

Bust a move at Banana Joe's

SALENA DE LA CRUZ
Opinion Editor

Portland's newest hot spot, Banana Joe's is open and ready to cater to people over the age of 21 who are ready to shake their booty and get their freak on.

Banana Joe's welcomes patrons with a bright, neon yellow sign Tuesday through Saturday from 5 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. and each night has it's own special flavor of the evening. Tuesday nights you can shake your bon, bon because it's "Salsa Night". Wednesday night features "Ladies Night" where ladies come out to play. Ladies are welcome with no cover cost. College kids break out your school ID and you will get half off the cover costs on Thursday night. The radio station 101.1 KUFO will be burning the tunes for you. T.G.I.F. because Banana Joes hosts the "Island After Work Party," and everyone 21 and over is invited to relive the 80s and swim into the 90s and beyond with 107.5 playing the hits. Saturday night Z100 busts out with the "Dance Party". Ride into Sunday morning as the hits keep rollin'. Each night consists of various drink specials to coincide with the night's namesake.

The regular cover cost is \$8, but if you get there before 9 p.m. there is no cover. I highly recommend grac-

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ing the doors before that time because it's first come, first serve, and the line can leave you hanging the rest of the evening. However, it is well worth the wait.

The building is two stories high with pool tables upstairs for the non-inclined dancer or the weary from the night's events dancer. Whatever the case may be, they are for your use.

I must say Banana Joe's has a natural art about them. I was not

thirsty all night because they were well stocked. Downstairs they had two large bars at your disposal as well as mini bars to wet your whistle with good old-fashioned beer. Upstairs there is a mini version of the larger bars and then the littler version of that which again has beer. However, the most fascinating about the entire place was the number of bathrooms available for use. When I first entered the bathroom I thought I'd be waiting behind miles of other females. Not so in Banana Joe's. I had a welcome sight of 10-15 bathrooms with some actually vacant. Yes, the club gods are great in their glory they give to the patrons. Thank you for not letting me do the pee-pee dance.

This place is just my style; tables and countertops to dance on and wall to wall hotties to freak with. The hits are blown out and the people you can interact with is an experience I definitely will be repeating in the days, weeks and months to come.

It is located at 9 NW 2nd Avenue and Burnside in Portland next to Alexis' Restaurant.

For more information call (503) 227-0100.



PHOTOS BY SALENA DE LA CRUZ / Clackamas Print



These pictures are typical of a night out at Banana Joe's, Portland's newest hot spot.

(Top) Girls grooving to the beat on a Friday night, at the "Island After Work Party".

(Bottom Left) The sign that welcomes people 21 and older to freak.

(Bottom Right) Dancing to the hits of the 80s and beyond on a Friday night.

Fun, freaky stuff to do for free

JESSE GURZYNSKI
Staff Writer

We United Statesers have mostly grown up in front of televisions telling us that the only way to have fun is with money or with toys that cost money. I am suggesting that there are ways to entertain yourself without money or the glowing electronic narcotic that makes you think that you're impotent without money.

The tacit social restrictions on what you can and cannot do are going to tell you to not follow this advice. Realize that those social dictates are completely irrational, and serve only to stifle everybody into submission to the multi-billion dollar "cool machine" telling us to buy, buy, buy.

These suggestions may not have the 60 jolts per minute that MTV does, but they also don't

destroy your brain like MTV does. The point is that you should live your life, rather than letting your life slip away while you slowly metamorphose into a potato chip bag.

Take up reading or writing or drawing. I recommend that you favor political, philosophical, or classical texts, things that provoke thought. As for writing and drawing, it doesn't matter if you "don't know how," they're learned talents just like anything else, and you learn by doing it.

Take up drumming. It takes a lot of time and practice to become a good drummer, but you can practice anywhere. All you need is sticks, and you can turn just about anything - your notebook, a bus stop bench, a van - into a drumming surface.

Stick fight with your friends. Sure, you might get hurt, but if

you're not careless then no one should get seriously hurt. I've been playing this game since I was nine or so, and I never got seriously hurt. If sticks bother you, try socks. Just stuff the end of a large stocking with smaller socks and away you go.

Climb things. Buildings, trees, fences, walls, large rocks, utility boxes, etc. As you may have noticed already, the Clackamas campus is like a giant playground, with infinite possibilities. Also, when you're walking somewhere, you don't have to walk like a robot. Walk on the grass, it's better for your feet. Vault over mailboxes, it's great fun.

Enjoy the few semi-natural areas we have available to us, like the area around the ELC on the Clackamas campus. They're nothing like the Columbia wilderness, but they sure beat the linearized environment of concrete and ho-

mogenized space. Learn about our native wildlife, and remember, the natural environment is our natural environment.

Play Hacky Sack. I don't play myself, but I see people playing, and you don't have to buy some fancy sack. Substitute something else if you don't have one and don't turn it into a game of "I'm better than you." We're trying to have fun here, not prove our superior mastery of useless skills.

When most people come home tired from work, they don't think that they want to do anything or think. Once you get used to actually living though, it isn't so much effort. If you need to rest, sleep: that too, is much better than the TV.

These are just a few possibilities for entertainment free of monetary cost. The possibilities are far greater, but it will take you a while to get used to thinking for yourself.

GET UP, GET OUT AND...

DO SOMETHING!

- ◆ STICK FIGHT WITH YOUR FRIENDS.
- ◆ TAKE UP DRUMMING.
- ◆ CLIMB THINGS.
- ◆ TAKE UP READING AND WRITING.
- ◆ VAULT OVER MAILBOXES.
- ◆ PLAY HACKY SACK.