



Photo by Jeff Paalay

Protesters and supporters picketed the grand opening of Lollipop's, a local underage juice bar that features topless dancers.

## New topless juice bar touches off protests

Protesters complain the underage club degrades women and will boost crime

By Anne R. Scott  
Emerald Contributor

Lollipop's, the new underage topless juice bar, has left a bitter taste in the mouths of some West Eugene residents.

The new bar on West 11th Avenue features topless dancers and only serves non-alcoholic beers, Snapple products and soft drinks.

About 40 protesters and counter protesters armed with picket signs, banners and slogans gathered outside the bar for its grand opening Aug. 18. Several men snaked through the crowd carrying walkie talkies and cordless telephones in case the protest got out of control.

Two West Eugene residents said although they had never picketed any place before, they felt it was "time to stand up and be counted."

"I think it is in very, very, very poor taste," said one protester who did not want to be named.

Other protesters said the bar

hits too close to home because it is located two miles from a high school and is a "colossally bad idea" that will cause nothing but grief to their teen-age daughters.

Standing alongside the picketers were several counter-protesters supporting Lollipop's. Charli, a Lollipop's dancer, said she didn't think the protesters should target the women dancers.

"We're mothers just like they are," she said. "We need money, we need the work and we're not prostitutes. We're not sluts."

"Most people don't realize that we support our families," she said. "That we have children and problems. Just like everybody else, our children want certain clothes for school that you can't afford on welfare. We're helping our state by not being on welfare."

Another counter-protester, whose stage name is Wild Thing, agreed.

"At least we're not being supported by unemployment," she said. "We're out there doing it for ourselves. We have a constitutional right to work where we want to work."

The dancers blamed a lack of

Turn to LOLLIPOPS, Page 19D



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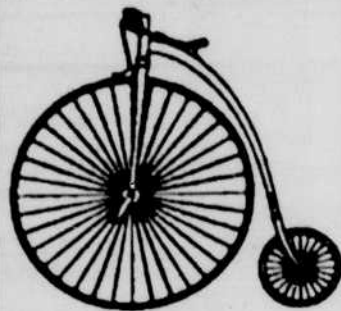
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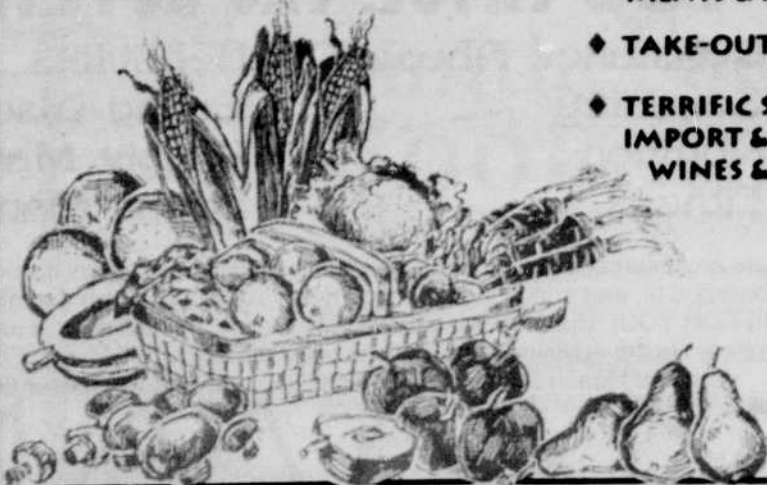
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