

# Nightclub shakes as area hot spot

By Larry O'Connor  
staff writer

Sure Tremors! might be one of the hottest nightclubs around today, but it's not all what it's cracked up to be.

Don't let the break running along the floor of the Livonia nightclub that looks to be the result of a break dance competition with sumo wrestlers fool you. The San Andres Fault hasn't crept here from California.

"They can't figure out what's going on because they've never seen anything like it," said Tremors! director of operations John Muszynski with a laugh. "Some people are afraid to step on there because they think they might fall in or something."

If the wives' tale holds true, mothers must be filling the hospitals with broken backs. People are packing Tremors! and dancing on the crack and anywhere else they can find some space.

The place has been shaking every night since the club opened in November. And the crevice, from which billows smoke during hot dance numbers, is one of many features that makes the Tremors! experience somewhat unforgettable.

You can dance to the sounds of

Top-40 hits vibrating off the walls on a large dance floor that lights up like an explosion at a Roman candle factory.

Even earlier in the day, Tremors! has a crowd. Happy hour 4-6 p.m. is loaded with the briefcase brigade. Cover is a dollar and there is a large buffet, with a different theme every day (oriental, western and diner nights, to name a few).

THIS TIME of the day is for the businessman, kicking back after a day on the office circuit. Business cards are passed out like quarters at a laundromat.

"It's the only time of day you can do business when you're sober," joked one executive, who didn't give his name. "This is really a great place."

But to get a real feel of Tremors!, one has to make a nighttime pilgrimage. Like any nightclub, the people are what make the atmosphere. And the clientele at Tremors!, as Muszynski refers to them, are "good looking people."

Women line the club, attired in everything from leather skirts to anazzy dresses. Then there are the men, some impeccably dressed in business suits and sportswear. Some roam around in open collars with the stan-

dard single's man equipment — the gold chain around the neck.

When you enter, you can check in your coat and buy any number of Tremors! novelty items. Included are license plates, jackets, T-shirts and cigarette lighters.

"The cigarette lighters sell the most," said the woman operating the cash register. That makes sense. That's the standard tool for the single guy, who offers to light a woman's cigarette in order to spark some conversation.

Since the place is crowded, first order of business is find a place to roost. The bar is the most logical spot since you can consume and converse.

YOU CIRCLE the area, weaving around some Hanz and Franz look-alikes with barrel chests ("Hear me now and think about it later, friend with the flabby tummy. Spill my beer and I'll crush your face like a grape").

Through their biceps and around the triceps you get glimpses of open bottles of Michelob Light, Bud Light and Corona along the bar. There is no place to land.

Look over by the tables, geez, no spots there either. Time to join the fellows on the outer railing.

After you see the same people the second and third time, it's time to move camp near the dance floor. People gyrate to the music of George Michael, Depeche Mode and the Escape Club with the bass turned up full blast to enhance the earthquake effect.

Oohs and ahs greet the FiberOptic light show and smoke that suddenly appear.

"When they walk out of here," Muszynski said, "it (Tremors!) gives them something to talk about it."

Tremors! is owned and operated by a hotel and restaurant chain out of Dallas, Texas, named Integra. The eventual plan is to have Tremors! in other markets as well.

Aside from the glitz and shock effects, Muszynski's plan of operation is rather simple. Top-40 music combined with a friendly atmosphere. Good employees are an integral part of that.

Muszynski's operated his own nightclub in Sarasota, Fla., and worked at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel in Walt Disney World Village. Of all his experience in the business, the instant success of Tremors! even surprises him.

"It's well above any expectations," he said. "It's getting better every night."



THOMAS ARNETT /staff photographer

People share a few laughs during happy hour at Tremors! in Livonia.

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