



She bop, he bop, a-we bop; Lincoln finds dance hall daze

By Julie A. Jordan
Daily Nebraskan Staff Editor

You've spent too-too-many hours sitting diligently behind a desk crumpled over a book. Your back aches and your legs are stiff. Your body is screaming for action. Exercise is out — too disciplined and exhausting. You need to go...Dancing!! Besides, you can drink beer and dance simultaneously.

Now that you've made up your mind, where do you go? Lincoln has a number of bars that offer dancing to live bands, tapes or DJ's. They play everything from rock-to-bop-to, country-to-swing-to and even waltzes to one-two-three-to.

Dominic Brazda, assistant manager of P.O. Pears, 322 So. 9th St., said P.O. Pears is a member of franchise which has a policy of no live music. Instead, they play tapes sent from their head office in Santa Monica, California. The tapes are revised monthly.

Pears has two sets of tapes. During the day and in the front-room, they play music for people of all ages — country, classics and novelties. A separate tape-player located in the back by the dance floor plays contemporary dance tunes.

If you'd rather dance to live jive, check out the Royal Grove, 340 W. Cornhusker Highway, Tucker Inn, 3235 S. 13th St., or the Zoo Bar, 135 N. 14th St.

Kathy Gruber, a UNL theater major said she favors live dance music, especially rockabilly and punk. Her favorite spots are the Zoo and the Drumstick, 547 N. 48th St. She noticed alot of "preppie" types at the Stick but her tastes differ.

"I usually dress like Madonna, she's my idol," Gruber said. "She wears a lot of belts, big satiny bows and lots of earrings."

The Play-Mor Ballroom, 6600 W. O St., caters to traditional dances.

Jane Boeka, a UNL senior majoring in English and Spanish said she enjoys ballroom dancing because it's a cultural experience.

"Women show up in old, outdated, full-length evening gowns," Boeka said. "Most everybody is 55 to 65 years old and probably goes to Shoemaker's for coffee and pie after."

You can check your hat there, too.

But it's not kosher to dance at just any bar in Lincoln. O'Rourke's, 121 N. 14th St., once posted a "No Dancing" sign above their jukebox. Managers still enforce that policy.

"The reason we didn't want people dancing is that this place is too crowded and too small," said bartender Bob Brodie. "In other words, it would cause more problems that it is worth. We don't have a caberet license."

Every tavern that has dancing — or any event open to the public that includes dancing — requires a public dance permit. Paul Malzer, city clerk, said the city ordinance was first enacted July 6, 1936, and revised September 20, 1965.

To receive a permit, an application must be filed. Then the fire department inspects the premises. Fire department officials make recommendations to the city clerk's office, based on facilities and capacity. The applicant then pays a \$50 fee for the permit, which must be renewed annually. Stageshows, plays and invitation-only events that are closed to the public are not required to obtain permits, Malzer said.

"We usually say the only way you can dance here is if you stand on the bar and take your clothes off," said Brodie of O'Rourke's. He said he usually goes to the Zoo "cause I don't know how to dance disco" and prefers live music to tapes or DJ's.

At Stooges, 826 P St., DJ's keep their clients dancing the night away. The Lucky Lady in Gold's Galleria offers dancing in a more formal atmosphere. The Lucky Lady enforces a strict dress code that discourages jeans and other casual dress.



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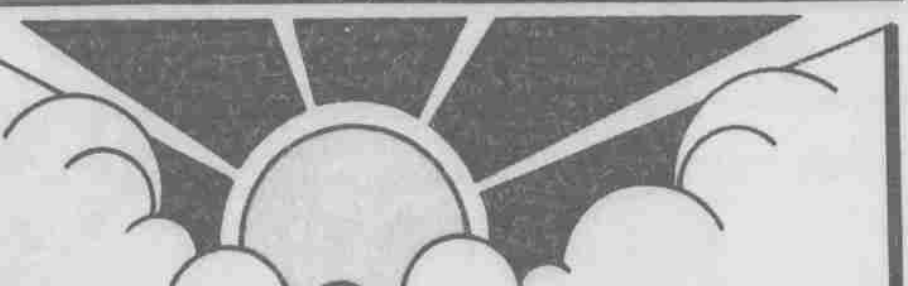
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