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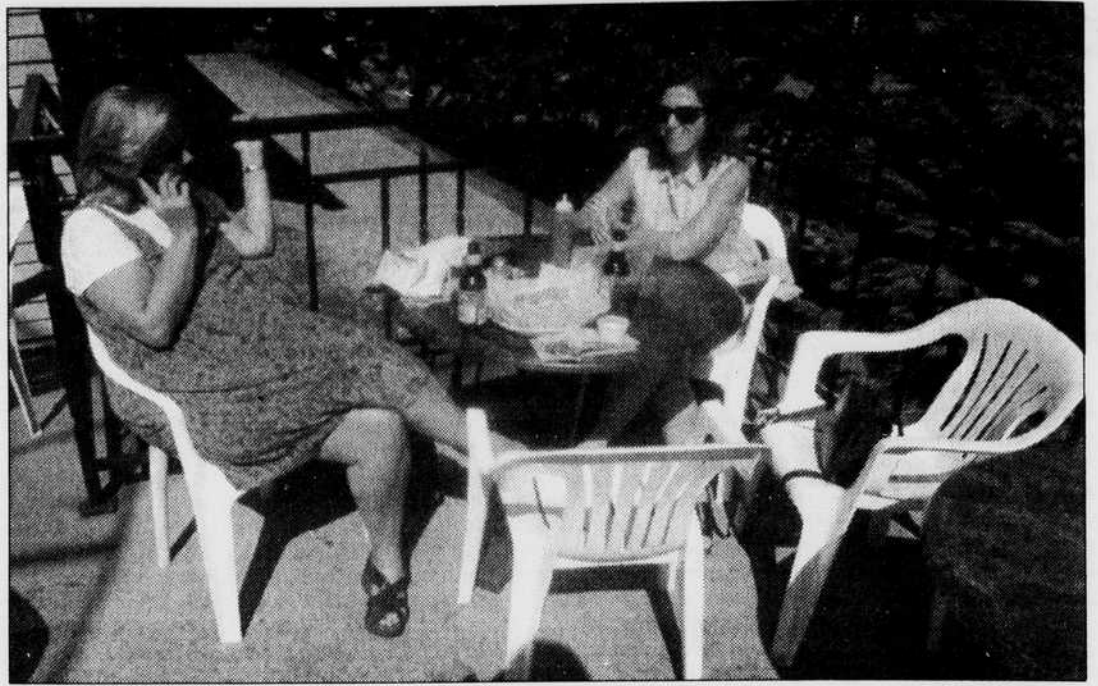
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LAURA GOSS/Emerald

Laura Axon watches Joan Demarest tell her mother from the Rennie's patio she just passed the bar exam.

Variety pervades bar scene

By Rob Moseley
Associate Editor

It can be as important as the decision to take English or geology. It could affect your weekend more than the decision to go to Autzen and see the Ducks or stay home and watch Michigan-Notre Dame. The decision: Which Eugene bar to spend your hard earned coin at.

Rennie's or Taylor's? Steelhead or Field's? Charlie's or the Rock'n Rodeo? Neighbor's or Perry's?

The factors that make a bar worth your time and money are numerous. The option to purchase liquor as well as beer and wine, the opportunity to hear a live band or a d.j. and the ability to hang out with people your own age can all make or break a Friday night.

That being said, here's a brief but informed breakdown of the area bar scene:

Campus Pubs

The two easiest places to grab a quick pint are Taylor's, located on the corner of 13th and Kincaid, and Rennie's, at the corner of 12th and Kincaid. Both serve hard alcohol as well as beer and wine, and both offer food. Rennie's offers some sweet deals during happy hours, after 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. Taylor's has a dollar-drink night on Wednesdays.

Further down 13th is Max's,

which serves beer exclusively and, like Rennie's, has a pool table. Good luck finding a table in this student favorite, which is always packed despite not being listed in the phone book.

Even more out of the way, but worth the walk — especially on Tuesday's dollar-drink night — is Doc's Pad. Two pool tables, plenty of sports on TV and the weekly South Park night add to Doc's attraction.

Brew Pubs

A more refined atmosphere can usually be found at one of the area's brew pubs, including Field's, Steelhead and 19th Street, which serves McMenamins' beers. All three have an extensive menu of food and appetizers, as well as their respective micros. None are real great places to raise some hell, but all offer some tasty brews.

Dance Clubs

Here's where the real variance comes into play. There's a dance club in Eugene for every lifestyle and taste on campus, and all of the clubs are within reasonable walking distance from campus. Notice I keep saying "walk." Never, ever, drive to or from a drinking establishment, unless of course I need a ride.

Anyhow, two of the most popular dance clubs in town are located under the same roof at 7th and Willamette. Rock'n Rodeo is a coun-

try-western bar that usually features line-dancing and some big hats, while Charlie's plays to a more hip-hop crowd. Expect a sizable cover.

Those seeking a more alternative crowd should check out Neighbor's, a gay and lesbian dance club. Neighbor's, located at 14th and Villard, describes itself as "very student-friendly" and serves hard liquor as well as beer.

Neighbors closest competition is Perry's, located downtown. Perry's, or Pass the Pepper, or Club Arena, or whatever it's called this week, is theoretically also a gay bar, but Thursday night is "straight night," and the crowd is usually pretty mixed.

Also located downtown is Nexus, a dance club that occasionally features live performances.

Live Music

To assure yourself of seeing a live band, the WOW Hall and John Henry's host marginally famous acts, and each serves alcohol as well as beer.

The WOW Hall has its bar downstairs from the main stage, but both audio and video feeds are piped in so patrons can enjoy the music and a beer at the same time.

Henry's hosts more rock-and-roll oriented acts, although recently it's been the site of "It's the Joint," a weekly hip-hop show presented by Darkside Productions.

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