

■ Last call

Live music and casual atmosphere make Mac's marvelous

Not only does Mac's embody all the elements of a great bar, but a portion of the profits also benefit Veterans

BY AMY LICHTY
SENIOR PULSE REPORTER

There are few places in town where college students can mix socially with an older crowd and not feel uncomfortable or out of place. Lucky for Eugeneans, Mac's At the Vet's Club, located at 1626 Willamette St., provides a relaxed and casual atmosphere where anyone — no matter his or her demographic — can feel at ease.

Model airplanes dangle from the ceiling, votive candles decorate each table and ESPN is showcased on several televisions throughout the bar. The lighting is just right — muted just enough by dimmers. I despise the dark atmosphere that most bars supply; I actually like to see my friends when I talk to them, which Mac's allowed me to do. The biggest hurdle at Mac's was finding a place to sit, as most booths were claimed by friends getting together for drinks and friendly conversation or eagerly awaiting the band to take the stage.

Mac's provides live music four nights a week, every Wednesday

through Saturday. Every Thursday night at Mac's is "Blues Jam," and for a \$2 cover charge, you can enjoy live blues music and get MacTarnahan's for just \$2 from 9 p.m. until midnight. Cover charges for other nights range from the usual \$2 to \$4, with an occasional free show. The West Coast Rhythm Kings played the Saturday night that I went to Mac's. Couples scattered across the dance floors while others enjoyed the swing and blues music from their booths. The West Coast Rhythm Kings were incredibly talented, a joy to listen to and made the experience at Mac's even more satisfying.

Another great thing about Mac's at The Vet's Club is the inexpensive prices. Bud, PBR, Widmer Hefeweizen and MacTarnahan's Red Hook Nitro Porter are all on tap and a pounder costs just \$2.50 for the domestics and \$3.50 for the microbrews. If that won't quite quench your thirst, Mac's also offers 22-oz beers for \$3.75 and \$4.75 for domestics and microbrews, respectively.

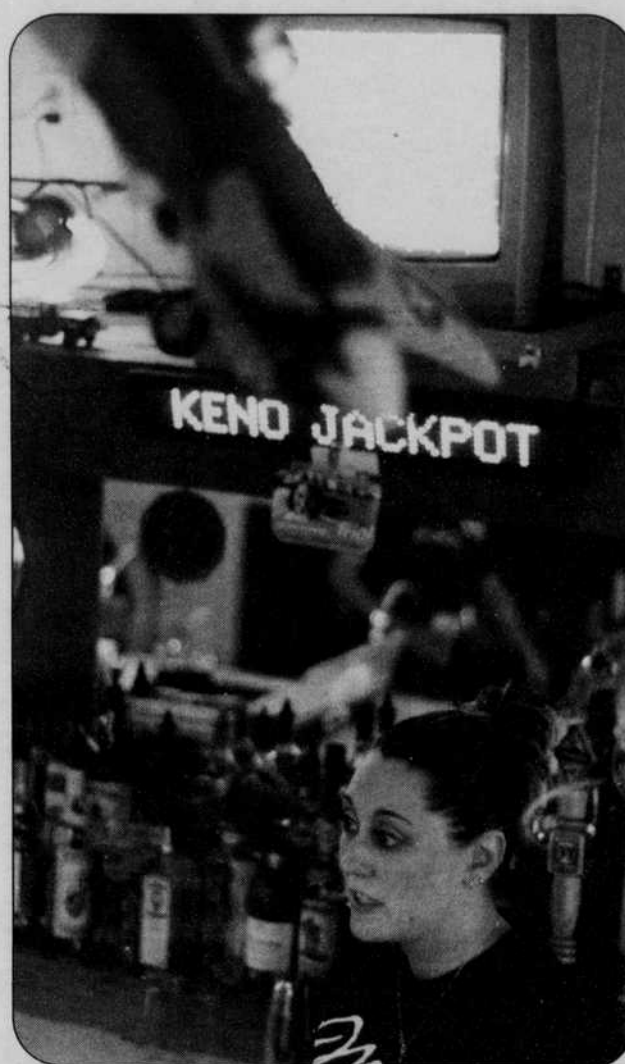
There is also plenty of bottled beer offered, such as Bud, O'Douls Amber and Michelob Ultra Light for \$2.50 and Fat Tire, Heineken, Corona and Deschutes Black Butte Porter for just \$3.75. Guinness Stout is also available for \$4.75. Mac's has a long and varied wine list, with prices ranging from \$4.25 to \$20.00 a glass and \$12 to \$60 for a bottle. Mac's also serves as a restaurant and its full lunch and dinner menus can be found online at macsatvet.com.

There is plenty of outdoor seating facing Willamette Street, and space heaters make taking smoke breaks or a break from the crowd much easier and more pleasurable, and people-watching on a busy street is always fun.

Since August 2002, Mac's at the Vet's Club has provided a wonderful, casual dining and drinking experience. What makes it even better is that a portion of all Mac's sales go directly back to the Veterans.

This weekend, Mac's hosts The Streamliners, a swing and blues band, on Friday, and The Vipers with Deb Cleveland on Saturday. Cover charge is \$2 for both shows.

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Mac's bartender Leanne Geyer works among replicas of World War II planes on Tuesday night.

TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

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