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broke

Story by Layne Lakefish

With the deposit of a one-dollar bill, it's off and running. Four credits pop up. The cards are dealt. The bets are placed. And the two opposing forces - consumer and computer - fight for the luck of the draw.

Gone are tables full of gamblers and colored chips - the kind that trade in for cash - and cheaters. Now it's just the computer, the lone gambler and the touch-sensitive screen that separates the two.

Enter the new world of video

With Oregon's 1989 and 1991 legislative decisions to make the machines legal in over-21 establishments, video poker has transformed gambling into a videogamesque pastime - a pastime that hit Eugene three weeks ago as trucks delivered five machines to Guido's, 801 E. 13th Ave., and 375 E. Seventh Ave.

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been great," said Mary Caster, a manager at Good Times. "Now, with the machines here, people are sitting down for a half hour longer that they would have."

Here's how it works: Players must insert one dollar to play, and they are instantly given four credits (one credit per quarter). To deal the cards, place bets and play the remainder of the poker hand, users need only to touch appropriate boxes on the screen. Bets are placed in the form of credits, and credits are earned by getting certain hands - such as pairs, flushes and full houses.

At the end, then, users will hear the chink, chink, chink of quarters dropping out of the machine if they have credits left when the game is over.

Plain and simple. And it just might make you rich.

"We've had a couple \$300 five machines to Good Times, wins," Caster said. "I was here for one of them, and I was kind of "We got the machines a few like, 'You won? Say what?' I had weeks ago, and the response has to look at his cash ticket a couple

ing Eugene resident Jeff Peck (left), who is making use of the touch-sensitive screen.

The new video poker ma-

crowds into Guido's, includ-

of times just to believe it." Get rich? Maybe. Go broke?

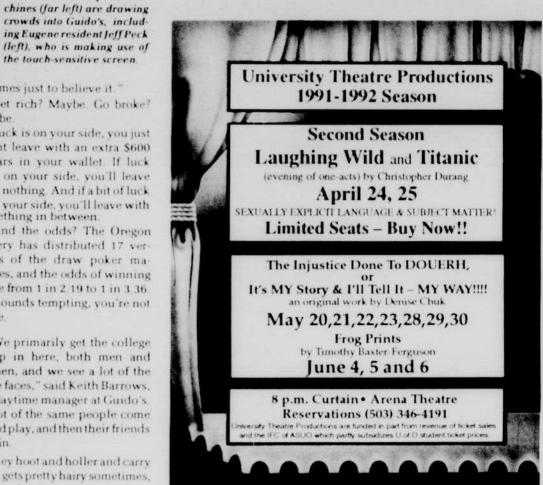
If luck is on your side, you just might leave with an extra \$600 dollars in your wallet. If luck isn't on your side, you'll leave with nothing. And if a bit of luck is on your side, you'll leave with something in between.

And the odds? The Oregon Lottery has distributed 17 versions of the draw poker machines, and the odds of winning range from 1 in 2.19 to 1 in 3.36. If it sounds tempting, you're not

We primarily get the college group in here, both men and women, and we see a lot of the same faces," said Keith Barrows, the daytime manager at Guido's. "A lot of the same people come in and play, and then their friends

"They hoot and holler and carry on. It gets pretty bairy sometimes,















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