

Lincoln drinking: Weaving down lonesome highways

O'Rourke's 121 N. 14th St.

I've been a regular at O'Rourke's, at 121 N. 14th St., for almost four years now. I like the jukebox, I like the pool table, and I like the dark, smoky atmosphere that makes O'Rourke's unique among dark, smoky bars. I also like the beers and tequila shots. But most of all, I like the variety of people who can be found there.

It's like a neighborhood bar, only located downtown.

Among the regulars, you can find college professors and students, professional people (whoever they are), restaurant people and working people. Many of my friends like to hang around there. None of them are superficial.

Topics of conversation range from the meaning of existence to baseball. You can be as deep or light or zen as

you want; the possibilities are endless.

Perhaps the openness of the bar is what makes it great. Over the past two years, the bar has grown from being a quiet, laid-back place to being a loud, bustling place. Five nights out of seven the place is packed with interesting people.

O'Rourke's is being forced by the city to move sometime in the next few months. The city wants to tear down the historical building it is located in to construct a badly needed parking lot.

That's progress for you.

—Mick Dyer

The Happy Hour Lounge 1705 O St.

The Happy Hour Lounge, at 1705 O St., is probably better known as

"Girls, Girls, Girls." You don't have to guess what awaits patrons inside.

Psychologists call it sensory bombardment.

Women gyrating around in skimpy outfits. Loud music. Booze and cigarette smoke. The stage is illuminated by scintillating colored, flashing lights. To see tattoos on the dancers is normal at "Girls, Girls, Girls." I even saw a gal there I went to high school with, more than several years ago.

The sign that now says "Girls Girls Girls" used to say "Office Lounge," and the dancers were at the opposite end of the social spectrum.

This bar appeals to my sense of the surreal.

But the female dancers are just one of several features that makes this bar entertaining.

It has two large fish tanks. One of the tanks is empty. The other tank

holds one fish. The fish is fun to watch. Psychological studies have demonstrated that watching fish swim around in circles for 20 minutes can be as relaxing and therapeutic as meditation.

I think the fish are for patrons who get overly aroused. Pretty clever, huh?

The Happy Hour Lounge also serves a variety of delicious foods in addition to its wide selection of beverages. Little bags of nuts and chips are available to snack on, hamburgers and sloppy joes, if you have a larger appetite. The lounge even serves roast beef, turkey, ham and lasagna dinners.

The notion of eating lasagna while watching someone dance around topless to "Shake Your Love" still makes me giggle.

Prices range from \$1 for a hamburger to \$3.25 for a dinner. I had a burger while I was there, and it was

really tasty.


Another plus is the air conditioning. I knew a guy who lived in the neighborhood who would go to The Happy Hour Lounge on hot summer afternoons to read science fiction novels and drink beer. I guess the bar's patrons looked at him like he was weird.

—Mick Dyer

Mingles 826 P St.

Last Sunday night, I left the bounds of my body and jammed on an astral plane. Quite simply put, I died and went to teenybopper heaven. Belinda Carlisle may think heaven is a place on earth, and for teenyboppers, it's Mingles' college night on Sunday nights, at which, for a \$3

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