

OFF-BASE RECREATION

WHETHER YOU'VE BEEN STATIONED IN EDMONTON YOUR ENTIRE LIFE OR THIS IS YOUR FIRST TOUR OF DUTY IN ALBERTA'S CAPITAL, ONE THING'S FOR CERTAIN: YOU'LL BE LOOKING FOR SOME ENTERTAINMENT WHILE ON LEAVE. THE CITY HAS PLENTY TO OFFER: ON NEARBY WHYTE AVENUE, FOR EXAMPLE, THERE ARE BARS UPON BARS, EACH OFFERING DRINK SPECIALS MORE EXCITING THAN THE LAST, AS WELL AS CIVILIAN FESTIVALS DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS. KEEPING IN MIND THAT YOU'LL BE WORKING WITH LIMITED

RESOURCES THROUGHOUT YOUR UNDERGRADUATE CAREER, YOU'LL GENERALLY BE LOOKING FOR THE MOST ECONOMICAL ENTERTAINMENT POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, NOT EVERY NIGHT CAN (OR SHOULD) BE 25-CENT-HIGHBALLS NIGHT, AS THE HUMAN COST OF SUCH OPERATIONS IS OFTEN NOT WORTH THE SACRIFICE.

THAT SAID, HERE ARE A FEW TIPS ON WHERE TO GO ON YOUR DAYS OFF, AS WELL AS THE PROJECTED COSTS FOR EACH. SPEND YOUR VACATION PAY WISELY!

MUSIC VENUES

The Myer Horowitz Theatre **SUB** Located on the second level of SUB, the Myer Horowitz is where you'll find a little bit of everything, from the Students' Union's Revolutionary Speakers Series to your civilian little sister's end-of-the-year ballet recital, and many a solo music act in between.

The chairs here are softer than standard military grade, and there's a second-floor balcony to make you feel like you're the CO at one of those USO concerts. The one drawback is that it only holds 720 people, so larger acts tend to sell out quickly. But you've received sufficient training to slip in undetected anyways, so that shouldn't be a problem.

Average cost of entry: \$25-35

Upcoming Shows: Matthew Good (23-24 September), Tegan and Sara (26 September), Final Fantasy (17 October)

Dinwoodie Lounge **SUB** Also located on the second floor of SUB, the Dinwoodie Lounge has been the training grounds for such now-gigantic acts as Metric and Radiohead. The Dinwoodie's not much to look at—one part hardwood floor, one part slightly-raised stage, one part sectioned-off bar—but with the Powerplant in limbo, you can expect an increase in the number of acts whose tours-of-duty bring them through here. The music tends to lean towards lesser-known (often heavy metal) acts, but every once in a while some high-ranking music officials pop by. There's also a rack outside the main doors on which you can hang your coats and weapon holsters for free.

Average cost of entry: \$20-30

Upcoming Shows: Mute Math (13 September), Cannibal Corpse (22 September)

The Starlite Room / Velvet Underground (10030 102 St) **J1**

What was once the Salvation Army's Northern Alberta Headquarters has since been converted into Edmonton's stronghold of non-stadium-sized touring bands. There are actually two venues within its brick walls: the first, the Starlite Room, is found in the upstairs portion, and accessed through a dark alley beside the building. It feels like a music venue you can let your guard down in, not some dive where hostiles could be lurking nearby. It's dimly lit, and there's even some seating should you require a sit-down discussion of a more secretive nature.

The historically inspired Velvet Underground, located in the club's basement, features more of a bar-type setting, featuring smaller touring acts and frequent live DJ sets. You need to drop \$10 on official ID to be granted access to either venue, and you must renew these credentials every year. Each membership is good for both you and a guest, however, so you and an ally could always negotiate splitting the cost. Or, you could be a cold-hearted double-crosser who charges friendlies a dollar each time they want to come with you.

Average cost of entry: Velvet Underground: \$10-15; Starlite Room \$20-25.

Upcoming Shows: VU: NRMLS WLCM DJ sets (every Thursday), The Deadcats (15 September); SR: Dietzche V and the Abominable Snowman (7 September), Chad Van Gaalen (22 September)

The Blackspot Café (15120A Stony Plain Road): This

new venue staked out its territory earlier in the summer, and aims to pick up where the closure of the Sidetrack Café left local music fans last year. From the outside it's deceptively tiny, but descending down a staircase reveals a spacious congregation area complete with an organic drink / fair-trade coffee bar, a modest stage, and free wireless internet—assuming you provide your own computer equipment. There's a membership you can buy, but unlike the Starlite Room, it's not required for entry. You'll probably want to join up anyways, however, as it makes shows cheaper to get into. A known affiliate of the so-called Blackspot "Antipreneur" movement (as popularized by political radicals *Adbusters*), the Blackspot Café aims to include smaller, guerrilla-like Canadian music squadrons, as well as politically inspired movie screenings replete with post-film debriefings.

Average cost of entry: \$5 for members, \$9 for non-members
Upcoming Shows: 9/11 Truth Movie Screening and discussion (11 September), Square Root of Margaret (23 September)

The Edmonton Event Centre (8882 170 St NW): Located in West Edmonton Mall, the Edmonton Event Centre—codename Ed's—is one of the few mid-sized venues in the city. As a result, the large army of bands that play this stage tend to be popular "indie" outfits with large grassroots followings. There's a bar directly across from the stage, and even some seating to the right of that, but when attending any show at Ed's (which, according to our intel, formerly operated under the name "Red's"), make sure your view of the stage isn't compromised by the pair of strategically placed load-bearing pillars that sit in the middle of the audience.

It also hurts like hell when you get slammed up against them in a moshing skirmish, but they do have one use: they serve as a great rendezvous location after a show, in case you get separated from the rest of your squadron. Also, if the show ends up being a trap, you can always check out the arcade and bowling alley that also reside within Ed's—assuming you can escape a war zone of sweaty bodies flinging themselves at each other.

Average cost of entry: \$30

Upcoming Shows: The New Pornographers (11 October), Stars (21 November)

Shaw Conference Centre (9797 Jasper Avenue) and Rexall Place (7424-118 Ave NW) **J3**

These are the big guns of Edmonton's music venues. The most popular and commercially viable bands will be stopping here if anywhere in Edmonton. Rexall edges out the Shaw in terms of both size and recruiting power—David Bowie and Ozzy Osbourne have both performed here in recent years, among countless others—but Shaw tends to get the biggest alternative stars and touring festivals, such as the Sounds of the Underground tour. Plus, the Shaw's homemade pizza is worth the black-market prices they charge. Speaking of which, these are by far the most expensive tickets in town, so maybe try and blackmailing dad, playing on his nostalgic love of Van Halen to get you past security.

Average cost of entry: Rexall: Varies from where you end up sitting/standing, but typically prices start around \$60 for the low-oxygen section. Shaw: \$40-50

Upcoming Shows: Rexall: Van Halen (9 December) Shaw: Scorpions (9 September)

