

NEIGHBORHOOD FOCUS

the past 10 years it's held the infamous Miller High Life Countdown on Saturdays, with High Life going for a quarter at 5 p.m. and going up 50 cents every hour. Also check their online calendar for their next apple sauce, pumpkin pie or Jell-O female wrestling contest; and bikini motorcycle washes. Speaking of Jell-O — another bargain is the \$1 Jell-O shooters when the big light bulb lights up inside **Millie and Al's**. Another deal is the "when it rains, it pours" special at **Toledo Lounge** — i.e., rainy Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays get you \$2 draft beers.

Something more upscale? Try the quality martinis and dishes at sister restaurants **Chloe** and **Saki** — the first serving a delicious Jumbo Lump Crab Cocktail and tasty mussels; the latter serving \$1 negri and half-priced salmon teriyaki during happy hour. There's also the **Left Bank**, a fine French Restaurant. And to get a sports fix, visit **Ventnor Sports Cafe**.

Another pair of sister establishments — **Amsterdam Falafel Shop** and **M'Dawg Haute Dogs** — sit right across the street from one another. Amsterdam is the best falafel in town because you make it. They give you a pita pocket, and it's up to you what 20 toppings you want: beets, cabbage, herb sauce, eggplant puree. M'Dawg boasts the \$20 Kobe Bryant, the "Bentley" of all dogs, made with exquisite Wagyu beef, a Kobe-style beef known for its tenderness, marbling characteristics and juiciness (and hefty \$150/pound price tag).

Sister clubs **Felix** and **Spy Lounge** both have lines that stretch down 18th Street on weekends, and both feature sleek interiors reminiscent of Miami and New York nightclubs. Spy is a much smaller lounge, and somewhat more exclusive, while Felix has live funk or jazz music on the weekends. Be sure to try the Felix Breeze (Stoli Strasberi with strawberry puree), Mango Caipirinha, Felix Spring Punch (Grey Goose and berry liquor) and the Lotus (Absolut Vanilla and Lychee Puree). With a martini lineup like this, it's no wonder these two lounges host DC's best James Bond-themed parties.

BOTTOM OF THE 18TH STREET STRIP

18th Street between Belmont Road and Florida Avenue

While the top half of the strip can boast the vast majority of AM's restaurants and bars in a very compact space, there are some hidden treasures in the more spread out bottom portion.

Before continuing down the strip, visit **Stetson's**, a nice neighborhood bar.

Bourbon found a niche that previously had been missing in Adams Morgan: a hip bourbon and spirits bar. To no surprise, this bar has 70 kinds of bourbon in stock, including dozens of Kentucky bourbons and Tennessee whiskeys; as well as a dozen wines and a pretty good selection of draft and bottle beers, including Magic Hat

and Blue Moon.

An anchor of AM at 18th and Kalorama, **Soussi** has a homey, lived-in feel to it, even though it's been in existence for only five years. It has influences from North Africa, France and Belgium in its vibe, food, hookahs and drinks. Popular dishes include Mahi-Mahi, Lamb Couscous, Steak Pommes Frites, and Jamal's Penne served with white wine butter. Also be sure to check out **L'Enfant**, a European-style cafe/bar with a large patio.

A different type of homey-feel is the authentic décor and cuisine of **Casa Oaxaca** — a new addition to AM and one of the very few authentic Mexican restaurants in the city. Be sure to try one of their seven moles, the cooked sauces that the Oaxaca Mexican region is best known for.

Yet another place with a homey-feel, albeit because of the fact it's been there for a decade and not much has changed since, is the **Common Share** — home to \$2 beers, pitchers for a few bucks more, and the best martini special you'll



ever find — \$2 on Saturdays before 10 p.m.

Also in the area is **Bobby Lew's**, a new place that has drawn its own following for being a cool neighborhood bar.

If you're looking for an early start to the weekend, few places can match the fun that is the '80s Dance Party in the upstairs "Heaven" portion of **Club Heaven and Hell** on Thursdays. Get there early for the buckets of Corona and tequila shots combo, and to avoid what is usually a pretty long line to get in.

Speaking of retro, albeit slightly earlier than the '80s, is **Meeps & Aunt Neensie's Fashionette** — one of DC's longest-running vintage shops, with particular focus on styling from the '40s through the 1970s. There also is a fair amount of "local specific" finds from local designers, such as a 'Debbie Does DC' T-shirt.

Well there you have it, this has been one man's version of his AM. I'm sure I'll see you in AdMo soon!

Chloe
Restaurant Lounge

Adams Morgan's upscale restaurant/lounge

1/2 Price Select Dinner Items
Tuesday - Friday 5pm-8pm

Brunch Saturday & Sunday
10:30am - 3pm

2473 18th Street, NW Washington, DC 202-232-5005

Happy Hour
Monday - Friday
5pm - 7pm
1/2 price sushi and
drink specials

Sunday
1/2 price bottle of Sake

saki

2477 18th Street, NW 202-232-5005