on where you put up your feet, you might not be able to get home on TriMet for another three or four hours.

Some cities don't sleep. Portland sorta dozes. Bustling intersections like Broadway and Burnside become empty and ghastly. Formerly familiar streets can take on a decidedly different character when lit by streetlamp and the only moving thing in blocks is a street sweeper. Chinatown is practically Escape from New York after 2 a.m. You don't leave Chinatown so much as escape.

Don't fret, though. There are still some places where you can spend the owl hours in relative comfort and warmth.

THE PLACE TO
STRETCH YOUR LEGS
THE SOUTH WATERFRONT

Portland is a pretty friendly city compared to most, but I still wouldn't want to be stuck out alone most of the time. If you're itching to get out and walk off that last margarita, though, the South Waterfront has gorgeous views of the river at 3 a.m., and it's much better lit than most districts.

THE PLACE TO GRUB OUT
THE TIK-TOK DINER, 11215 SE DIVISION ST.
AND 3330 SE 82ND AVE.

Need to get that boost of energy? The Tik-Tok has the best awful food (try the peanut butter pie) at a decent price. It's open 24/7, and the service is excellent.



In your face
Atlas
Sound's
Brandford
Cox gets up
close and
personal.

THE HAWTHORNE THEATRE

Good music, good
company, great fun

Melinda Guillén
VANGUARD STAFF



The
Carnivores
tear up
the stage
at the
Hawthorne
Theatre.

You can't buy your friends, but you can sure buy your fun.

If you like good music and enjoy equally good food, then you should probably ditch your lonely date with over-seasoned Top Ramen and iTunes and make a trip to The Hawthorne Theatre instead.

The Hawthorne is a club that provides entertainment in the form of live band performances—from indie, punk and metal to pop, rock, country and reggae—and menu items in the form of dishes, appetizers, snacks and drinks.

And for those lucky individuals born in or before 1990, there's a full bar. It is friendly for all ages (with sections reserved for patrons 21 and older). Show tickets can be purchased at hawthornetheater.com and generally range from \$5–25.

The establishment also accommodates all different types of people. For example, if you want to go there to make friends, just attend any metal, punk rock or reggae concert.

The trick is to situate oneself in the midst of a group of people you'd potentially like to make friends with, and when you've developed the proper head-bobbing technique, look around and make eye contact with someone. Smile a little to show that you are friendly. (Don't smile too much. That's creepy.) And presto! Instant camaraderie. Works every time.

If, however, you have too many friends, you may also rent The Hawthorne Theatre. Simply contact the Booking and Production Manager Nic Yannariello at hawthornetheatrebooking@gmail.com

So the next time you're on the verge of having another one of those ramen-packet-eating, downloaded-music-listening lonely nights, take my advice: Your time and money will be better spent on tasty food and awesomely loud music in the presence of other people at The Hawthorne Theatre.

THE HAWTHORNE THEATRE
1507 SE 39TH AVE.
503-233-7100
WWW.HAWTHORNETHEATER.COM



Miles Sanguinetti | Vanguard Staff

FUN FOR UNDER 21

Hot spots and good grub are still out there for underaged students

Rosemary Hanson
VANGUARD STAFF

Portland boasts its beer culture and nightlife scene as must-sees, but for students who haven't quite hit that 21st birthday, there's much more to the city than the weekend pub crawl.

Some of the top picks include Backspace Café and the Roseland Theatre for low-key, all-ages entertainment. For food, The Roxy and Voodoo Donuts are a safe bet for good grub. On campus, Portland State's 5th Avenue Cinema offers free movies and popcorn with a student I.D.

Backspace Café is located near Pioneer Square. It offers band performances, art shows, slam poetry, gaming and food. Their March art gallery features the artist Christian Collins and his "Cosmic Collages" display, and upcoming musical performances for March and April include Tope and Wizard Rifle.

Backspace also highlights a unique twist on open-mic nights called Battery Powered Music. This particular open-mic session allows people

interested in mixing beats and creating techno jams to show their skills on the turn tables. Portland State resident assistant Solay Freeman said that with all the café has to offer, Backspace is her top suggestion for her underage residents.

"It's convenient; it is a quick walk or MAX ride to Northwest 5th and Couch," Freeman said. "Sunday nights are free open mic, and although beer is served to those of-age, it is a relaxing café atmosphere."

While downtown, students can also drop by local favorite Voodoo Donuts, located on Southwest 3rd Street, about a block south of Burnside. Voodoo was highlighted on the Travel Channel show Man Vs. Food. The shop offers everything from your basic crème-filled donut to the more unusual maple-bacon creation, and even offers vegan options as well.

Also near downtown, The Roxy on Southwest Stark Street, and 11th Avenue, offers up a late night option for good, solid American food.

Freeman said that it is a bit of a walk, but is a good distance to go with friends on a weekend.

Other than Backspace for music, the Roseland Theatre at Northwest 6th Avenue, and Wonder Ballroom on NE Russell St. offer certain all-ages events. The next big name coming to the Roseland is Young the Giant on April 5. Say Anything will be at the Wonder Ballroom March 25.

For the nights when students simply want to stick around campus, PSU offers a lot of low-key events on campus. Food for Thought offers open-mic night every Tuesday. Freeman added that the 5th Avenue Cinema is another good option for students. They have Friday and Saturday movies at 7 and 9:30 p.m., which include free admission and popcorn for students.

Whether it is a quick, late-night bite to eat, practicing song talents at open-mic night or just exploring the Rose City, Portland certainly has more to offer on the weekends than just a pub crawl.

Backspace
Café
has all the
draws of
a bar with
none of the
intoxication.

GETTING THE GOOD STUFF

Procuring a classy cocktail for any situation

Randall Theil
VANGUARD STAFF

Mixed drinks are in a sad state. Bars in Portland offer slates of gimmicky cocktails at exorbitant prices, all made with the same handful of tired liquors. Young hipsters resign themselves to quick fixes to mask the taste of their bargain-basement liquor purchases. Have bar owners and drink peddlers given up?

Many things have contributed to the decline of the gentleman's cocktail. For one thing, our generation has been saddled with an unfortunate set of mental associations. The dapper man in a lean black suit with a sleek dry martini has aged into your weird uncle Roy, with his plastic faded-label bottles of gin. For some, the smell of gin will always bring to mind impressions of olive-green appliances and receding hairlines.

Let's start with a truism: Well drinks just aren't classy. They are the bottom of the barrel. I ordered a gin and tonic at The Boiler Room (a fine business with as much reputé as a bar can have in Chinatown) that you could use to delouse your dog. You're going to have to move up a buck or two in the pecking order to reach for liquors that don't taste like cleaning solution.

A good rule of thumb for ordering a cocktail at a bar is to strip whatever you think you want to drink down to the basest of elements. Of course, it can be good fun to dig out your bar book of

choice and mix up something ridiculous (be it a Rob Roy or a Sloe Gin Fizz), but you'll never get a real taste for liquor doing that. And you'll look like an asshole trying to communicate these desires to an overworked bartender at 11 p.m.

Simplicity is sophistication. The gin and tonic. The martini. A neat scotch. These are the orders of the social-climber-cum-alcoholic we all aspire to be. The trick, then, is knowing which elements to select. An excellent brand of gin that many establishments will have access to is Aviation—a new local, American-style gin with a really excellent taste profile. New Deal No. 3 is my personal favorite, but it might be a bit expensive for bar drinking. A decent cheaper option would be Beefeater, a powerful, London-made, dry, lower-midshelf gin, but you won't sound very cool ordering it (unless you're trying to attract William Wallace).

Some fine equivalent vodka brands would be Ketel One or 42 Below. There's nothing wrong with drinking any of these straight, but smooth vodka is important for cocktails, too. A dash of bitters can make even an uninspired cocktail interesting again, but be careful in going too far: Most bars only stock angostura bitters, which can finely compliment a martini but unbalance most gin and tonics.

The key, of course, is experimentation. Discerning palettes are developed by continuing to try new things. The next time you go to order (or mix) a drink, don't be satisfied with tipping back another awful well vodka cran.

A CLASSIC GIN AND TONIC

- 1 part gin
- 2 parts tonic water
- A dash of bitters (optional)
- Garnish with lemon

This recipe calls for a bit more tonic water than usual. The proportions will depend on your ingredients. An aromatic tonic water brand like Fever-Tree will balance your gin and tonic nicely. Sweeter tonic waters might overpower the liquor. Strong, juniper-y gins like Beefeater will make themselves known regardless. If you decide to add bitters, use citrus bitters to compliment the drink's existing flavor profile. Add the ingredients to a highball glass filled with ice cubes, stir and drink.



Karl Kuehs | Vanguard Staff



A cold one for every budget and mood

Drew Martig | Canadian Typographer

CHEAP DRINKS, EVERY NIGHT OF THE WEEK

Cheryl Rodgers
VANGUARD STAFF

You just finished a huge project and want to go out for a cold adult beverage—but it's Tuesday. Where do you go? Well, there are drink specials for your mood and budget every night of the week, with a couple of weekend suggestions that will work for the whole group.

MONDAY

Ash Street Saloon
225 SW Ash St.
\$1 domestic beers from 4–8 p.m.

The Matador Bar
1967 W Burnside St.
Bottomless mimosas from noon to 7 p.m. for \$9. Yep, seven hours of bottomless mimosas.

TUESDAY

Rogue Hall
1717 SW Park Ave.
On Tuesdays, your second beer is on the house—if you wear a Hawaiian shirt. Also, if

it's your birthday and you're a Rogue Nation member, go to Rogue Hall anytime for a free 32-ounce beer.

Trébol
4835 N Albina Ave.
Get \$10 tequila flights at the full tequila bar during happy hour. Tequilas are bartender's choice and happy hour is from 5–6:30 p.m. and 9–10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

The B-Side Tavern
632 E Burnside St.
\$1 Hamm's from 4–7 p.m. to get you over the hump.

Hungry Tiger Too
207 SE 12th Ave.
\$1 PBR's and \$1.25 too-delicious-to-know-they're-vegan corndogs, served all day.

THURSDAY

The Cheerful Tortoise
1939 SW Sixth Ave.
\$1 beers on tap from 8 p.m. to midnight.

Crush
1400 SE Morrison St.
\$5 margaritas in flavors like strawberry, mango, cucumber and champagne.

FRIDAY

Marathon Taverna
1735 W Burnside St.
Natural Light beer is \$1 from noon to 2 p.m.

McMenamins Kennedy School
5736 NE 33rd Ave.
The atmosphere is great, but catch the happy hour while you're there. Enjoy a drink in the Detention Bar or, if it's your thing, a cigar and bourbon in the Boiler Room Bar. Happy hour is 3–6 p.m. and 10 p.m. to midnight, when you can get a McMenamins

ale for \$3.25 a pint, a well drink for \$3.50 or a domestic pint for \$2.25.

SATURDAY

The Observatory
8115 SE Stark St.
Take the group to The Observatory for happy hour from 3–6 p.m. where you can get \$1 domestic cans of beer, \$2 lagers and \$3 drafts. They also have \$5 specialty cocktails.

SUNDAY

The Blue Monk
3341 SE Belmont St.
The Monk has something for everybody during Sunday happy hour. Grab \$1.50 Pabst Blue Ribbons and \$5 cocktails from 5 p.m. to about midnight.





Saria Dy | Vanguard Staff

A PLACE FOR EVERY WEEKDAY

Nights out in Portland for free

Eva-Jeanette Rawlins
VANGUARD STAFF

MONDAY

Start the week off right with Monday Movie Madness at 8:30 p.m. at the fabulous Pix Patisserie, where you can watch Monty Python and the Holy Grail, Top Gun and other such classics. If you answer the weekly trivia question correctly, you get a free macaroon!

TUESDAY

On Tuesday night, head over to Powell's Books—the mothership—and wander through the maze of shelves, taking in the delicious fragrance of old and new books. Bring a bag of your old textbooks with you to sell at their Buy Back counter, then take that cash and grab a coffee to go. Head up to Pittock Mansion with someone you love, sit on the benches and take in the beauty of our city between sips of warm brew.

WEDNESDAY

In case you didn't know, Wednesday is "bridge night," and it's not your grandmother's kind of

bridge! Fill a thermos with piping hot cocoa (or whatever strikes your fancy), grab a friend and a camera and take pictures of yourselves at each of Portland's eight fantastic bridges with the breathtaking array of city lights as your backdrop. Then, if you're freezing, go out and shake your tail feathers at a free concert (www.concertcoop.com).

THURSDAY

Get an injection of fine culture the first Thursday of every month as art galleries downtown and in the Pearl District stay open late and invite the public in for free. There are usually some yummy drinks and eats too. Or you could head over to the Museum of Contemporary Craft, which also has free admission every first Thursday.

FRIDAY

And, finally, what better way to end your week than by watching the latest episode of Portlandia at the Mission McMenumins? Check their website for showtimes.

'Nice beer for nice people'

Tugboat keeps
enthusiasts
chugging along

Holly Laycock
VANGUARD STAFF



Karl Kuchs | Vanguard Staff

Tugboat Brewing Co. is worth a stop any night of the week.

Their Chernobyl Stout, at 13 percent alcohol and only offered in a half pint, is syrupy, smooth and delicious.



Regardless of the weather outside, the beer-drinking conditions at Tugboat Brewing Co. are always perfect. It's the oldest microbrewery in downtown Portland and a family-owned enterprise that evolved first from a watch-repair shop to a coffeehouse, and then, finally, to your new favorite bar. Whatever prompted the switch to brewing English-style strong ales, it's working.

Let's be honest: You go to Tugboat for the beer. Their Chernobyl Stout, at 13 percent alcohol and only offered in a half pint, is syrupy, smooth and delicious. But make sure you get in soon if this excites your taste buds because Tugboat only brews in small batches (usually three at a time), and the selection changes depending on how fast people imbibe.

In other words, the turnaround isn't that long. The liquor-drinker's one criticism of Tugboat would be that they only serve beer and wine. But their tap and bottled selection is extensive enough for the microbrew crowd (PBR drinkers may want to try Mary's around the corner).

Happy hour ends at 7 p.m., but prices aren't outrageous for the punch the drinks pack. Food options are limited and disappointingly average for the \$6–7 price range, although a huge plate of nachos will cost you only \$3.50. All in all, the standard, hefty bar menu falters, but the funny quirks of the place redeem that trivial detail.

Tugboat's side street entrance off of Southwest

Burnside Street and Broadway leads into a deceptively large, cozy space. Old books line the walls and twinkle lights and houseplants adorn every window. Large booths and tables accommodate the multitude of board games available if you're up for some friendly competition—I recommend Clue—or if you'd rather slouch back and enjoy some live jazz, numerous local artists debut original material six nights a week.

Most nights it's more of a quiet bar, but the regular patrons come out of the woodwork on Mondays. A grumpy looking bulldog can typically be found roving from table to table on these nights, while people wander in to hearty cheers led by the bartender. The tradition of cheering upon entry and booing upon departure makes for a real live drinking game, and this, in combination with a Discovery Channel display of Northwest nature scenes, is strangely consoling.

The boating paraphernalia hanging haphazardly around the piano in the corner, as well as all the other nautical touches and ingrained oddities, make Tugboat a supremely pleasant place for an outing. And a beer.

TUGBOAT BREWING CO.
711 SW ANKENY ST.
503-226-2508
WWW.D2M.COM/TUGWEBSITE

EVENING AT THE IMPROV

Add some comedy to your life at the Brody Theater

Aimee Zink
VANGUARD STAFF

Portland should have much more to offer those of us you are under 21. That's why I was thrilled to be introduced to the Brody Theater. Looking to check out a fun show with friends or a date? Feeling blue and in need of a good laugh? The Brody is your place.

The Brody has some stand-up comedy but mostly focuses on improvisation. Anyone who's seen the show *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* is already familiar with this format of theater. There is no script. The actors make up everything spontaneously—with hilarious results. But the magic of improv goes beyond comedy.

"Improv is about storytelling," said theater arts professor Scott Parker, who teaches improv classes at Portland State. "People believe that improv is about making jokes. Improv tends to be humorous and fun, but that's mostly because of the delight of creating things in the moment."

The Brody is a short Green or Yellow Line MAX ride away from campus, nestled between Sushilchiban and Helen's Market. The inside is small and usually dark but has a relaxing, intimate atmosphere. The first row of the audience is so close to the stage you can reach out and touch the performers. In the back, there is a bar with both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, as well as food such as sandwiches, wraps and paninis.

I went to the Brody because I took the improvisational theater class at PSU. One of our assignments was to attend some live improv shows. The thought had never crossed my mind before, but after my first experience, I was blown away.

The first show I saw was its "Micetro" show, a friendly competition where actors perform and receive points based on the audience's applause. They put on this show every Friday.

The first show blew me away, but the second swept me right off this planet. It was the Brody's Halloween show titled "Scary Movie." The group of performers acted out "scary movies," each probably half an hour or so, based only on prompts from the audience.

This is called "long form" improv, and it is this style that makes the Brody unique. The kinds of games on *Whose Line* are called "short form" games. These games have a set format and last only a few minutes. Long form goes beyond that. It is a true test of the actor's creative and teamwork skills and is delightful to witness.

"In long form, you're creating little one-act plays," Parker said. "It takes patience and practice to be able to create longer stories and characters that can come in and out of a story."

The Brody has shows every single weekend. Short-form games, long-form performances,

guest groups, standup comedy—they have it all! The talented improv group Blank Slate frequently performs there. And on March 16 and 17, special guest Bob Odenkirk, creator of *Mr. Show* and co-star of *Breaking Bad*, will be paying the venue a visit.

If you want to test out your comedy skills, the Brody has open mic nights. Or if you watch improv and like what you see, it also offers a wide variety of improv classes so you can learn to do it yourself. And of course, there are improv classes at PSU, too.

"I think learning improv is empowering," Parker said. "Students who weren't really performers will tell me that learning how to let the stories come out of themselves with other people is very empowering, and it changes their lives."

I know it changed my life. Both watching and performing improv have been relaxing outlets. College is stressful. Everyone needs a few laughs. Go to the Brody and you will be entertained and fascinated. Just do it.

Prices for the Brody shows range from \$5–12 and almost always have a student discount. Visit www.brodytheater.com for more information about shows and classes.

THE BRODY THEATER
(16 NW BROADWAY)
503-224-2227
BRODYTHEATER.COM

AN EVENING IN MOTION

A night out can get your blood pumping

Eva-Jeanette Rawlins
VANGUARD STAFF

YOGA
5405 SE WOODWARD ST.
971-570-1384

Unwind after a long day at school with a free yoga class offered at Franklin High School. Experience the local, unpretentious, community feel this class offers, with a friendly instructor and an inclusive environment that caters to all experience levels. You won't feel embarrassed if you don't know how to do the Cobra. It's a great way to let your hair down and meet some new friends at the same time. "Siddhasana" and "bhujangasana" your way to a serene, transcendent evening.

ROCK CLIMBING
6050 SW MACADAM AVE
503-246-5111
410 NE 17TH AVE.
503-719-7041

Scale the wall at one of the world's largest rock-climbing gyms, The Circuit Gym, found right here in Portland. With a choice of two locations, it is a fun, social and invigorating way to spend an evening. Grab a friend or two and get ready to flex your muscles as you scale your way to the top. But don't worry—you don't have to be a pro; if you're a little shaky, they have Beginners Night on Saturdays after 5 p.m. At only \$10 with a student ID, it's the perfect way to spend a night and get your heart rate up.

ANDREA'S CHA CHA CLUB
832 SE GRAND AVE.
503-230-1166

If you're itching to put on your dancing shoes and don't know where to go, look no further than Andrea's Cha Cha Club. A hot spot for salsa dancing, this small, intimate club definitely gets hopping, so don't be fooled by the quiet upstairs atmosphere. Once you go downstairs, you'll find that your hips begin to move automatically to the pulsating music. On Thursdays, they have a live band, so head over after 10 p.m., have a couple drinks and then let loose. And if you don't have a partner, there are plenty of eager dancers ready to pull you onto the dance floor.



Over the top Rock climbing in the wee hours at The Circuit Gym.

Corinna Scott | Vanguard Staff

'80S VIDEO DANCE ATTACK
MCMENAMINS CRYSTAL BALLROOM
1332 W BURNSIDE ST.
503-225-0047

When you need a little '80s music infusion, Friday nights at the McMenamins Crystal Ballroom is where it's at. The funky Portland landmark, where it's promised that "On any night, anything can happen," is the place to be if you want to get your Running Man on. On Friday nights, you're invited to an '80s Video Dance Attack. With hundreds of classics playing, from Wham! to Pat Benatar, you'll wish you'd worn your neon scrunchies and parachute pants. And all the while, you can dance along with the music videos projected on a huge screen. It'll be too legit to quit!

JAI HO! BOLLYWOOD BLISS DANCE PARTY
MCMENAMINS CRYSTAL BALLROOM
1332 W BURNSIDE ST.
503-225-0047

Don't deny it; your favorite part of *Slumdog Millionaire* was when they rolled the credits and the epic dance sequence had you wishing you lived in a Bollywood world. Well, you can—for a night. The McMenamins Crystal Ballroom turns into little India every second Saturday and features incredibly catchy music that will keep you dancing for hours. Going with a group of friends is the best way to do it, and while DJ Prashant fuses old and new-school dance tunes, he'll also give you a some pointers in a workshop beforehand. You won't regret this visit to Portland's own Bollywood.



Dick Toma-Wolf, karaoke DJ, gets the crowd pumped.



All photos Drew Martig | Vanguard Staff

KARAOKE ME CRAZY

One dumbass tries and fails to do karaoke for 4 straight nights

Louie Optaz
VANGUARD STAFF

I have always appreciated a good night of karaoke: Grab a few friends, throw back a few drinks and make some questionable musical and life decisions.

So when I was given journalistic carte blanche to write about karaoke, it seemed like a cinch: Scope out some spots, grab some friends and hit up four karaoke spots in four days. Portland has a plethora of karaoke options, and I tried to patronize a variety of venues, each highlighting a different aspect of Portland's karaoke nightlife.

Here is my attempt at four nights of karaoke...and the ecstasy and agony that followed.

DAY 1 MONDAY NIGHT CHOPSTICKS II EXPRESS (2651 E BURNSIDE ST.)

When I first moved to Portland in fall 2007, I often heard Chopsticks II mentioned as the premier karaoke spot in town. An easy-to-find, well-publicized karaoke spot has its pluses (terrific people-watching and dance-partying) and minuses (you will probably never sing a song). I figured that a Monday night would offer a more subdued, less jam-packed night at Chopsticks II.

As I approached the door on the north side of Burnside, I could hear a plaintive, falsetto screech through the walls—something braying and exceedingly unpleasant. It was, as it turned out, a tattooed man, down on one knee, attempting to reach the high-pitched heights of The Darkness' "I Believe in a Thing Called Love."

I approached the bar and ordered a hot toddy, which should give you an indication of my general health and well-being: I was struggling with something that sounded like whooping cough and made every word uttered sound like a chopped-and-screwed

rap remix. If there was to be any chance of my singing karaoke this week, hot toddies would have to be part of the equation.

The karaoke portion of Chopsticks II is technically called "The Stargate Lounge," though it's neither particularly futuristic nor affiliated with the syndicated Richard Dean Anderson television program. On this Monday night, it's populated by a rather boisterous birthday party, many men in flannel and glasses, and of course, me and three friends at a back corner table.

After a couple uneventful songs, the birthday-night revelers approach the mic, and the flannel-clad, bespectacled ringleader of their troupe implores our table to come join them for a rendition of Fiona Apple's "Criminal." We demur, and as the music starts, he forgets about it. What follows is best described as "tone deaf Rob Zombie sings Fiona Apple," and that feels a touch generous. This group runs into a frequent karaoke dilemma, one I'll call the "Verse Conundrum:" You may think you know a song perfectly, but when forced to carry a tune all by your lonesome, it's always the verses that trip you up. Be it melody or cadence, you need to know a song to really kill it.

Erika Tucker shares her talents with the room.



(Later, someone attempts LFO's "Summer Girls," which typifies the Verse Conundrum: We all know that he sings about Abercrombie & Fitch in the chorus, but capturing the subtleties of lines like, "Billy Shakespeare wrote a whole bunch of sonnets" may prove more difficult.)

Like every karaoke night, there are several unflinchingly earnest singers, belting out their tried-and-true numbers. Tonight, a short, long-haired woman sings "Ziggy Stardust" with her eyes closed, and another woman in a floral dress belts out The Beatles' "Oh Darling" for what must be the 100th time.

But the vibe at Chopsticks II is one of ironic detachment. The song choices tend toward the cheesy (Eagles' "Hotel California," Air Supply's "All Out of Love," Brian McKnight's "Back at One"), the videos playing in the background look like Cialis ads and most of the songs are performed with tongues set firmly in cheeks.

A couple pretty vigorous dance parties break out, one during "Like a Prayer" and another during "My Humps," and our four-person contingent sings along to most of the night's songs. We totally crush "Say My Name," and it seems fitting when my roommate leaves, bringing our group from four to three—just like the real Destiny's Child!

The night ends, as most here do, with our last song, En Vogue's "Don't Let Go," not having been called. This, for me, is the lasting legacy of Chopsticks II: Even on Monday nights, you may never get near a microphone.

DAY 2 TUESDAY NIGHT BABY KETTEN KARAOKE @ MISSISSIPPI PIZZA (3552 N MISSISSIPPI AVE.)

Baby Ketten Karaoke is the antithesis of the irony-rich karaoke offerings of places like Chopsticks II or the Alibi (both of which certainly have their value). "The music selection is very different," said Lauren, a classmate of mine who I ran into at Mississippi Pizza. "There are a lot of songs that aren't available at more mainstream karaoke."

What this means, fellow karaoke-goers, is that on a given night you will find pretty damn good singers pouring their hearts out to Roy Orbison's "Crying" or Childish Gambino's "Bonfire" or The Cramps' "Garbage Man." Because the folks at Baby

Ketten create their own karaoke tracks, often based on customer request, the lists are consistently updated and filled with tracks that people actually want to sing. Their shows also feature great sound (I heard more preparation for the Baby Ketten sound check than I have for some live shows), a big projection screen and a pretty kick-ass lighting system.

Shelbi, a Portland native and karaoke fiend, jumps on stage early on to sing Smith’s version of “Baby It’s You” and, pardon my French, fucking murders it. It turns out that this particular song is one reason Shelbi loves Baby Ketten: She had been searching for “Baby It’s You” and Sharon Jones’ “100 Days, 100 Nights” at karaoke spots around town before finding them at Baby Ketten.

“Their song selection is rad as shit,” Shelbi says later as we wait in line for drinks at the bar in back. (Even in the back corner of the bar, far removed from the stage, Baby Ketten keeps you connected through a video camera that feeds live shots of the stage to a TV screen. It only adds to the professional feel of the show.)

While we talk, Shelbi is listening to a song surreptitiously on her iPhone; she is preparing for her next song and won’t tell me what the song is, though I can see a Ferris wheel on her screen. She, like many of the other “kettens” (which is what the regulars are called), takes this pretty seriously. A few minutes later, I have to laugh when the Ferris wheel is finally explained. She



Brad Stephens croons out a tune for listeners at Suki’s.

is singing “You’re the One That I Want” from Grease with a baritone in a Phantom of the Opera T-shirt.

Like Baby Ketten in general, it’s the quality that sets this apart. Yes, Grease gets sung everywhere, but these two can sing, and even on an eight-inch stage, the lights and sound quality make it actually feel like a show.

I’m getting ready to leave and mention to Shelbi that I’m planning to go to karaoke for the next two nights. Wednesday night, I’m going to Suki’s in Southwest Portland. Shelbi decides to come with, and it seems like I’ve found a karaoke Sherpa. She also points me toward Karaoke From Hell, a live-band karaoke that plays at Dante’s on Mondays and Tiger Bar on Thursdays. So the itinerary is set: Suki’s on Wednesday and Tiger Bar on Thursday. Two down and two to go.

As I’m preparing to leave, I bemoan the fact that, once again, I’ve submitted a song that doesn’t get selected. But just I am opening the door to head outside, I hear my name called. I jump back inside, throw down my backpack and head up to the stage. The first notes of Robyn’s “Dancing On My Own” blare from the speakers, and I’m actually getting excited. I love this song, and I know it so well. This is what karaoke should be about: Not some jackass fumbling through bits of a song they vaguely recall but someone belting out notes they love and sounding good doing it.

Unfortunately, I don’t sound good doing it.

Somebody wrote “I’m failing with the waitress,” someone else wrote “I can’t sing either. Reach out and touch me,” and someone—probably me—spilled ketchup all over it.

I can’t hit the high notes—ya know, due to the fact that I can’t swallow or talk or really breathe—and when I sing it an octave lower it just sounds like I’m speaking awkwardly. I settle for scratching my voice in my upper-register and speak-singing the words while dancing my ass off.

As I look out to the tiny but ardent dance party breaking out, I convince myself that it’s not the booze or the strobe light, but me. I am awesome. I make sure not to ask anyone else how I did and am glad there’s no video evidence of my performance.

DAY THREE
WEDNESDAY NIGHT
SUKI’S (2401 SW 4TH AVE.)

It’s my third straight night of karaoke, and I’ve convinced a couple friends to join Shelbi and I for a full night of karaoke revelry. We decide to get good and drunk beforehand because we’re cheap and this is karaoke after all. I, however, underestimate the effect of a three-day karaoke binge on my already ragged immune system. By the time we reach Suki’s, I am drunk and I am coughing every 20–30 seconds. It’s not a good look for me.

The combination of my state-of-mind and Suki’s remodeled interior is a bit off-putting. I’ve spent some time in this little bar under the Travelodge, and they’ve taken pains to spruce it up: repainted walls, revamped menu, etc. But the karaoke remains the same, which is good, because it’s one of the more enjoyable karaoke nights in Portland: Dick, the KJ, tosses jokes around and sings a show tune every fourth or fifth song, depending on how busy the evening is. (Tonight, he sings “Wonderful Guy” from South Pacific. Sample lyric: “I’m as trite and as gay as a daisy in May.”) As a singer, you always know where you stand with Dick: if he calls your song “fabulous” just once, you did poor-to-okay; twice means you did pretty well; and “absolutely fabulous” means you crushed it.

Shelbi garners an “absolutely fabulous” for a killer version of “Son of a Preacher Man” that prompts my friend Dusty to ask, “Why isn’t she in a band?” I manage to sing “Love Shack” with Shelbi, but I hate the song and spend most of the four minutes swaying back and forth. Cayle sings Alan Jackson, which I only know because he

wrote it in my notebook.

At this point, my notes have slowly transitioned from my sloppy, drunken handwriting to other peoples’ sloppy, drunken handwriting. Somebody wrote “I’m failing with the waitress,” someone else wrote “I can’t sing either. Reach out and touch me,” and someone—probably me—spilled ketchup all over it. None of this makes any sense to me. There is also a quote from me, written in someone else’s hand, that reads, “This was the least productive of my nights out so far,” which is undeniably true.

There is a law of diminishing returns on a karaoke binge, and Suki’s is certainly my nadir. The next morning, I remember that I’m supposed to attend Karaoke From Hell that evening, and I am immediately nauseated. You see, dear reader, there are people who can sing karaoke sober, and I am not



Michael Rytting, bartender, tips his head back to sing.

one of them. I suspect that you or someone you know is the same way. For those of us who cannot soberly confront the debilitating combination of a microphone, video screen and stage, three nights of karaoke is just about all a body—not to mention a wallet—can handle.

Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays are generally set aside for laundry or The Bachelor or crossword puzzles or homework. You can’t expect too much out of them. So even if nothing earth-shattering happened, I did make a few new friends and cajoled a few old ones to spend three usually-mundane weeknights getting rowdy with me.

What did I learn? Not much, I suspect. But I got to sing Robyn in public, dammit, and that feels like a small victory for fun in the battle against banality.



Karl Kuchs | Vanguard Staff

A night at FX Nightclub is sure to provide entertainment.

Clean it up at the best—and worst—clubs

Kali Simmons
VANGUARD STAFF

While it seems that most Portlanders would rather bike down to the nearest house show to listen to the latest indie electronic Latin scream pianist, many desire a night out on the town now and again. Portland, known for its independent music scene, also boasts a surprisingly healthy club scene. But, like all good things, it's got a dark side. Luckily, the Vanguard put on its sparkly minidress and 14-inch heels and did the dirty work for you, with only minimal time spent crying drunkenly in the streets. We trounced through the best—and worst—of Portland's clubs. Here are some places to avoid and their much nicer, cleaner and cheaper alternatives.

DIRTY 21+
35 NW THIRD AVE.

Have you ever wanted to grind your body up against a crusty metal pole? Have you ever wanted to do so in front of throngs of people? Then this is your kind of scene. For the rest of us, Dirty certainly works hard to live up to its name. The music is primarily Top 40 hip-hop, but the weekly trance and electronica sessions with internationally known DJs give the club some redemption. Sadly, Dirty has yet to realize that this kind of club ceased being popular in the '90s when everyone ran out of money for coke.

INSTEAD, TRY...

THE CROWN ROOM 21+
205 NW FOURTH AVE.

What's that faint wobbly, wubbly sound you hear in the distance? That's the sweet sound of dub-step. The Crown Room, host of the weekly See You Next Tuesday event, brings in local and national talent to gently assault your ears with their amazing beats. Weekly music nights also bring in local trance, house and electro artists that mix it up for a guaranteed good time. Drinks are on the spendy side but, except for weekends, The Crown Room has no cover. Watch out for occasional open bar events and excellent music events.

AURA 21+
1022 W BURNSIDE ST.

Aura works hard to keep up its classy reputation. Two stories and scattered bars throughout the building make waiting in line for drinks much less of a hassle. Top 40 music is the sound du jour, but Aura also sneaks in alternative music. Sadly, the kind of crowd drawn to Aura resembles grown up versions of your high school's popular crowd still trying to squeeze into their prom clothes. Drinks run on the heart-attack-inducingly expensive side, and, even with all the space, Aura still manages to get suffocatingly packed.

INSTEAD, TRY...

GROOVE SUITE 21+
440 NW GLISAN ST.

Tucked away in the deepest corners of downtown, Groove Suite is not your regular club. Often open far into the night, it's the place to be if you don't want your night to end. Open only four days a week, it always plays great music and has the right kind of feel for even the most anxious club-goer. There is no cover before 10 p.m., so getting there early can work to your advantage. The bar is... well...unusual to say the least. Those looking to slurp down an appletini-margarita will be sorely disappointed by Groove Suite's meager selection, but those looking for a great time will fall in love with the relaxing atmosphere.

BARRACUDA 18+
9 NW SECOND AVE.

Trying to select an under-21 club is like trying to pick who you will vote for in the next presidential election—you usually end up picking the lesser of two evils. Barracuda is the terrifying evil twin of the 18-and-over nightclub scene. Women who go alone may often feel like they're being put on display in a market, so bring a few friends if you're looking to stop by. There's a bar and VIP tables upstairs, but much is left to be desired when it comes to the beer and spirits selection. The dance floor is spacious, providing room for dancers to breathe, but Barracuda, like many of its patrons, just can't overcome its creepy vibe.

INSTEAD, TRY...

FX NIGHTCLUB 18+
823 SW NAITO PKWY.

Glowing neon go-go dancers covered in bubbles and paint? Yes please! FX works hard to make itself seem different and is great for those looking to take their underage dates out on the town. FX also features an upstairs bar for of-age visitors. It still retains a somewhat creepy vibe, but such is the world of underage dance clubs. Musicians from all over the world have been known to pop up at FX to play their sets, so keep your eyes peeled for upcoming international headliners.

DIRTY AND
NOT-SO-DIRTY
DANCING

CALLING ALL MUSIC LOVERS



All photos Adam Wickham | Vanguard Staff

The Bing Lounge and KPSU team up to offer free shows

Emily Gravlin
VANGUARD STAFF

SXSW is coming up in March. Almost right after comes Coachella in April. How many Portland State students can afford tickets to these monster festivals? It's hard enough to scrounge up enough cash to see a band at the Roseland or Doug Fir. But there's just nothing like seeing live music, is there?

It has something to do with that unbeatable energy, people dancing around you, drinks, friends and just getting into the music. What if there were an intimate downtown venue where you could see live local bands, enjoy a few refreshing bottles of Lagunitas and eat pizza...for free?

Trick question! There is such a place, and it's called the Bing Lounge. It's owned by Alpha Broadcasting (the company behind Live 95.5, KINK 101.9 and KUPL 98.7), whose slogan is "putting the live and local back in radio."

That was the idea behind partnering with KPSU. "We were interested in doing events that would appeal to students," said Becca Pollard, promotions and technical assistant at Alpha Broadcasting. "We got in touch with KPSU, and they thought it was a great idea."

The venue is located only a few blocks from campus at Southwest Sixth Avenue and Madison Street. Though the Bing Lounge hosts world-famous musicians from The Fray to Sarah McLachlan, the KPSU-affiliated New Music shows are free and open to all ages.

How do they do it? The free beer and pizza come from sponsors Lagunitas Brewing Company and Pizza Schmizza and all it takes to get in the door is an email to Pollard to get on the guest list. And if you can't make it to the show, no worries: the Bing Lounge provides streaming video of live shows on the Internet at www.alphabroadcasting.com/binglive or through your smartphone via the free Ustream app.

You can even browse through videos of past performances—70 pages of them! Portland band Blast Majesty played the Bing Lounge last November. "It was fun. The people were all cool there," Singer/guitarist Chad Majesty said.

Keegan Meyer, promotions director for KPSU, talked more about PSU's involvement in the series. "The Bing Lounge came to KPSU asking us if we would like to help co-promote and collaborate together for these events...We agreed to do it because we thought the idea was great," Meyer said. "It featured great bands and provided good publicity for our station. We have the on-campus residential community and the college demographic, something the Bing Lounge rarely saw in their venue until this."

He said landing the Lagunitas sponsorship really helped the series take off and that KPSU is

mainly responsible for promoting the shows and bringing the beer.

If you missed the Wampire show at the Bing Lounge on Feb. 17, don't fret. The next New Music show features San Francisco band The Family Crest on March 30. More information can be found online. Search for the Bing Lounge on Facebook or Twitter or follow KPSU Portland on Facebook for upcoming shows. And if you're in a local band that's interested in playing at the Bing Lounge, you can contact Pollard for more information at rebecca.pollard@alphabroadcasting.com.

With a simple email, broke but fun-loving PSU students can enjoy a night of music and free food and beer. And even if you can't make it to the show, you can always watch it streaming live. It's a pretty cool thing the Bing Lounge is doing, and it's backed up by the music experts at PSU's own radio station. I'll see you all there March 30.

More than just a cool venue, Bing backs up its claims with some genuinely cool performers.

Real food and a flick

Living Room Theaters makes for a night to remember

Living the good life
Tuck in
and enjoy
the one-of-a-kind experience the Living Room Theaters provide.



All Photos Corinna Scott | Vanguard Staff

Eva-Jeanette Rawlins
VANGUARD STAFF

Movie theaters that serve oily pizza and hot dogs undoubtedly have their place, but when you really want to impress a date with your fabulous, suave taste, make a night of it at the Living Room Theaters. Offering a great selection of movies (including 3D) at an affordable price, together with cushy seats and a restaurant feel, this theater aims to please.

Portland is home to one of only two Living Room Theaters; the other is located in Boca Raton, Fla.

The movie selection is diverse, with recent showings ranging from the Freud biopic *A Dangerous Method* to Studio Ghibli's animated fantasy, *The Secret*

World of Arriety. There is certain to be something for everyone.

Live music is often another big draw. Fridays and Saturdays see a healthy mix of old and new local artists providing entertainment. Sometimes, a non-local artist makes his or her way to the theater, too; keep an eye on their website to see who might be coming through.

Their menu is impressive as well, boasting a selection of delightful, tapas-style cuisine from hoisin flank steak skewers to veggie sushi rolls and a selection of cheeses that will make you think you've died and gone to Switzerland. Their international wine menu meets a wider range of tastes and won't break the bank either.

And as the movie makes you cry, scream or laugh, a Tahitian vanilla caramel with sea salt and a Brazilian coffee for dessert will only make you say, "More!"

But the best part is the price. It's \$6 with your student ID or \$5 on Mondays and Tuesdays for regular films. 3D films are a bit pricier at \$10 for a matinee or \$12 for evening shows. Showtimes are available at pdx.livingroomtheaters.com.

LIVING ROOM THEATERS
LIVINGROOMTHEATERS.COM
341 SW 10TH AVE.
971-222-2010

JEDI MINDFUCK

These are not the cards you're looking for

REED MCCLINTOCK IS
PORTLAND'S MAGIC SCENE



Karl Kuchs | Vanguard Staff

Holly Laycock
VANGUARD STAFF

If you like to mix it up on your nights out, look no further than the one (and only) Reed McClintock's Jedi Mindfuck magic show. Amidst the go-go boots, patent leather and half-naked ladies at Dante's, Portland's greatest magician is just waiting to trip you out.

I know what you're thinking: "Aren't magic shows meant for eight-year-olds' birthday parties?" Or possibly, "If this guy owns a white rabbit, so help me..."

Rest assured. No rabbits get pulled out of top hats during McClintock's shows, which bears no resemblance to Siegfried and Roy's gaudy Vegas act with sequins and tigers. Nor does an evening with McClintock consist of unpronounceable chants akin to Harry Potter's Wingardium Leviosa—there are no capes or wands.

His late-night performances are in-your-face, highly interactive and truly mesmerizing. And while a disappearing a wallet, keys or the chick with whom you spent \$30

and two hours schmoozing isn't desirable when you're out on the town, this is one time you'll enjoy losing your senses.

Sitting at his red velvet station in the Limbo Lounge of Dante's and trying to make sense of his impossible sleight of hand over the thumping bass and candlelight leaves you dumbfounded, but the observer acclimates to McClintock's performance style. He slows things down, explains what he's doing as he does it, acts surprised at his own tricks and narrates the entire experience so the audience, no matter how hard they try not to be, are charmed by his hands.

Every trick left me speechless, particularly his incorporation of tattoos into one incredibly convoluted card trick. Spoiler: The card you pick is tattooed on his chest.

He's that good. So good, in fact, that he's performed for Moby, the late Michael Jackson, the Crown Prince of Ethiopia and is Benicio del Toro's favorite magician

(because, apparently, Benicio knows his magicians).

I've talked with him about just what it takes to be a world renowned magician in today's world of special effects, where magic—in the public's eye—falls somewhere in between Siegfried and Roy's giant spectacles and Harry Potter's Fizzing Whizbees.

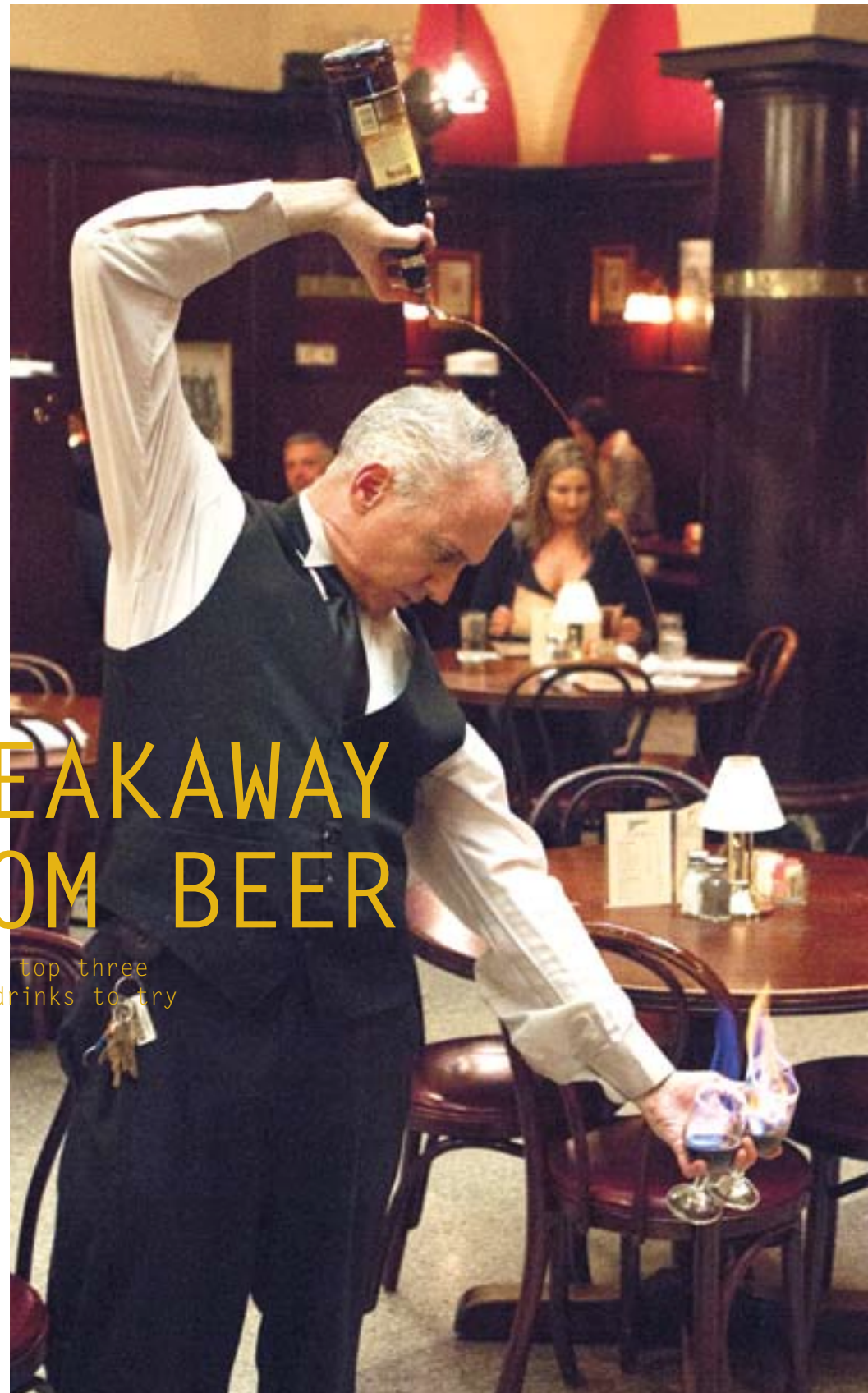
"I don't do fuck-you magic," McClintock said. He wants magic to change from egotistical magic, where it's all about "look what I can do," to a spectacle that will leave you reeling, which his hypnosis show will do.

And if it's just too much for you, at least you get to see some half-naked ladies dance.

REED MCCLINTOCK PERFORMS
AT DANTE'S EVERY WEDNESDAY
AND SUNDAY NIGHT AT 11 P.M.
350 W BURNSIDE ST.
503-226-6630

BREAKAWAY FROM BEER

Portland's top three hop-less drinks to try



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Portland may consider itself to be the mecca of microbrewing, but that doesn't mean all of us have to U-lock our bikes to a sketchy sign post and fake an affinity for dark brews. Sure, dollar beer nights at the Tortoise are great, but other tasty alcoholic creations besides PBR tall boys and Deschutes' Black Butte Porter do exist. For those Portlanders who prefer to sip and savor an inventive, inebriating concoction in a joint with a dress code, here are the top three coolest (non-hoppy) drinks you need to try in PDX:

FLAMING SPANISH COFFEE AT HUBER'S CAFE 411 SW THIRD AVE.

Huber's Cafe is Portland's oldest restaurant, serving up traditional turkey dinners since 1879. However, their true claim to fame is the house specialty: the Flaming Spanish Coffee. Sure, the drink may cost \$10, but it's alcohol and a show. Once you order the drink, one of Huber's vintage-dressed Spanish captains will prepare it table-side.

Be warned, you may want to remove your polar fleece jacket and tie back your hair because, yes, there's fire involved. Huber's signature drink is a seriously deadly mix of Kahlua, Bacardi 151, triple sec and brewed coffee. It's topped with freshly made whipped cream and sprinkled with nutmeg, making it a delicious after-dinner alternative to the typical dessert. An inside tip from the bartender: patrons can also order the Spanish Coffee over ice.

VAULT MARTINI'S PUSSY WAGON MARTINI 226 NW 12TH AVE.

Nestled in the heart of the Pearl District, Vault Martini has one of the most extensive drink lists in all of Portland. Vault's menu offers more than 130 different drinks and 44 unique martinis, including some that represent each of the seven deadly sins. The stand-out among the multitude is the Pussy Wagon martini. A fiery hot mix of house-infused habanero vodka, cranberry and lime, this drink is not for the faint of heart. Crazy spicy, but seriously delicious, the Pussy Wagon is definitely one of Vault's finest.

Due to the bar's overall awesomeness and relatively small square footage, the place is generally jam-packed on the weekends. Try hitting up Vault's happy hour on a weeknight for a less hectic experience.

ANDINA'S PIÑA COLADA 1314 NW GLISAN ST.

I know what you're thinking, a plain old piña colada is one of Portland's top drinks? Isn't that a mom-wants-to-go-crazy-during-the-family-vacation-in-Cancún-drink? Yes, but this version is not your mama's piña colada. Andina is one of downtown Portland's swankier drink spots.

Specializing in traditional Peruvian fare, Andina is a fusion between old world South American flavors and modern tastes. Although their drink menu is relatively small, each beverage is carefully crafted for optimal deliciousness.

Had a bad piña colada experience? No problem, Andina also offers updated versions of the classic margarita, daiquiri and mojito. Take their piña colada. The Andina menu describes it as "Pineapple amber rum blended with fresh crushed pineapple, coconut milk and sugar, served frozen, topped with Gosling's Black Seal rum and coconut shavings." 'Nuff said.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

How to identify the genre of music you're about to hear before you hear it (and why it's important)



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Do you ever wish you knew a little more about local music? Do you readily and loudly express your disappointment when a show isn't as good as you thought it would be?

We've all been in a situation like this: You're trying to decide what to do on a Saturday night, and a friend mentions that The Orange Spaceship Monopolies are playing at a local bar and you should come. You utter some nonsense along the lines of: "Oh...um...yeah. Of course I've heard of The O.S.P. They're amazing!" and then

attend the show only to discover that the titular "orange" and "spaceship" refers to pumpkin-colored astronaut stage attire and out-of-this-world synthesized beats.

Fortunately, it's easier than you think to identify music genres before you subject yourself to them. Just by looking at the artist's name, you can make certain assumptions about what you will be listening to for an hour of your life. Here are a few tips for making an educated, if essentially uninformed, night-out decision:



Broken Water are trying to tell you something.

Saria Dy | Vanguard Staff

1. SINGULAR NAME

If the artist only goes by one name, chances are it's a pop act or you're in a strip club (examples include Prince, Adele, Madonna, Cher, Usher and Beyonce). Thankfully, there are not a lot of local artists who feel important enough to brand themselves with a single name, so the risk is low.

2. FULL NAME

Here's where it gets tricky. If you assume every artist going by their name is a singer-songwriter, think again (examples include Andrew Bird, John Denver, Carly Simon, Brandi Carlile, Ray LaMontagne, Fiona Apple and Nick Cave). You could be going to a country show—almost every one of them goes by their name—or an amateur hour. If that's what you're looking for, then great! But if you want singer-songwriter vibe or for-sure unique sounds, you'll have to pick one randomly based on venue or actually do some research.

3. NAMES BEGINNING WITH "THE"

There are a lot of bands whose names begin with "The," but most

of them are rock, folk-rock or alternative (examples include The Beatles, The Civil Wars, The Shins, The Beta Band, The Clash, The Smiths, The Libertines and The Raincoats). Oftentimes, these bands use lots of different instruments and like to mix things up, so it'll probably be a good show (if you're into that sort of thing)!

4. DASHES, NUMBERS AND CAPS

You're about to hear some rap or hip-hop (examples include B.o.B., Jay-Z, Run-D.M.C. and Tech N9ne). Additionally, if it sounds like the name is made up—like Eminem or LL Cool J—it's probably also rap...or you wandered back into that strip club to see Karma.

5. RANDOM WORDS

Utilizing random adjectives and verbs in a name is a common practice throughout all genres of music, so you'll have to use your head here; for instance, a band called Death Fuckers would probably not be a folk duo, but rather, a punk group. A lot of hard rock bands do this (examples include Deep Purple, Nine Inch Nails, Guns 'n' Roses and Alice in Chains), as do lots of other bands.

Smart is sexy, too. And fun.

Lindsay Caron Epstein
VANGUARD STAFF



OMSI After Dark takes place on the last Wednesday of every month.

All photos Drew Martig | Vanguard Staff

OREGON MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY
1945 SE WATER AVE.

If it's never occurred to you that the science museum could be used as a hot date night, then you've been missing out! OMSI offers an array of interesting events for nightlife seekers. OMSI After Dark, held the last Wednesday of each month, is a 21+ night that often features libations, live music and science-themed samplings for all five senses (\$12 for non-members). OMSI also spreads the love throughout Oregon with twice a month science pubs. And don't forget OmniMax, where you surround yourself in science, sound and visuals inside the dome of OMSI's surround screen. Available to all ages for less dough than the average megaplex theater.

MCMENAMIN'S BAGDAD THEATRE
3702 SE HAWTHORNE BLVD.

Did you think the Bagdad was just a movie theater surrounded by bars and tucked into some rad architecture? It's much more than that. The Bagdad hosts comedy nights, lectures and featured speakers sponsored by Powell's books, a monthly OMSI science pub, fundraisers like "The Pedal-Powered Talk Show" benefitting the Hawthorne Hostel and an International Fly Fishing Festival. It also plays host to Multnomah County's sporadic "Sustainability Film Series," with controversial political pundits and emerging business presentations. Did I mention the rad architecture? Don't forget to check out the Back Stage Bar located on the other side of the film screen.



OMSI's
Bodyworld
Exhibit
*Where you
can go
get your
anatomical
geek on.*

MCMENAMIN'S MISSION THEATRE
1624 NW GLISAN ST.

The Mission is another funky McMenamin's establishment with geeky offerings, like the Think & Drink Series—a bi-monthly lecture presented by Oregon Humanities. One science pub per month is here (yep, even more OMSI) and Mortified—a public reading of private teen-angst journal entries—is typically sold out each month. The Mission also hosts two viewings of Portlandia on Fridays, with a raucous music and burlesque-filled intermission between the two showings.

WAYPOST CAFÉ
3120 N WILLIAMS AVE.

A sweet little café tucked between a thrift store and an awesome community garden on the north Williams bike lane, Waypost offers a variety of foot-tapping and brain-churning events. Closed Mondays, they are open the rest of the week from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Unfortunately for some, it just got a liquor license (sorry underagers). Here's a sampling of what's on tap (events-wise): "Know & Tell," trivia for smart people, happens each Wednesday, and once per month "Surprise Party Theatre" performs a show, or rather, has the audience interactively perform a show—usually Shakespeare. Scripts, costumes and roles are provided. Though most nights you can find live music (including a monthly classical music performance), the Waypost prides itself on being a literary hub, with regular readings from authors, occasional open-mic-style readings and poetry and an interesting recurring experiment for writers called the "7 Minute Reading Series."

OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1200 SW PARK AVE.

Mere blocks from the Portland State campus, this museum often gets lost in the shadow of its more popular neighbor, the Portland Art Museum. In addition to its many permanent and rotating exhibits, the Oregon Historical Society hosts a series of lectures and events. The museum hosts a healthy mix of free lectures, fundraisers and pay-per-ticket events to choose from each month. March's offerings include a genealogy workshop and "The Science and History Behind the Cocktail." And, like all good Portland museums, the Society offers a monthly pub talk at McMenamin's Kennedy School.

THE FREAKYBUTTRUE PECULIARIUM
2234 NW THURMAN ST.

One of those places that must be experienced at least once, the Peculiarium is only open Friday through Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. Feast your eyes on an alien autopsy, Al Capone's safe, bad (and good) art, freaky clowns, strange ephemera and images of the occult. The small "museum" also gives you the opportunity to munch on popcorn and hot dogs and a bug on Sundays. Yep, a bug. Eat it, and you too can be a member of the Insectarian Club. Don't miss out on the Sasquatch photo op or the gift shop for all the gag gifts you've ever dreamed of, from dog poop in a can to novelty magic tricks and black-light art and fixtures.

