

Cheap drinks draw

Lounge vets share club with frugal young

By NICK GALLO
Of the Emerald

I can remember I can remember
whenwhenIrememberwhennnnn.

"... you know those lots up on 40th
and Donald? Those sold for \$250 apiece
not so long ago. Now you can't touch 'em
for \$10,000.

"This street right out here was paved
only as far as 19th Street. Hell, I can
remember when that stool you're sitting
on was in the country..."

Bartenders scurry. The jukebox
whirrs. Like a row of supplicating oak
trees, human bodies face the long,
somewhat smudged mirrors that extend
the length of the bar.

Their eyes meet a bumper sticker
pasted to one end of the mirror. It says,
"Legalize bingo, keep grandma off the
streets." At the other end of the bar cus-
tomers gaze at a surreal image of Betsy
Ross — a plastic doll, straight out of
Woolworth's, covered by 990 red, white
and blue paper poppies which have
been painstakingly arranged into a pat-
riotic costume.

"Am I in trouble vet, Winnie?"

"Not yet," replies a formidable-looking
bartender.

"I'd be the first to tell you."

This is the Vets Club, located at 1626
Willamette St. Built in the late 40s
("where there should be two nails,
there's three"), it restricted entrance to
members in the past. But in 1956 this
lounge, which is tucked away in the back
of the Veterans Memorial Building,
opened its doors to the public.

"...I get up when I feel like it, some
mornings at 5, some at 8 —

"Daddy's the same way."

"It don't really matter. I come over
here almost every day. Costs me three

"That's a fact. Better than eating
alone."

Daytime is a cave in this building. It is
dark enough that people could drink
themselves blind and it wouldn't matter.
The decor of the lounge is something

In a spirited monologue, he lays out
his mornings. Up at nine, he walks a
Pekinese for a "woman friend." Break-
fast is a peanut butter sandwich, washed
down by a bit of whiskey. His "woman
friend" joins him, but they have one rule.
The bottle goes back in the cabinet by 11
o'clock.

The Vets Club has always had a rare
melange of people, according to people
who work there. ("We do have a VARI-
ETY of customers," affirms the barten-
der). While the regulars sit at one end of
the bar, a new element is clustered in
back, way in the back. Young people.

The music starts. Couples from both
groups move to the dance floor in a
collide-oscope of draft evaders and
WWII veterans, long hair and no hair,
women in ballroom dresses and women
in jeans, all sparking and hissing to the
tunes of the Country Squires.

Why have young folks adopted this
lounge as its watering hole? The reason
ain't polka.

"Cheap drinks," answers a barmaid
without hesitation.

A bourbon on the rocks is 75 cents. A
Seven-and-Seven is 80 cents.

Look around the lounge: no pool ta-
bles, no foosball games, no big screens.
Rock 'n roll is a stranger to the jukebox.
this is most definitely not a pick-up bar.

But the young keep coming and the old
never left and the place seems big
enough for both. Only Betsy Ross sits
wide-eyed on the counter, draped con-
servatively in 990 crepe paper poppies
wondering what the hell is going on here.



Photo by Ken Shin

times as much to eat out, you know."

"But you don't have to clean up after
yourself."

"What?"

"I said you don't have to wash the
dishes here."

like utilitarian — the wallpaper covers
the walls; the chairs have four legs; the
tables are flat.

In many a cocktail lounge, mid-
afternoons are drowned in the drone of
vacuum cleaners, but here an
80-year-old man, who is small and al-
most completely bald, keeps talking.

United States supports South Korean dictatorship

Military tension can be eased according to expert

Since 1945, United States intervention in Korea has
cost the American people over \$189 billion and 33,000
lives. Today the United States continues to deploy 42,000
troops and an estimated 700 nuclear weapons in Korea,
while the Ford Administration has requested \$286 million
more in military aid for Korea for this fiscal year.

David Satterwhite, international affairs associate for
the American Friends Service Committee, believes the
American people can play a vital role in ending military
tensions on the Korean peninsula and in putting an end to
the repressive regime of South Korean Pres. Pak Jung Hi.

Satterwhite, in Eugene as part of a nationwide speak-
ing tour Wednesday said, "The United States is in a
position to diffuse the situation in Korea, but is doing
nothing to ease the military buildup or help the Korean
people."

By HEATHER McCLENAGHAN
Of the Emerald

"The United States is supporting the repressive gov-
ernment unconditionally," Satterwhite said. "For our gov-
ernment to support the South Korean dictatorship at all is
to perpetuate the division of the Korean people."

Satterwhite, who recently returned from a stay in
South Korea, found Korean life to be, "completely
militarized."

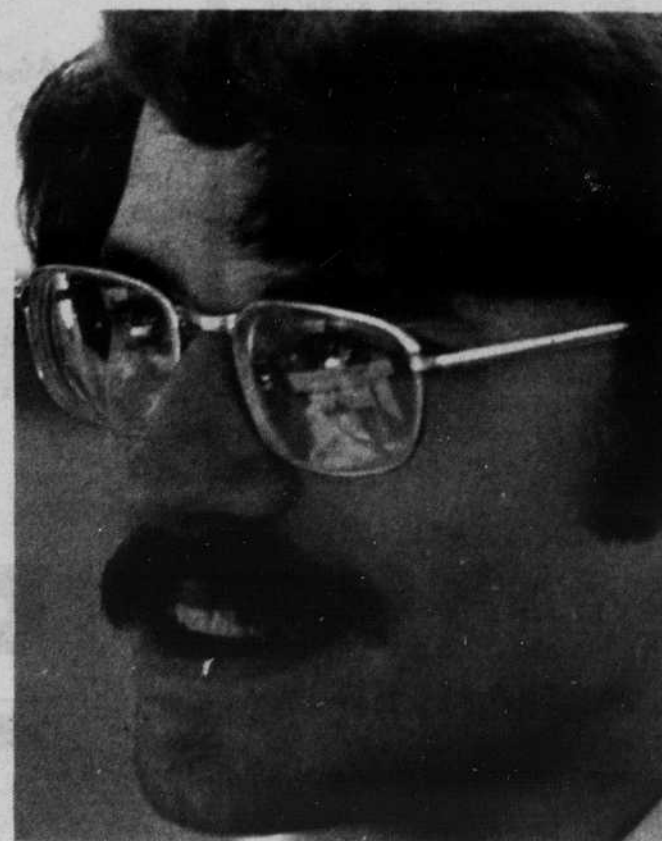
"South Korean society has become increasingly rep-
ressive in recent years," he said. "United States policy
since 1945 has been not to encourage democratic institu-
tions in Korea. There is no way for the South Korean
people to disagree with their government or even give
constructive criticism. If the South Koreans want to get rid
of Pak, they would have to resort to violence, because the
options for peaceful social change in South Korea are
almost zero."

According to Satterwhite, the Korean Central Intel-
ligence Committee (KCIA) has become the "official arm of
the government in domestic control."

The KCIA now employs between 200,000 to 300,000
informants in Korean schools and workplaces.

"The KCIA has people in every classroom listening to
what is being said and what is being taught," Satterwhite
explained. "This has made it impossible for any real
communication to take place between professors and
students, and has created a situation where no one can
trust anyone."

In addition to effectively squashing any rebellion by
university students — the traditional instigators of gov-
(Continued on Page 16)



David Satterwhite