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NORMAN MESMAN/for the Emerald

Bartender Sheri Ianuzzo serves margaritas during Margarita Night at Doc's Pad.

## Doc's can't be labeled too easily

By Ed Carson

For the Oregon Daily Emerald

If you crave great beer and don't mind uninspired service, head over to East 19th Street Cafe or High Street Cafe. If a meat market is what you're after and you don't mind smelling like cigarettes and cheap beer afterwards, then Guido's is the place.

But if you are looking for something different (not "different," which rarely is) then you might want to check out Doc's Pad.

Doc's Pad is a small bar located on 165 W. 11th Ave. Despite its outward appearance, it is not a "hole in the wall" like New Max's or the Cooler.

The atmosphere at Doc's is different from any other bar that caters to college students. What stands out at Doc's are the people who come to the bar. At most college bars, there is a certain type of crowd that dominates particular bars. For example, Guido's is a greek stronghold, and High Street a hippie hangout.

Doc's Pad can't be labeled so easily. Not that there aren't Doc's Pad regulars, but they don't have much in common except that they like Doc's. You can run into all sorts of people at Doc's, from lean, mean ex-Marines to older overweight drunks wearing tie-dyes.

Doc's Pad is not a place to wander around and meet new people, however. It is definitely a sit-down bar. Doc's patrons are friendly, but they are already having a good time with their friends.

The canned music played in the bar is loud enough so that people can hear the music, but quiet enough so they can have conversations without shouting, unlike at least one campus bar. Doc's plays mostly classic rock, but it avoids overplaying songs like KZEL does.

Service at Doc's Pad is excellent. Cocktail waitresses come to their customers' tables and serve

them promptly — unlike Guido's, where you usually have to wait in line for drinks, or High Street, where you wait all night.

Actually, the drinks are the least exceptional aspect of Doc's Pad. Doc's serve a limited number of beers on draft, but they include microbrews Weidmer, Umpqua, and Bridgeport Ales. Doc's also serves shots and mixed drinks. Each night a mixed drink is a special, such as a Long Island Iced Tea on Friday nights for \$3. Overall, prices are about average.

Doc's Pad is connected to King Wah's Chinese Restaurant, which helps Doc's Pad avoid the Goldilocks problem. It rarely feels empty or overcrowded at Doc's. On slow weeknights a handful of people can spread out comfortably in the main room, but on the weekends King Wah's is opened up for people to sit.

King Wah's shuts down about the time Doc's gets going, but people can order Chinese food at Doc's until 10 p.m. King Wah's cuisine was not sampled for this review, but ordering a side of springrolls, regardless of the quality, should be a welcome change from greasy fries.

But at Doc's Pad, Chinese isn't the only substitute for fries. Doc's provides free bowls of peanuts to its customers. Not many places serve peanuts, pretzels or beer nuts gratis; it's a nice touch.

Doc's Pad doesn't have a pool table, but patrons can keep themselves entertained. There are the now obligatory pair of video poker machines for students who like to donate their parents' hard-earned money to the state. Much better is the pair of dart boards (darts can be borrowed from the bar for free). Sure, as the evening drags on the aim becomes shaky, but as long as no one loses an eye, it's all fun and games.

One of Doc's Pad's major drawbacks is its loca-

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