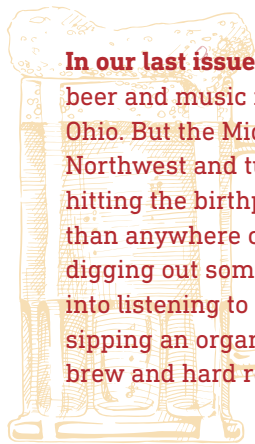


Vinyl On Tap:

Pairing Pacific Northwest Bands With Regional Brews

Feature: Kevin Sterne



In our last issue, we looked at America's heartland and the best beer and music from the land of 10,000 lakes to the Second City and Ohio. But the Midwest was just a warm-up. Set your compass due Northwest and tune your senses for beer, music, and Bigfoot. We're hitting the birthplace of grunge and the city with more breweries than anywhere on Earth. The roots run deep out here, so we're digging out some deep cuts from the last 25 years. Whether you're into listening to Nirvana or Pearl Jam on wax with Sasquatch, or sipping an organic fruit ale, the Pacific Northwest's claim as the OG of brew and hard rock combinations assures you're in good hands.



REDHOOK LONG HAMMER IPA

REDHOOK ALE BREWERY

What: American IPA

Where: Seattle, Washington **When:** Year-round **ABV:** 6.2%

Enjoy with Sunny Day Real Estate's *Diary* (1994)

This started it all: Emo's sparkling arpeggios; post-hardcore's stop-and-go tempos and X-Acto knife guitar lines; the soft croons and mid-verse, high-registered screams. When you trace back the family tree, *Diary* was the seed. Your younger cousin might not understand the meaning of this "emo revivalist movement" happening everywhere—he'll probably mess with the volume every time Jeremy Enigk's voice changes from whisper to shrill, whilst getting lit off two Blue Moons. But give him time; he'll learn to appreciate the enigmatic lyrics, the impact "Circles" has even today, and eventually the taste of an excellent IPA. When that time comes, let him share from your sixer. Everyone deserves to taste the pines of Mt. Hood, but only when they're ready.



SHAKESPEARE OATMEAL STOUT

ROGUE ALES

What: Oatmeal Stout

Where: Newport, Oregon **When:** Year-round **ABV:** 6.1%

Imbibe with the Fall Of Troy's *Ghostship Demos* (2004)

Comb the right hipster coffee shop or dive bar and you might find one of them: A tattered, disquieted soul forever scarred by the epic promise these four demos offered. Don't be fooled by their grizzly beard or slept-in haircut—the potential Thomas Erik and Co. flashed for such a brief moment in 2004 has left even the most hardened emo-turned-indie cruster tormented and tortured. The only way to fight the haunting disappointment of subsequent Fall Of Troy releases is to down sludge-black glasses of oak barrel-aged stout by Rogue. The winter fruits of figs and dates are just enough to offset the smoky aftertaste.



BOURBON BARREL AGED DARK STAR: COFFEE EDITION

FREMONT BREWING COMPANY

What: Oatmeal Stout

Where: Seattle, WA **When:** Fall **ABV:** 14.5%

Drink with Botch's *We Are The Romans* (1999)

To call Botch pioneers might be selling them short. With two Bush terms looming and the face-palm that was Y2K, the word "oracle" comes to mind when Dave Verellen calls out, "It's your fault, fucking up the kids," near the end of opener "To Our Friends In The Great White North." *We Are The Romans* is a tour de force so ahead of its time it took wannabe bands years to even attempt a rip-off (suspicious brow aimed in the direction of the Chariot and Norma Jean). And Dave Knudson was already playing his pedals with his hands for Minus The Bear by the time scene kids found "crabcore." Even though Botch was adamantly anti-Seattle, their bull's-eyed bastard-child plays nicely with Fremont's boozy, bourbon-barreled baby. Only a 14-plus ABV stout like Dark Star is bold enough to stand 10 rounds with this record.



ALASKAN SMOKED PORTER

ALASKAN BREWING CO.

What: American Porter

Where: Juneau, Alaska **When:** Winter **ABV:** 6.5%

Indulge with Portugal. The Man's *Waiter: "You Vultures!"* (2006)

A beer worth storing. Robust enough to be a stout, this smoky ager might be playing above its weight class, but so was Portugal. The Man when they debuted in 2006. In a time when every band was trying to be Underoath or the Mars Volta, these Alaskan natives piloted a flying saucer and dropped this anomaly on the lower 48. Hardened skeptics and ardent believers far and wide still can't come to reconciliation over this lava lamp and prog rock fuser. When they do, this porter will be ready.

