



Wes Barnes, Jessica Olson, Ryan Kuzmanich, Andei Halstead and Mike Rohanson (left to right) enjoy a round of drinks at Taylor's.

Bars

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the dance floor like a Toys-R-Us on Christmas Eve. Most people sit at tables with their friends, talking, laughing and drinking. Some watch the football games playing on television screens scattered throughout the room.

But Doc's Pad offers more than just a DJ on Wednesday and Saturday nights. Bands also play occasionally, and every day, sports programs are broadcast on Doc's 15 televisions.

It is neither music nor sports, however, that lures University senior Matt Myers to the bar.

"Cheap beer," he says, sipping from his glass.

The Wild Duck isn't known for beer specials but for special beers. The Duck brews original beers, which can be tasted in bars around Oregon. But drinking isn't everything, patrons say.

"The food's great here," says University senior Ryan Lunden. "The people that work here are really cool, too."

In addition to the Duck's food and drinks, the bar offers patrons some laughs, as well. Local improv comedy troupes perform twice a month. Live music ranging from pop to funk and soul to Middle Eastern can be heard.

For people who love to boogie, the Disco 2000 show features remixed tunes by everyone from The Village People to Michael Jackson to Snoop Doggy Dogg.

Local hot spots

Different night hang-outs in Eugene have varying claims to fame. Here are a few:

- Club Arena — Dancing
- Doc's Pad — Music, television, cheap beer
- The Wild Duck — Original brews, good food, live performances
- Taylor's — Friendly 'Cheers' atmosphere, proximity to campus
- Rennie's Landing — Proximity to campus

Grooving to the beats is easy, but finding a space on the dance floor can be difficult.

But as Taylor's Bar & Grille proves, dance floors don't necessarily make the bar. Taylor's doesn't have a dance floor, but even on a Monday night the place is bustling with action.

Shouting above the toasts and cheers, the bartender calls the patrons by name as they approach the bar. The customers know each other, too. They shout hello as friends enter the bar.

Ryan Dwyer, a University junior, says the everybody-knows-your-name atmosphere lures him to Taylor's.

"You're always going to find someone here that you know."

On the other hand, Dwyer

thinks the bar's popularity can also be a drawback.

"Sometimes it's too crowded," he says.

Besides company, Taylor's offers an occasional live band and a few video poker machines nestled in a corner.

Only two blocks away, campus-friendly Rennie's Landing draws its share of the college crowd.

Even at 10:30 p.m. on a week-night, almost every table in the place is full, both upstairs and downstairs. Although each floor has a bar, both are mobbed by crowds.

Senior Elisabeth Taft says she is drawn to Rennie's because of its campus location.

"I can stumble home," she says.

Although the bars in Eugene vary in the type of food, drinks and entertainment they feature, many college students agree that the Eugene night scene is missing an element.

University junior Mika Edwards says this town needs "a place to dance."

But students don't just want another bar with a dance floor.

Ryan Lunden believes Eugene needs "a credible dance club."

Edwards envisions a club with "three or four stories."

But until a club that features groovy music and a place to dance, the local bars will have to fill the bill.

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