



Guests can listen to opera music and drink in a smoke-free environment in the Honors Bar at the Kennedy School in Portland.

Stay in school during spring break

Portland's Kennedy School gives patrons a romantic bed & breakfast experience

By Ryan Frank
Oregon Daily Emerald

Not since recess has school been this fun. Even in college, it's difficult to find a professor who will let you sleep in class, drink in detention or watch a beer brewery at work in the girls' bathroom.

But at McMenamins' Kennedy School bed and breakfast in Portland, a college student's wildest dreams can come true.

Rescued from possible demolition in the 1990s, the Kennedy School, a restored elementary school, is now a community crown jewel and a memorable destination for a weekend getaway or a spring break trip.

But if you do decide to make the two-hour drive into Northeast Portland for the night, be sure to take your beer mug, your wallet and some patience.

With five bars, a restaurant, a movie theater and a soaking pool, there's enough under one roof to keep you busy for a weekend, but it will most likely involve drinking and eating.

McMenamins' microbrews, the best in the Northwest, are the drink of choice in the five bars, but wine and well drinks are also available.

The Detention and Honors bars draw plenty of attention and laughs from guests. The Detention Bar offers blues and jazz music, beer, wine, scotch, bourbon and cigars for the bad boys and girls, while the Honors Bar caters to the good boys and girls with opera music, wine and a non-smoking atmosphere.

"At Kennedy, it's the easiest way to go from detention to honors," said Tim Hills, a McMenamins historian.

At a weekend rate of \$99, which includes a movie and breakfast, it's not exactly cheap, but if you can afford it, the Kennedy School is well worth it. Pints and food run the typical McMenamins rate of \$2.85 a pint and about \$5 to \$6 for a burger or sandwich.

As is consistent with the two McMenamins pubs in Eugene, 19th Street and High Street breweries, the service is not the strongest asset, and plenty of patience is necessary.

But beyond marginal service, the Kennedy School is a true treasure.

All 35 guest rooms are remodeled classrooms split into two rooms that include original art-



The walls of the richly unique McMenamins Kennedy School are lined with original art.

work and the original chalkboards from when the school closed in 1975.

With hardwood floors, high ceilings and large windows, each room has a warm, romantic feel that carries throughout the building. Unlike Edgefield, the largest McMenamins' bed and breakfast, located in Troutdale, each Kennedy School room includes a full private bath.

If you are looking for a relaxing weekend of watching movies or TV in your room, the Kennedy School isn't the place for you. The rooms don't have VCRs or TVs.

But the Kennedy School does have a movie theater that plays recent releases in a theater full of couches and lounge chairs, where you can drink and eat pizza during the flick.

If the food, drink, movie theater and soaking pool aren't enough to draw you to the Kennedy School, the place is packed with original artwork, most of which covers the history of the school and its surrounding neighborhood.

Which is one reason why so many people enjoy staying at the Kennedy School, Hills said.

"They look at all the paintings and photos on the wall, and they can relate; because of that commonality of elementary school, everyone can relate."

Without the neighborhood, and specifically the Concordia Neighborhood Association, the Kennedy School may have been turned into a pile of rubble.

Constructed in 1916 and named after the Irish immigrant who owned the land, the Kennedy School closed its doors in 1975 when Portland's elementary school population dwindled as the baby boomers moved on to middle school. Being one of the

McMenamins Kennedy School

- **WHAT:** A 35-room bed and breakfast
- **ADDRESS:** 5736 NE 33rd, Portland
- **E-MAIL:** kennedy@mcmenamins.com
- **WEB SITE:** www.mcmenamins.com
- **PHONE:** 888-249-3983
- **ROOM RATES:** \$89 per night Sunday to Thursday and \$99 per night Friday and Saturday

older buildings in the district and needing some repairs, the school was shut down.

After serving as a temporary school for other schools in the district under construction, the Kennedy School was relegated to a storage facility.

Risking possible demolition in the mid-1990s, the school was saved by the neighborhood association, which lobbied the city to have the school converted into a business.

Several companies placed bids with the city to renovate the school. McMenamins won the bid, and after five months of renovations, the Kennedy School bed and breakfast had its grand opening in October 1997.

The school is still closely tied to the community. The school, which is on the national register for historic places, has a meeting room devoted exclusively to the community and offers regular, no-cost use of some facilities.

It's that community atmosphere and the number of things to do under one roof that make the Kennedy School a charming experience that is difficult to find anywhere else.

we're here for you at the
University of Oregon

Spring break in Mazatlan

\$687⁰⁰ per person based on quad rate.
Includes Air/Hotel/transfers
out of Portland.

Council Travel

CIEE: Council on International Educational Exchange
University of Oregon | 877 1/2 East 13th Street
In the EMU Building | Eugene
Eugene (541)344-2263

University of Colorado at Boulder

USE SUMMER TO ACCELERATE



YOUR ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Summer session on the Boulder campus is something special. With over 500 campus courses to choose from, it's a relaxed, comfortable learning environment. Classes are smaller. And when you're not in class, you can soak up Boulder's mellow charm. Or explore Boulder's backyard, a high country playground that includes some of the country's most rugged and spectacular terrain.

VISITING STUDENTS: Take advantage of CU resources to complete or enrich your own degree program.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: Take a college course for experience, to enhance your college application, or to see if CU is the right school for you.

TEACHERS: Earn recertification credits and tap into everything the University has to offer.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Increase your knowledge base and build skills to enhance your capabilities.

ENRICHMENT: Give yourself the pleasure of an academic challenge at CU this summer.

FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Call 303-492-5146 or 800-331-2801 to request a Summer Session catalog. Or visit our web site
www.colorado.edu/sacs/summer



PLEASE RECYCLE