Distasteful alcohol manual offers little

By LANE HICKENBOTTOM **Book Critic**

Kudos to anybody who writes a book about alcoholic drinks.

A big, fat thumbs down to whoever writes one as poorly as Adam Rocke, a self-declared "struggling actor," Los Angeles bartender and the author of "Atomic Bodyslams to Whiskey Zippers: Cocktails for the 21st Century.

"Atomic Bodyslams" is a book combining new and old alcoholic recipes, some created by Rocke; anecdotes about tending bar for Hollywood stars; and references to the differences between highball and Collins glasses.

occasions where he was able to serve some movie star. Each of the would-

be, maybe, kind of, almost interesting stories fall short because he refuses to include the names of the stars involved.

The exception is a story about Jack Nicholson getting hit on in his bar. When a hot babe asks Nicholson if he wants to dance, he "flashed a sheepish smile and casually replied, as only Jack can, 'Wrong verb.'

If you are looking for reading material, I just provided the best part of the book, by far. Sorry.

An inexperienced consumer of mixed drinks might find this book to be a worthwhile investment because it includes recipes for old favorites like the whiskey sour and rum and Coke (which, for the 21st century, should be called a Cuba Libre, said Rocke comments on various Rocke, who writes that "Image is everything!").

However, the book lacks other ple, a Long Island Iced Tea or Sex on the Beach in "Atomic Bodyslams."

Instead, you get a long list of raunchy drinks that Rocke invented, and he warns throughout the book that the drinks are in no way tasty. If the drinks are failures, why include them in the book? A drinker who does not care about taste - just getting smashed for the next Husker game - won't want to take the time to mix several hard alcoholic beverages to come up with a drink that tastes like an 80-year-old man's butt.

To investigate further, I decided to try a drink from each chapter. From "The Usual Suspects" to "You Don't Expect Me to Drink That, Do You?" each chapter prescribes drinks with increasing potency and bad taste.

I started with a Kangaroo, a nearfavorites. You will not find, for exam- martini calling for 11/2 ounces of vodka and one ounce of dry vermouth. It was a very wet and strong drink, but it wasn't too bad. Next, I made a Honeybee, followed by an Estrogen Injection, a Fuzzbuster and finally, the title drink, the Atomic Bodyslam. After the Bodyslam, which tasted like fermented orange juice that had been collecting bug spray for a month, I stumbled to make my last drink, the Napalm.

At this point in the evening, I noticed just how cool the funky martini-drinking art looked on the cover. Too bad the art ends on the cover.

Nothing I tried tasted great, so I would never suggest that my friends

More importantly, I would never suggest this book.

Listeners react with emotion to storytellers

STORIES from page 12

rabbi, have played an essential role in her life and, consequently, her own storytelling.

Duncan, another group member, said that through performances, the women's stories go through a process of enhancement and realism. Often, a story evolves from a strict autobiographical foundation to become a creature all its own.

"We tend to do stories about events in our lives," Duncan said. "They may not have happened but they are emotionally true to us. My mother says, 'All stories are true: some have actually happened."

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