



CoverSTORY

All the r a v e

Take underground music, add a feverish dance attitude, and you've got the parties of the moment

By Melissa Tanji
SPECIAL TO THE ADVERTISER

The music is underground. So is your ticket into it. Raves, the most fluid part of the local music scene, are also the toughest to crack. Either you're in the rave river or you're on the bank, watching it roll by. In the dark about raves? Listen up. Ravegoers and promoters say raves — large, underground dance parties drawing hundreds to industrial areas — offer music by deejays hailing from various parts of the country. There's

often a sliding scale for admission — it's cheaper to get in the earlier you arrive. But of course, it's cooler to come much, much later.

Raves had a bad rap, especially on the Mainland, when punk parties and moshing and bacchanalian behavior were the norm.

There usually are two or more rooms to a rave — one for the main event, which is dark and really loud, and a "chill" area, where people can relax and sit down. Smoke machines, visual effects and even slide shows add to the ambience. The deejays often are set up onstage, dancing takes place below. There also may be break-

ers, but no mosh pits.

"Basically, I fell into raves," said Randy Walsh, 22, who has frequented raves here ever since he moved from the Mainland four years ago.

Walsh saw a promotional flier and then ventured to the bash. Fliers "are all around," he said. "It's easy for people to find."

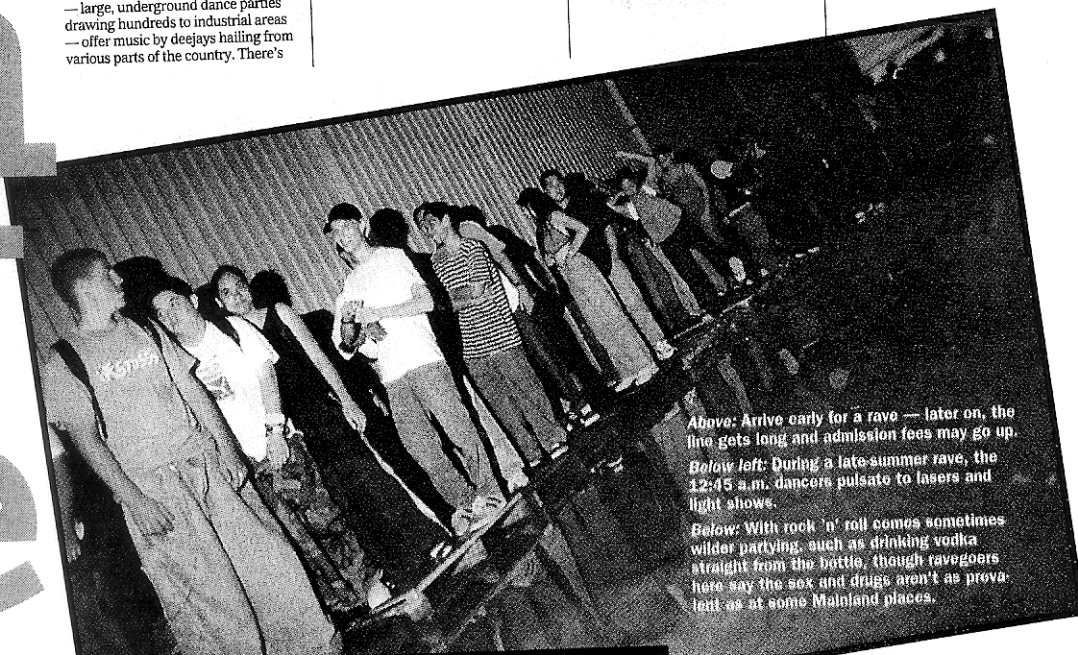
Of course, you need to know where to look (see story on Page 4).

G Dehnert — known as G-Spot in the music world and on KTUH, UH's radio station — said you can tell a rave

flier by its look. Between 500 and 1,500 professionally made fliers are distributed before a rave, said the deejay/promoter. And these aren't your garden variety fliers — the paper isn't what you'd find on copy machine papers, but colorful, glossy and full of detail. (We've heard some people even collect rave fliers, and some people keep "rave beads.")

Most ravegoers, like Debbie Bitner, 25, heard about raves through word-

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Above: Arrive early for a rave — later on, the line gets long and admission fees may go up.

Below left: During a late-summer rave, the 12:45 a.m. dancers pulsate to lasers and light shows.

Below: With rock 'n' roll comes sometimes wilder partying, such as drinking vodka straight from the bottle, though ravegoers here say the sex and drugs aren't as prevalent as at some Mainland places.



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