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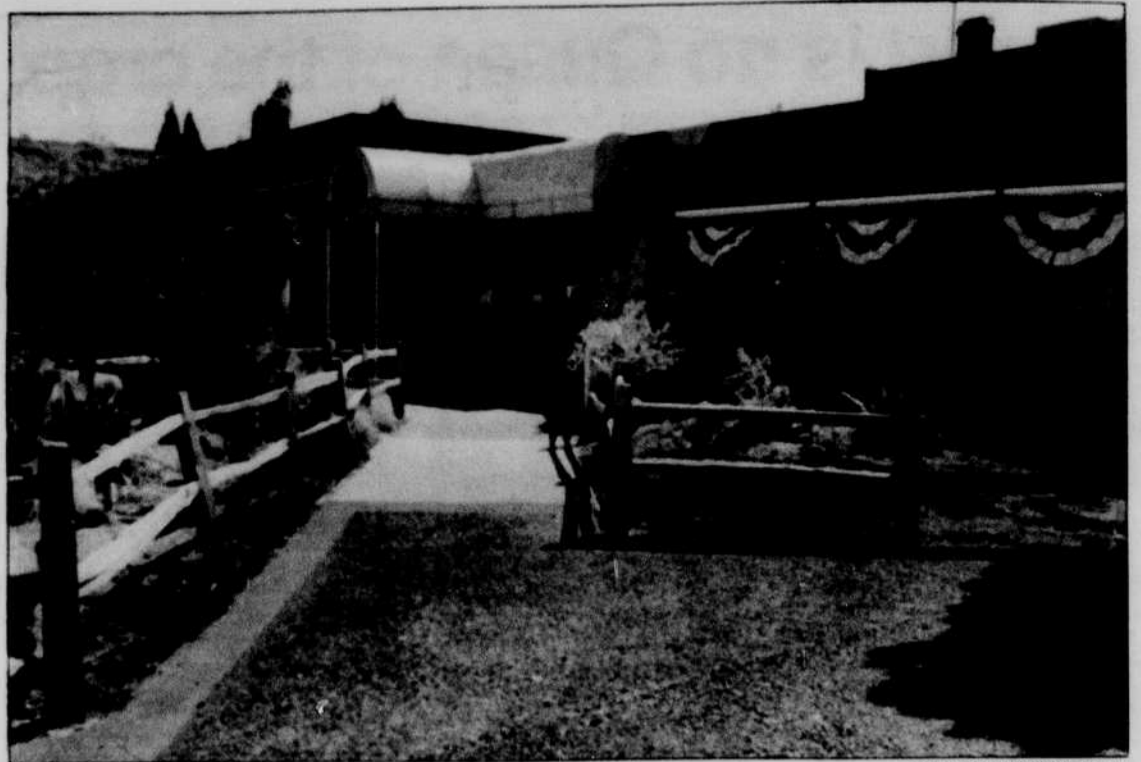
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Rock 'N' Rodeo provides an alternative to the standard Eugene entertainment.

ANTHONY FORNEY/Emerald

Rock 'N' Rodeo a different place

By Kaly Soto
Oregon Daily Emerald

The dance floor at Rock 'N' Rodeo reminds one of a scene from the movie *Urban Cowboy* — there is a rhinestone-studded saddle hanging from the ceiling, and larger-than-life portraits of Garth Brooks and the Judds line the walls.

One would expect such a place to exist in Dallas, Texas, or even in Dallas, Ore., but one would not expect to find such a place in Eugene. Eugene is the home of the Saturday Market, and this summer the city played host to 86,000 Grateful Dead fans.

At Rock 'N' Rodeo, 44 E. 7th Ave., they are playing host to a different kind of customer and successfully incorporating a country music dance club into Eugene's downtown.

Eugene resident Michelle Williamson, who comes to Rock 'N' Rodeo for the atmosphere that it provides, said the people who go to dance are true Oregonians.

"It's the older people who live in the country," she said. "If you go out to Burns, there aren't any hippies; they're old hicks."

It is obvious from the moment that one walks through the door at Rock 'N' Rodeo that the atmosphere is different from most other dance clubs. There are no nervous glances between patrons afraid to talk to each other, and there are very few — if any — people standing on the sidelines when the music starts.

The customers and the employees at Rock 'N' Rodeo do their best to make newcomers feel at home; it may sound cliché, but the club really has a down-home feel to it.

Dance instructor Kari Karau said one of the reasons Rock 'N' Rodeo is so popular with young people is because "it's something that they can do on a Sunday or a Tuesday in a smoke- and alcohol-free atmosphere."

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