

A night on the town

Bartenders share view from the other side of the counter

BY MATT MCCORMICK
The Battalion

An extremely intoxicated man enters Dudley's Draw. He tries to act cool — until he notices a girl who walked into the bar. She is dressed no differently than any other girl at the

bar except for one minor accessory ... a small can of mace that hangs from a rope around her neck. Kevin "Woody" Crass, a bartender at Dudley's Draw, witnessed what happened when the pair met.

"He thought the mace was a lighter and ended up spraying himself hard in the face. He cleared out the entire room of people. He wasn't feeling real good after that one," Crass said.

This is just one of many seemingly improbable, but definitely memorable, scenarios one may encounter on any given night at Northgate, the hallowed place of myth and tradition. Northgate, an Aggie's salvation from endless nights of studying, is a collection of restaurants and bars located conveniently within walking distance of campus offering a release from the baneful existence that is academia.

Old time Aggies delight in telling younger ones about how they used to park in the area where the Dixie Chicken is now located to watch as the younger Aggies nearly faint from shock. For these students to imagine a time when the beloved Chicken did not exist is worse than finding out Santa Claus is not real.

Featuring every type of establishment, from bars to a dance hall, Northgate is home to hang-outs that appeal to all majors at A&M. Because it appeals to a variety of people, nearly everyone who

has ever visited the area has a story about Northgate. A bartender at a local bar, who wished to remain anonymous, said his story about an unusual occurrence at Northgate began innocently — with a group of former students socializing one night, re-living "glory days."

"They were just a bunch of Old Ags ... I think they were Class of '89 and up. [They] were just sitting around and raising hell and trying to pick fights with people all night," he said.

The bartender on duty tried to calm the guys down and keep the place quiet. The former students cussed him out and then left.

"When he walked outside [after work], there were like 15 of these guys waiting for him, and they all jumped on him at once. It took a few people to break it up — and a few went to jail," he said.

While it is not unusual to see girls wearing revealing outfits when going out to Northgate for a night of dancing, one bartender said he encountered a male patron sitting in the bar who was revealing a bit more of himself than anyone else cared to see.

"A guy was sitting back there with no underwear on and really baggy shorts. Well, he was kind of hanging out in front of the entire bar," said Craig, a bartender at Dudley's Draw and a senior political science major.

"A guy sitting next to him finally got pissed off, and we ended up asking him to tuck it in. He got pissed, cussed us out and stormed out with 'it' still hanging out."

Patrons of North by Northgate be wary of accessories that appear to be lighters — or you just may become the subject of a bartender's next anecdote.



Bartender and Blinn student, Kevin "Woody" Crass pours beer for customers at Dudley's Draw in Northgate.

See today's Tab for more info on NXNG

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