

Logan Circles

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY MARK F. JOHNSON

Throughout much of June, it was one party after another around U/14. And now that the summer heat is on, Logan street life is sizzling!

P Street Heat

If it isn't hot enough for you already, go stand in line at the Whole Foods outdoor grill to get your heat ... and eat on. They've been serving up burgers, both beef and turkey, and also hot dogs, since the spring. And, since that time, the lines have been getting longer and longer for the \$4 grilled-to-order patties. Speaking of Whole Foods, there's a lot going on inside the store, too, as the interior undergoes some reconstructive surgery, and a new upper level seating area is added to the deli area.

Musical Stores

On the subject of take out, Creperie Point Chaud has opened near the corner of 14th and S streets NW. And, as we have already referred to the U/14 heat, talk of this "hot spot" is quickly spreading. There isn't much outdoor table space at this crepe joint, but as hot as it's been lately, it's probably better to grab a crepe to go than to eat it on the blistering street. Perhaps Point Chaud will do better than Café Salsa that had found a brief home down the street serving up Mexican dishes. The big windows facing 14th Street usually revealed few diners inside, most times I walked by. Café Salsa has sadly now gone adios.

In a game of musical stores, the spot at 1712 14th St. has now been claimed by neighboring

Flowers on Fourteenth. They have left their smaller space at 1718.

At a time when much of the U/14 retail space is going to restaurants, bars and national chain stores, especially those that sell furniture, it's nice to see a local, smaller business, well, grow and blossom!

Since we've had so little rain lately, that thunderous sound you may have heard on 14th Street early last month was the rush of folks storming into the recently opened Room & Board on the corner at T. The beautifully retro-fitted building, a former car dealership, has made the transition to posh furniture store very nicely!

Room & Board Open for Biz

Attending a private pre-opening party a few weeks ago was like



Aa group of partiers join the fun at Room & Board's "soft opening" in June.

being in the home of a well-heeled, uber-stylish but not at all stuffy, friend who just happened to have one of THE nicest rooftop decks in town. The store's soft opening weekend turned into cold hard cash for the Minneapolis-based chain as the store did about \$100,000 each of its first three days without even being officially opened for two of the three days. Every weekend the store is packed with gawkers, and it has become one of the main social venues of U/14. Room & Board moved to DC because they were getting millions of dollars in business from the 20009 zip code at their nearest store in Manhattan's Soho neighborhood and also online. The DC store, the newest in the chain's family, within its first month in operation, has made the company somewhere near half a million dollars in sales, according to a store source.

Nearby shops like Hunted House Mid Century Modern

furnishings, art and accessories, located next door, have reported people wandering in on the weekends from other parts of town or else from the 'burbs, who are apparently unaware that there were signs of life in U/14 BRB, that is, before Room & Board. However, regardless of what brings them to Mid City, it's nice to have new, potential shoppers scurrying about, say business owners on the street who seem glad that their new neighbor has finally moved in.

By the way, Room & Board wasn't the only big furniture store that moved to DC from New York City to have a party on that second Thursday of June. Mitchell-Gold, who had apparently planned their "white party" prior to R&B's gala, had a gay-la of its own. It being the week of DC gay Pride, Mitchell-Gold hosted a party clearly in honor of the proud, with a roster of guests, a significant number who represented the city's GLBT community and even a drag queen down from Gotham. Mitchell Gold and



Crepe joint Point Chaud has opened at 14th and S.



Macy's department store shows colors at DC's Gay Pride Parade.

Bob Williams have actually held a number of functions at the 14th Street store aimed at their gay and lesbian patrons.

New on U/14

We all know that when you look up "change" in the dictionary, a map of 14th Street pops up as the definition.

So, this month, new restaurants are dishing up the goodies like Es-tadio at 14th and Corcoran, across from Homemade Pizza. Cork and Fork, just up the street, has come on board, too. Word is that the old dry cleaners building next door to John Wesley AME Zion Church, at the corner of 14th and Corcoran, that has sat vacant for quite awhile now, is about to become the Italian Shirt Laundry, another restaurant offering sit-down service in a converted industrial space.

Political Appearances

June is national Pride month in the country, and Logan Circle is the de facto home to DC's very large gay community these days. So it was no surprise that, as the 35th annual Gay Pride parade made it's way down P Street and onto 14th, many lined the streets to cheer on the longer than usual parade of floats, drag queens,

barely clothed muscled lads, dykes on motorcycles, parents of gay kids, representatives of the religious community, gay and lesbian social organizations and of course, politicians. Both Mayor Adrian Fenty and DC Council Chairman Vincent Gray, who hopes to unseat him in November, showed up, but there was a very long gap between the two.

Two other politicians running against each other showed up at a June event, too. Far from the crowds and raucousness of the Gay Pride parade, both candidates running for an At-Large DC Council seat dropped in at the Logan Circle Citizens Association annual picnic a few weeks ago. One of the candidates, Phil Mendelson, is the incumbent, and he hopes to fend off Clark Ray, a former Fenty Administration official who is running for the seat. Both joined about 60 folks on the grounds of the Iowa condominium at 13th and O, where food was shared, but apparently political barbs were spared. Jack Evans, who represents Logan Circle on the council couldn't attend the event, scheduled on Father's Day, instead spending the day with his kids. Mendelson, a dad too, apparently got his Father's Day gifts before or after the association picnic. ♦

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