The Award-Winning Weekend Connection Has Found You Some Mad Hook-Ups.

Go-Go Boots and Ex-Conversations. Alex Ward Checks Out the Dance Floor at Calypso p.2A

It's a Bar First and a Restaurant First. There's No Real Second Place if You're Partying at E-Bar p.3A
Experience the Joy That Awaits You at Calypso

I wandered into Santa Barbara on a Wednesday. All I needed was a drink and a quickie. I knew exactly where to go. Calypso is a bar. In any other town it would be a nice bar, but in Santa Barbara, where everything has to be glossy and bright, it might be considered a dive bar. I like the dance floor; I like the bartender Remy; I like the cognac.

Remy pours 'em strong, like a tall bull. Like Hemingway drinks 'em. Remy tells me that Jack Daniels isn't bourbon. Jim Beam is bourbon. Remy also told me about the food at Calypso. He told me about the Rasta Pasta, a real big hit Reggae Tuesday. He told me about the Island Jam, a chicken sandwich with a good name. It sounded good, to me.

Unfortunately, the kitchen at Calypso closes around 5 o'clock, so I was out of luck. My luck changed when I went outside to smoke a cigarette (Marlboro Reds, $5 at the bar). Whom did I espy but my old friend and associate. Under an enormous sombrero and clinically attached to a gin and tonic, my associate was easy to recognize. We greeted each other with our accustomed half-hug (the one where you still shake hands, but you also grasp each other's shoulders). My associate and a friend, it turned out, had been stuck in Santa Barbara since the end of winter, when the local badge had slapped anklets on their legs, which implied an indefinite invitation, if you get my meaning.

To kill time while I ignored the story my associate told me (is a bear rug still a bear?) about their incarcerations here in our seaside berg, I read the menu. Inexplicably, Calypso, unabashedly a bar (BAR), has a children's menu ("KID'S TOWN"), but it also has a substantial roster of delicious entrées and salads. It has a burger so spicy it's served with a glass of milk.

My own entrée of a double Jack Daniels with a side of chain smoking was sitting well with me when the DJ arrived. As the volume of the music increased, the feeling of the place took on the tension of a man about to run... or dance. Disco melted smoothly into hip hop. Hip hop melted smoothly into '80s pop, and it all ran together into the lights and dry ice on the unpolarized dance floor.

Eventually a lone girl, in a short black dress, made her sweet little way to the floor to shake her groove thing to the compact disc the DJ spun. I wanted to see her dance to Prince, so I sent my emissary to request some. Sure enough, the next song (again smoothly melting, this time from a David Bowie medley) was a forgotten Prince favorite.

It seems to me, friends, that Calypso (514 State Street) is the kind of place where you can hear what you want to hear, drink what you want to drink and (with hours soon extending from 9 a.m. to 2 a.m.) drink it whenever you want. Go downtown now, Calypso is waiting for you.
There’s Nothing Hideous or Freakish About This Elephant Bar

Students looking for a quick fix without the hassle of trekking downtown—whether it be a tropical drink or great meal—need to look no further than Hollister Avenue, to E-Bar.

Goleta’s 20-year-old Elephant Bar and Restaurant, part of a statewide chain, is no secret to UCSB students who have been around for a while. Located at 521 Emstone Road, off Hollister (and across the street from the $2.50 movie theater), E-Bar’s “safari” atmosphere and wide selection of appetizers, lunch and dinner entrées and full bar are an automatic favorite.

“We have a great spicy cashew chicken, which is one of our most popular dishes,” General Manager Corey Gresham said. “The safari steak is also a popular one, as well as the oriental chicken salad.”

At E-Bar, you can pretty much count on an entrée for around $7 to $9. I stopped by last week with a friend and spent around $30 for a great meal which included its “famous” artichoke dip appetizer (try it even if you’re not a huge veggie fan), their mahi-mahi fish tacos, and a steak dish for my hot, but stubborn, date. The only problem we found with the menu was its size and variety of choices, which can be overwhelming for a starving college student, since everything from sandwiches to the pasta dishes looks mouthwatering.

E-Bar’s restaurant is open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Its huge bar is open Monday to Thursday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., and on the weekend from 11 a.m. to 12 a.m. Gresham said Friday is E-Bar’s busiest night, which probably means a good wait if you’re with a group. (I would suggest swinging by on a less crowded weeknight, if you’re not there to drink).

“For our drinks, the ‘Coco-Loco’ is a favorite— it’s a blended drink kind of like a pina colada, with rum and different fruits,” Gresham said. “The ‘E.T.’ is our version of a Long Island iced tea.”

In addition to its selection of seafood, steak, Mexican and Asian food (including a great stir-fry menu), E-Bar also features a Happy Hour from 4-8 p.m. Monday through Friday. For $1 a plate, you can fix your palate with an all-you-can-eat appetizer buffet, complete with chicken wings and other great finger foods.

If you’re under 21, or just not a big drinker, E-Bar is still worth stopping by, even if it’s just for the lemonade (which is great) and the view. Going along with the safari theme, it has a cheetah print carpet (just like Studio 54), electronic fans and suitcases stacked above the booths.

It does get better, too. E-Bar recently caught up with the electronic age and will now page you when your table’s ready. Exciting, huh?
Feelin’ lucky, punk? Get music and get lucky at morninglight
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