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**COLLEGE LIFE**

**Under 21 folk must be creative**

There are people who wish they could turn back time to become younger, and then there are those under the age of 21.

Before I got my fake I.D., ... uh, I mean before I turned 21, I cursed my mother for waiting so long to bring me into this world. But now things are different. Now I possess magical alcohol-drinking, people-mingling, band-watching abilities.



Reporter's Notebook

Many University students are not so fortunate. According to the registrar's office, 36 percent of the student population is under the legal drinking age. That's 6,000 people who can drink juice at Lollipops but can't have a beer in Jiggles.

The only choice for some is to acquire a fake I.D. Freshman Dan Montero has had his older brothers' I.D.'s since he was 15.

"I grew up in Nevada," he said. "There wasn't much else to do but go to the bars." Golly, Toto, we're not in Nevada anymore. Eugene holds many cultural and social opportunities for its young ones. They can bowl, play pool or foosball in the EMU (a favorite hangout for high school punks), attend a film at the Bijou, or play Streetfighter II at the 7-Eleven.

But if they want to catch a good blues, jazz, reggae or "alternative rock" show, some say the only way to go is the illegal way.

"It pisses me off when I want to see a show that's playing at a bar," said Jonathan Dupree, who is 20. "I don't care about the beer, I'm more interested in the music."

Phil Smith, doorman at John Henry's, said people who come to the bar are more interested in the music.

"People come to see the bands first and to drink beer second," he said. "Or they just want to hang with their friends."

He said he sees two or three fake IDs a night.

Guido's, a bar/dance club on 13th Avenue, also gets a fair share of people trying to lie their way in. The bar has a book about three inches thick filled with confiscated IDs. About half of them have a good story to go along with them.

Michelle Oaks, a waitress at Guido's, said one woman presented a Massachusetts driver's license



Photo by Kim Nguyen

Blake Richards (left to right), Jeff Golvstin and Lance Noble toast their access to a local tavern.

and when asked where she was from told the doorman she was from Boston, Illinois. Maybe she shouldn't have skipped geography class that day.

Smith said he gets IDs from people who don't even have the same eye or hair color as the picture. One man brought in a stolen ID. Smith knew it was stolen because it belonged to his roommate. Even though Smith checks ID's carefully, he said "there will always be a percentage of people who will most likely get in."

What state is our youth in if they lie, cheat and steal for mere entertainment? Most likely, they are very bored. Few activities in Eugene are geared toward the young and the restless. But some residents have taken it upon themselves to try to help the situation.

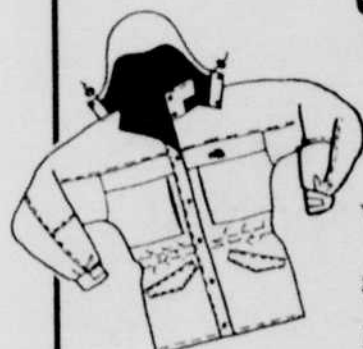
Various University students also take it upon themselves to create their own clubs. All you need is a basement, a band and a keg, and you've got yourself a scene.

That should be enough to relieve the yearnings for social interaction. It's probably best not to get a fake ID. The maximum fine for possessing someone else's ID or altering your own is \$4,000. And once you hit 21 you will be so sick of all the local bars that you won't care if you can get in or not.

All you can do is wait the two or three years until you are old enough to go to your bar of choice, drink enough to float a small ship and tell tales the next day about how good the band was and that being able to listen to good live music is all you ever wanted.

-Carrie Fenelon

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