

matter-of-factly, “If the cops show up, you brought this from home.”

My decision not to name any of these sub rosa smoke-easies has nothing to do with the fact that I smoke and everything to do with the simple truth that nobody likes a narc. I couldn’t believe it when *5280*, in its February 2008 “Best Bars” feature, casually named Gabor’s as a (now bygone) spot to “light up.” For shame. Sorry, smokers, but you’re on your own here. I trust you understand.

Dive Bar Ratings & Symbols

All bars are rated on a scale of one to five bottles of beer, with five bottles denoting the diviest.



Your mother would be proud



Your mother would approve



Your mother is comfortable in most situations



Your mother raised you better than this



Your mother might be propositioned by a meth head

All bars are also rated on a scale of one to three ironic mustaches, with three denoting the highest probability of encountering hipsters.



Presence of hipsters is unlikely or infrequent, though anything’s possible.



Tight pants, solid V-neck tees, oversized sunglasses and references to obscure art and/or viral Internet content is expected but not guaranteed.



Known hipster hangout: Apply Irony-Off at least one hour before arriving to repel unwanted insincerity.

Finally, cash-only dives are labeled with the word CASH, and those with 7AM, 8AM or 9AM daily opening times are identified as such.