

Beer gardens sport relaxed atmosphere

By Kelly Anders
Staff Reporter

Only a handful of Lincoln bars are sporting beer gardens this season, just a few watering holes have them. Only three bars (that this writer knows of) possess these grown-up wonderlands - The Brass Rail, P.O. Pears and Oscar's.

Short and sweet, a beer garden is an outside extension of a bar in which people are granted the luxury of guzzling in the out-of-doors without worrying about getting cited by the police for having open containers of alcohol (this, sadly, occurs daily in many local parks). One even has a sandbox to play in - volleyball, that is. All three have bars outside during designated hours and picnic tables. In a nutshell, beer gardens are like kiddie playgrounds - adult style.

The beer garden of the Brass Rail, 1436 O St., is rather small (as is the Rail, itself) with several picnic tables and a bar. Music from the inside jukebox is piped out via speakers.

The garden has been open regularly since the beginning of April, said Rick Dostal, a bartender. The bar out there is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, he added.

Dostal said the garden is pretty popular at times.

"When it's hot," he said, "there could be only five or 10 people inside the bar, and the garden is packed."

Dostal said he attributes this phenomenon to "Spring Fever." The setting is ideal, he said.

"It's relaxed and close to campus," he said. "People like to come down, sit out in the sun and have a couple of beers."

The garden of P.O. Pears, 322 S. 9th St., is the only one with a sandbox, said Ron Schroeder, bartender and promotion manager. A volleyball league plays out there Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights, he said.

In addition to the net and sand, P.O. Pears sports a brick deck, picnic tables, an outside bar and occasional visits by bands. The bar is open when bands are outside, he said.

There is never a cover charge to get into the bar or to see the bands, Schroeder said.

"We pay out of our own pocket and hope to make up for it in liquor sales," he said. "We get pretty good crowds for bands."

Oscar's, 800 O St., has a patiosized beer garden, said Don Arena, the manager. An awning covers part of the area. There are several picnic tables and an outside bar.

The bar is open Fridays and Saturdays starting at 8 p.m. or 9 p.m., Arena said. On football Saturdays it opens at 11 a.m. or noon, he said, closes after the crowd leaves and re-opens in the evening.

The garden, which has been open for about five years, is popular during football Saturdays and when the weather is nice.

"It really packs 'em in," he said.



Rule for summer school is to enroll in fun classes

By Andy Upright
Staff Reporter

To some, summer school may seem be an oxymoron, and something to avoid, while others manage to integrate it into their reality. Yet whether the reality is erasing a failing grade, accumulating credit hours, or purely masochistic, you might want to follow one rule of thumb: Take something that sounds at least remotely interesting.

One such course offered this summer is "Detective Fiction," English 208A. The course is taught by 15-year veteran Franz Blaha. According to Blaha, the course entails a study in the "history and development" of detective fiction.

The reading material for the class ranges from early 19th century fiction, such as Edgar Allen Poe, to more contemporary authors, such as Agatha Christie and Nicolas Freeling. Another contemporary author studied in the class is South Dakotan Harold Adams, who bases much of his work on his home state, Blaha said.

One of the main aims of the class is to relate detective fiction to "current political, cultural and social events," Blaha said. The class will be studying how detective fiction reflects on or brings out popular views in our society. Views or attitudes on issues such as "class attitudes on social roles," or "crime and the police," will be explored, he said. Blaha said one of his hopes is to help students gain their own perspective on the issues.

If for no other reason, you might take detective fiction because "the class offers mostly enjoyable and suspenseful reading," Blaha said.

Another course that may be of help in gaining a perspective on

the world is Geography Lab 152.

The purpose of the lab is "two-fold," one reason is to complement Geography 150, the other is to "give students practical technical practice," said Doug Kluck, instructor. The primary goal of the class is to "reach a better understanding of physical geography," he said.

Given that the class is a lab, students will be getting hands-on experience, while having fun "drawing maps and measuring various things," he said. Crayons, colored pencils and perhaps rulers may be necessary for the course, though "it depends on the instructor," he said.

Kluck said the class is worthwhile since "you get to learn about the world, the natural environment."

A third class that may offer some summer interest is bowling, taught in the East Campus Union by Donna Neal. Even if you have no experience holding a bowling ball, the class is "open to all bowlers," Neal said.

The emphasis of the class is to help bowlers improve their game by gaining some "knowledge and skill," she said.

"Bingo Bowling" is one class activity used to improve the bowler's skill. "They call it bowling bingo because you look to see what you have," she said. The game helps the bowler learn to evaluate their bowling, and how to "pick up your leaves," she said.

The fact that bowling is "something you can do for a lifetime" is one aspect of the class that Neal said she appreciates.

So, if you've got the motivation, or have been threatening to take some classes at the "U" this summer, you may wish to check out some of these offerings.

Several bands provide local concert opportunities

By Mark Lage
Senior Reporter

The early weeks of summer vacation will provide freed students with several notable local concert opportunities, and those willing to trek to adjoining states will be able to take in enough heavy metal to add several pieces of large-scale art to the UNL campus.

Lincoln's biggest attraction upcoming is undoubtedly Cheap Trick, who will bring themselves and 50 guitars to Pinewood Bowl at Pioneers' Park, to play a benefit for Cerebral Palsy of Nebraska. According to KTGL FM's general manager, Mark O'Brien, this is the first event of this magnitude to be held at the Pinewood Bowl.

Pinewood Bowl will also hold the upcoming Ecology Now benefit, featuring local bands. Most of the local big-concert attraction action will be in Omaha this summer, at Peony Park and the Civic Auditorium.

This Sunday night will see Edie Brickell and the New Bohemians at Peony Park, to play their hit single "What I Am," and the rest of their successful debut album, "Shooting Rubberbands at the Stars."

The Replacements will also be at Peony Park on May 25. It's always

interesting to see just how drunk they will be, and this year one has to be curious as to how the layered acoustics of their latest album "Don't Tell a Soul," will translate to a live stage. Will Tommy Stinson wear make-up? You can find out for yourself.

Omaha Civic Auditorium's only upcoming show promises to be a big ugly one, as the dual-headline tour of The Cult and Metallica makes a stop there on June 14. The Cult is touring in support of their new album, while Metallica still rides the ever-growing success of "And Justice For All." The Cult might be interesting to see on their own sometimes, maybe, but in this double-bill they are way out of their league.

More metal is to be found in Missouri and Iowa. Poison and Ratt will both appear at Kansas City's Sandstone on different dates in May. Poison will play on May 11, and Ratt will appear on May 27.

Those looking for bona fide punishment can see Poison twice in the month of May, as they will be part of the infamous, annual Iowa Jam, in Des Moines on May 29. Joining Poison for the Jam will be Tesla, Winger, and the Bullet Boys.

"Wow," says J.J. Cook, KFRX air personality on that station's new Concert Line.

Ahh, Summer School..

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