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Under 21 Fun

Looking for underage nightlife options? Here's a list of 21 things to do

By Dave Burdick, For the Camera
February 17, 2006

The flier-plastered kiosks on the Pearl Street Mall play host to two of Boulder's greatest mysteries: Who periodically burns the fliers — leaving a ring of ashes around each kiosk — and is there enough entertainment in this town for people under the age of 21?

No matter how much you suspect the flier-burning comes courtesy of the city's clean-up crews, no matter how much you want it to be part of a publicity-destruction ritual involving the county's pyroenthusiasts, it's just vandalism, says Ellen Cunningham of the Downtown Boulder and University Hill Management Commission.

As for the events for under-21s — a few of which are advertised on said fliers, pre-torching — Boulder does a fine job, once you get away from the bar-heavy Pearl Street district. We won't call Boulder a college town, but it's certainly a town with a college in it, and so the University of Colorado is the best bet for under-21 entertainment.

Here's what you can find on campus and off if you're not yet of age — or if you'd just like not to be surrounded by alcohol for a night:

LATE-NIGHT SLICES

1.) **Pizza Colore**, 1336 Pearl St., Boulder

Get to the pick-up window any time of night — well, at least until 2:30 a.m., Thursday through Saturday.



Camera File Photo

Ashley Authement plays the "Addams Family" game at Lyons Classic Pinball as Jason Scroggins looks on.



Jim Murphy, left, of Boulder, putts around a make-believe mushroom as friend John Gaumnitz, of Boulder, leans in to look at the action on the putt-putt course at Gateway Park Fun Center in north Boulder.

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Tired of drinking the same old swill? Let our resident beer expert convince you that beauty is in the **Eye of the beerholder**.

Slices for hoodlums and other late-night Pearl Street cruisers start at \$2.25.

2.) **Abo's Pizza on the Hill**, 1110 13th St., Boulder

On the Hill you can get your pizza fix until 2:30 a.m. any day but Sunday. Two slices and a drink cost \$5.40.

3.) **Jimmy John's**, 1125 13th St., Boulder

It's not pizza, but they'll slice sandwich meats, so it counts. On Friday and Saturday, you can get cheap grub as late as 4 a.m. When you eat that late, it kind of almost sort of justifies eating breakfast in the afternoon.

MUSIC

4.) **Boulder Theater**, 2032 14th St.

This multi-purpose venue hosts a number of all-ages events, though they tend to be more of the movie variety than of the music variety. As for the latter, check out the one-of-a-kind collaboration between Sonic Youth's Thurston Moore and ex-Dead Kennedys screamer (and Boulder native) Jello Biafra on March 9. Visit www.bouldertheater.com for a full slate of upcoming events.

5.) **Fox Theatre**, 1135 13th St., Boulder

About half of the shows at the Fox are all-ages, including Sublime cover-band Badfish (Tuesday), hip weirdoes Gogol Bordello (April 2) and the reunited Dinosaur Jr (April 14). Check www.foxtheatre.com for a complete listing of shows.

6.) **Club 156**, University Memorial Center, CU

campus

CU's Program Council programs up a ton of shows at "the Club," none of which require an I.D. In the immediate future, bands Bayside (Monday), A Thorn for Every Heart (March 8) and Anathallo (March 9) will rock the tiny — uh, intimate — club.

7.) **Rock N' Soul Cafe**, 5290 Arapahoe Ave., Boulder

If you want a low-key night without 500 sweaty people crowding a stage, cozy up here with a cup of fair-trade organic coffee. This coffee shop/cafe offers tons of live music of a more wholesome variety. Cover is usually \$3 to \$10, except for a free open-mic night that starts at 7:30 p.m. on Mondays. See www.rocknsoulcafe.com for a schedule of performers.

8.) **Nissi's**, 2675 North Park Drive, Lafayette

This new bistro and music room was designed, in part, with the under-21 crowd in mind. Like the Rock N' Soul Cafe, shows are all ages, they start earlier — around 7 p.m. — and usually cost \$3 to \$10. Open mic and songwriter nights give up-and-comers a chance to take the stage. A full

calendar is available at www.nissis.com.

BOWLING

9.) **Splitz**, 10685 Westminster Blvd.

It's like Chuck E. Cheese's, but with bowling instead of video games, animatronics, giant mice and tons of kids. So really, Westminster's Splitz is only like Chuck E. Cheese's in that it's meant for parties. Split a lane among friends and bowl in a nicely-designed, suburban bowling wonderland. Some weekend nights, Splitz hosts late-night bowling blasts that last until 5 a.m. Call (303) 466-7515 for details.

10.) **Coal Creek Sports Center**, 550 W South Boulder Road, Lafayette

If you're looking for "Big Lebowski"-style bowling, Coal Creek is your choice. The fries are greasy and the lanes are plain. Coal Creek also is the better budget-bowling option, offering \$2 games and \$2 shoe rentals on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Get there after 8 p.m. to avoid league action. For more information, call (303) 673-0772.

MISCELLANEOUS

11.) **Lyons Classic Pinball**, 339-A Main St.

This pinball arcade/museum is open Thursday through Sunday and features a ton of classic pinball and video games, priced like they oughta be — between 25 and 75 cents per play. For hours and information, visit the joint on the Web at www.lyonspinball.com.

12.) **Gateway Fun Park**, 4800 North 28th St., Boulder

Batting cages, skee-ball, go-karts, mini-golf — Gateway is just a couple of sets of braces away from your basic sitcom date scene (or ironic hipster paradise — your choice). Keep driving north on 28th until you're sure you've passed it, then you'll find it. Call (303) 442-4368 for more information.

13.) **Hartmann Inline Rink**, 4800 North 28th St., Boulder

In the parking lot of Gateway Fun Park lies a great roller-hockey rink that hosts several leagues of varying skill levels, as well as regular pick-up games. Schedules and sign-ups are available at www.inlinerink.com.

14.) **YMCA of Boulder Valley Ice Rink**, 2800 Dagny Way, Lafayette

If you're one of those people who misses the short outdoor skating window in Boulder County every year, check out the YMCA in Lafayette. Skating is just \$5 for skaters under 18 and \$8 for those 18 and up. Skate rentals are included in the prices. Call (303) 664-5455 for public skate times.

JOKES

15.) **RedFish Brewhouse Comedy Brewhaha**, 2027 13th St., Boulder

Hosted by the author of this article, RedFish's weekly stand-up session brings comics to Boulder at 9:30 p.m. each Sunday. The show features comedians from the Boulder-Denver area and the occasional national act. There's no two drink minimum here — just a \$3 cover. Call (303) 440-5858 or visit www.

redfishbrewhouse.com for more information.

16.) Avenue Theater Virgin Sacrifices, 417 E. 17th St., Denver

Try your hand at stand-up comedy for 50 bucks a shot! Jared Ewy hosts this show on the first Monday of every month, and the audience votes on the best comic of the night. Call the theater at (303) 321-5925 for more details and to sign up.

MOVIES

17.) Program Council movies, various locations, CU campus

Check out new movies for free — some even before they're out in theaters — at these showings sponsored by Program Council. They just screened a preview of "Running Scared," and, coming up, Program Council will show "Lost Boys of Sudan" and "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire." In some cases, you'll have to pick up tickets before the show at UMC Room 401. Go to www.programcouncil.com to learn more.

18.) International Film Series, Muenzinger Auditorium, CU campus

Indie and international films fill the schedule every day of the week but Tuesday, usually starting around 7 and 9 p.m. Programming ranges from "Wallace and Gromit" to "Full Metal Jacket" to brainy stuff you never knew existed. Admission is \$5 (\$4 with a student ID) or \$30 for a 10-movie punch card. See www.internationalfilmseries.com for a full schedule.

ARTS

19.) The Dairy Center for the Arts, 2590 Walnut St., Boulder

Artsy types and fancy pantses can get their fill of music, dance and theater at discounted student prices (usually \$15 or less). Thursdays are name-your-price nights, meaning you decide how much you can afford to donate, even it's just a few bucks. You also can pick up coffee and snacks at a cafe in the lobby. Check out the upcoming events at www.thedairy.org.

20.) Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, 1750 13th St.

For further artistic enrichment, head to BMoCA during the day Tuesday through Saturday (11 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and catch one of museum's rotating art exhibitions. If you're looking for something to do at night, BMoCA hosts all kinds of original performances. Hit up www.bmoca.org to find schedules of events.

DENNY'S

21.) Denny's, 2905 Baseline Road, Boulder

It wouldn't be a list of things to do at night if we overlooked wasting time at Denny's — an all-night institution that warrants a category all its own. Get in there for some late-night Moons-Over-My-Hammy action and talk with your friends until the grease and fatigue kicks in. Then, stare at each other awkwardly through glassy eyes until you can figure out how much to tip. The place is open 24 hours; call (303) 447-0080 for more information.