

Thursday, June 30, 1983 • • •



Near to the dance floor, the most popular spot at Border's was the bar. From left, Rick LaRoque, 14, Gary Hubert, 13, and Mike Marone, 14, all of Winslow.



Tommy Bertlett, 16, and Heather Boyd, 14, show off their dancing floor at the Border in Burlington.



Morgan Schenk and Scott Austin found a quiet location away from the huffe of the dance floor. The two 17-year-olds have been going together for more than a year, they said.

Teen Nite

Drunk Only With Youth

By JOHN CIVILANO
Last Page last week

At the Border bar, they came to have their hands stamped. So one 18 or older was allowed to enter. "I carried a few people over 18. They didn't know what was going on and when they found out, they didn't want to come in anymore," said Luke Lawrence of the Mayor's Youth Office, who helped organize the Young & Restless night at Border, a Burlington discotheque holding its first alcohol-free event for youth.

On the dance floor Tuesday night, more than 200 members of the Papp generation worked up a sweat. Despite open windows and fan-blowing fans, the place was scented like a locker room. The dancers' breath was scented with soda pop or near beer. The music was loud, mostly high-beat funk that repeated toward enough by Prince, Madonna and rock 'n' roll.

No one sat down for long. A current of bodies circled, from one space to the next, anxiously looking for friends, shyly spying members of the opposite sex.

"There's a lot more fun going on here tonight," said 17-year-old student Amy Swanson.

"It's a great night, I'll like it," said Swanson, who is 18. A crowd of high school kids more sophisticated than the bulk of the crowd. "They're drunk with youth as opposed to drunk with alcohol."

Steve Kaplan, a South Burlington High School senior to the left, agreed. "I needed something like this in Burlington. It's a place for kids to go and they don't have to rely on booze and they can meet other people and talk."

Kaplan arrived about 10 minutes after the doors opened to the crowd paying a \$1 admission price. Two hours later, he still hadn't gathered the courage to ask any girls to dance. He wanted to look things over. "It was about 10:30 when I saw this girl," he said.

"That's a stupid question," he said, spying the stream of Christine Frisley bodies with Patrick Fawcett bodies.

Morgan Schenk and Scott Austin, recent graduates of St. Michael's College High School, were talking a break from the steamy dance floor, where black lights turned all the white shirts an electric blue and girls screamed every time the music would start. This was the couple's first try at a date.

"Finally I saw a place for kids under 18 to go to dance," Schenk said. "They get up to dance again when Madonna's 'Material Girl' begins thumping over the sound system."

Border opened in February and has become one of Burlington's most popular night spots for the adult New Wave crowd. It's three — stainless-steel walls, barbed wire around the ceiling, graffiti-covered barstools and a piano-shaped bar — resembles the Blue in Montreal and Area in New York, two popular night spots.

"It's an extension of a big city dance club," said Tom Warner, who manages the dance with Daniel Zilk. "The difference is we're not a big city, so we're trying to offer a bit of different things."

Adults from the Young & Restless night, Border also has featured evening of Children, Teenage, hardcore music to have different clientele. The alcohol-free night marked the club's departure from its normal style, and it came only after meetings with parents, school and community leaders. Warner said he had studied help provisions around the area to help promote the event.

It's almost twice the drinking age to 21, the demand for alcohol-free night spots will no doubt rise. Warner said his teen night have long been possible in other parts of the country with higher drinking ages.

As Border's light danced and Warner played pop to record, most of the boys headed against the walls and watched at others dance. Girls danced in pairs. There were people dancing by themselves, people dancing in groups of six.

John Armstrong, 14, offered a sociological explanation for the different styles of parting. "You see," he said, "it's the '80s."

Warner's security and Warner stopped the records to ask over the public address system about all the kids came from. Champaign Valley Union High School drew cheers. There was a crowd. Two girls from Blue Mountain who heard their school called out. Burlington High School, several students stepping. Burlington's students murmured.

"I like it better than school dances," said Karen Peterson, a recent graduate of St. Michael's. "You get to meet people from all the different schools."

"Finally there's some place for kids under 18 to go besides the movies."

Morgan Schenk, 17, of Richmond

More of the girls said deciding what to wear was a difficult decision. Heather Boyd, a 16½ sophomore, showed high heels, white pants and a drop shoulder T-shirt over a tan-colored sweater. Her friend, Michelle Bergerson, borrowed a black T-shirt with orange fringe running around the shoulders, giving her a Las Vegas look.

"We had to call each other and get together," Boyd said about the clothing.

"Everybody's got no heels," Bergerson added. "The two girls had danced with friends, but had little black dancing any new boys. They found, Taurus Bertlett, mentioned one invitation that turned out to be a letter."

"It was the person I wanted to dance with, it was his friend," said Bertlett, a 16½ junior. "The one with the partying asked me to be his friend, a kid with glasses."

At the bar, the kids had little trouble drinking alcohol substitutes. Purrier and Lewis proved. "One is nothing at all," said Tom Warner, bartender. "The other is a little bit of alcohol. We've brought and American brand. They like the imported."

The only people who grumbled during the evening were some of the workers who felt the kids didn't tip well.

"I got one," Elmer said. "I got a quarter," said his partner Chris Simpson. "He was drunk when they're supposed to tip."

But even old hands felt changed from the special sound of the night. Everyone seemed to move to high gear. One moment the bar would be jammed. Then a peculiar song came on and the bar emptied.

Debra Ann Foster, the Greek-born owner of Border, was sitting back at the counter in his restaurant. He'd be someone offering the non-alcoholic drinks.

"Of the kids here, you," he said. "Did there have any trouble?" "Up to now, no." "That's a scary sound?" "The night's not over yet."