

RAVE: Underground music + dance = party time

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of-mouth.

If people go, they usually have been introduced into it or come upon it by chance, she said. Bitner, a sociology major at UH, now tips school mates to raves.

"When people hear 'rave' nowadays, they think total craziness," said Bitner, who finds the actuality quite different — at least here, with Hawaii's aloha-based lifestyle.

Walsh, who started going to raves at 16, said Mainland raves are a different brand of the beast.

"Here in Hawaii, most people are real nice," he said. "Actually, if I had kids, I would let them go to raves."

Raves are held at places such as clubs, warehouses, hotels and the University of Hawaii.

"The primary focus is obviously the music," G-Spot said. "There's security and there's no fights."

"Raves have a lot of energy," Bitner said. Some even dress in costumes, or pour on the glitter, Walsh said.

"It's a pretty diverse crowd," Walsh added, noting that jeans and T-shirts are not uncommon.

There is usually no alcohol at the raves, unless it's at a nightclub, he said.

Drugs? "There are people that do drugs," Walsh said. "There are a lot of people who don't do it either."

Ravegoers say the average age range at the raves is mostly in the teens, but there are also those in their 20s.



A rave is a rave — but at 2:30 a.m., it becomes a bunch of partygoers hanging around. This is the view of the outer parking lot after a recent rave in an industrial area of Honolulu (we promised not to say exactly where).

CORY LUM
• The Honolulu Advertiser

Looking for a rave? Here's how to find out where they are

The trick to being part of the rave scene is to go to one. From there, you begin to hear about the next one.

How do you crack the nut?

"A lot of people pick up the fliers," said Eric Kanemoto, a music buyer at Radio Free Music Center on Kapiolani Boulevard, who estimates

that about 100 people a week stop in there for fliers each week.

Fliers are posted — it's good to check record stores and "way kewl" coffeeshops.

At least 30 people a week stop at Hungry Ear Records near Ala Moana Center, which has a stand just as you walk in, said Chad Mekarua, as-

sistant manager.

"There's a pretty good following," he said. "Hawaii is pretty closed-circuit, so it's pretty easy to follow."

Also check out a website that shows dates of the next rave and gives info about visiting deejays: www.double-o-spot.com.

Information about the raves can also be heard on KIUH 90.3 FM, where G-Spot airs rave music on Wednesdays from 3 to 6 p.m.

Advice for first-timers: Go early, about 11 p.m. Admission is probably cheaper and the crowds are kinder and gentler.

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