

Perfect Party

Perfection has its price — \$1,348

By MIKE LEE
Of the Emerald

You blew it again, didn't you? You tried to have a party. You failed. Now it's Monday, and you still feel terrible about it. And you've got another party in two weeks.

This time, get it right. Give the Perfect Party.

A word of warning — it ain't cheap.

To begin, the Perfect Party must be held in the Perfect Place. Hugh Hefner's mansions are a bit too far away, so we'll settle for a barn. Sure, you could rent a fraternity basement, but the idea is to get away from it all.

Two barns cater to the local party business. The Vida Barn, 25 miles east of Springfield, charges from \$175 for parties up to 100 people, to \$250 for those with more than 250 guests. For best selection, you'll need to deposit \$150 two weeks in advance. Phone 896-3913 evenings.

Coglietti's Ranch, near Coburg, charges \$200 for the first 76 people and \$2 per person beyond that, with a \$200 deposit. Phone 345-5643.

For our party, we'll limit the guests to 50. Any more than that and it's a convention.

Cost of barn (plus deposit): \$325.

But how do you get there? Knowing how your guests inhale alcohol (more on that below), you don't want a bunch of child-killers on the road late at night. You're going to need special transportation.

Dorsey Bus, 688-0454, can take the whole crew for a ride. For the six or so hours your party is going to last, they'll charge \$165 plus a \$25 cleaning fee if you're messy. And you will be.

Agreed, it's not quite Perfect, but limousines would take too long.

Cost of transportation: \$190. As anyone knows, you can't

have a Perfect Party sober. You need beer — by the keg because it tastes better that way. Each 15½ gallon keg will handle about 20 people for an evening (this varies according to the number of sots in your group), so for our Perfect Party we'll buy three kegs.

Five distributors in the area handle the more popular beers. The prices for "premium" beers run from \$26.50 for Oly (Coast Distributors, 747-5242) to \$34.50 for Michelob (Western Beverage Co., 345-6514).

Other distributors include Emerald Distributing Co. (342-3355) for Blitz, Henry's and Pabst, Patrick Distributing Co. (688-6161) for Rainier, Miller and many imported beers, and Twin Cities Distributing Co. (345-2351) for the Schlitz brands.

For these beers, keg deposits vary from \$12 to \$20, while tap deposits run from \$25 to \$50. Keg deposits for imported beers are higher.

So let's choose. Sure, almost any beer might do — if this were a normal party. But this is the Perfect Party. Three kegs of Heineken, please.

Cost of beer plus deposit: \$413.

And while we're on the subject...

Fine for furnishing beer to a minor (first offense): \$200.

People need something to soak up the beer with. Besides the munchies that anyone can buy in a store, wouldn't it be fun to rent a real-live popcorn maker?

No — it would be Perfect. Taylor Rental Center (741-2901) rents a popcorn popper for \$15 — the popcorn is extra. To find it, drive to 1792 N. 42nd St., Springfield. Tell them you'll rent the chandelier some other time.

Cost of popcorn: \$20. We're rolling now. Already this party is infinitely better than

that sham you held Saturday night. You can see how much fun your guests are having. This is a night they'll want to remember forever. They'll want pictures, of course, so you're going to hire a professional photographer.

You're in luck — two campus businesses specialize in party photography: Wally Kempe and Associates, which is run by John Dutton (344-6750) and Dana Johnson Photographers (345-6112). Prices range from \$1.30 to \$1.75 a picture.

Because your 50 guests are having so much fun, they're bound to order two pictures apiece. And being the Perfect Party giver, you'll pay for them.

Cost of pictures: \$175.

Did you leave something out? Probably. You'll need garbage pails and ice for the beer, you'll need a 100-watt stereo system for Perfect Party music (you'll have to borrow that from a friend), and whatever else you always forget at the last moment. So we'll add in a few pennies for incidentals.

Cost of incidentals: \$25.

There you have it — the Perfect Party. You'll have no enemies left after you throw this bash. So let's add it all up.

Cost of Perfect Party: \$1,348.

What? How on earth are you going to pay for it?

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