



LAURA GOSS/Emerald

Three Coffee People patrons take advantage of the business's outdoor seating.

More than just average joe

Campus-area coffee shops feature local musicians and artists

By Amy Goldhammer
Oregon Daily Emerald

It's easy to get a buzz on 13th Avenue. Nestled among the many useful shops on the main campus drag, a handful of local java joints provide coffee pleasure in their own distinct ways.

"We try to make things different," said Steve Ogo, Starbucks store manager.

Starbucks just introduced its new Tiazzis, a blended tea and juice drink, that seems to be becoming a favorite. Many of Starbucks' drinks are specialties to its company and are known for that, he said. Starbucks provides coupons in various newspapers and specials differ each month.

Starbucks just recently opened its doors to the 13th Avenue crowd last spring, making it the youngest of the campus coffee shops. So far, the business is doing well, Ogo said.

"We present a nice atmosphere with comfortable chairs and couches," he said. "We want to cater to people who want to study or just sit down with friends."

Starbucks shares its location

with the restaurant Cucina!Presto!, allowing customers to grab a bite to eat, while maybe listening to local musicians on a Friday or Saturday night.

As well as music, Starbucks features local artwork and encourages artists to inquire about hanging his or her work on its walls, Ogo said.

Starbucks employees are mainly students and this accounts for bringing in customers, Ogo said.

Coffee People has its own followers and supporters said Matt Severin, Coffee People store manager.

Much like Starbucks, Coffee People presents "cool sounds with smooth espresso" on Friday and Saturday evenings, cultivating its crowd with local musicians.

"We try to project a lighter, more artistic environment," Severin said. "Somewhat upbeat, a younger atmosphere than the other coffee shops." Aside from coffee, the Coffee People crew, consisting mostly of students, serves up milkshakes and smoothies, complementing its baked goods and pastries, said Severin.

"We try to work with local distributors and bakers whenever possible," Severin said.

As well as the huge menu Coffee People presents, the store offers many organic roasts of coffee, which draw a large amount of students to

the coffee shop, Severin said.

Just down the street from Espresso Roma, another local coffee joint that serves java in a lighter atmosphere, the University Bookstore houses The Duck Stop, a fast on-your-way-to-class alternative to the sit-down, kick-back coffee shops.

"We try to create a sense of place in the Bookstore," said Dan Marsh, Duck Stop supervisor. "Our lines move quickly. We get people in and out."

In its fifth year, The Duck Stop serves and uses local suppliers, he said.

"We're committed to selling the best product available," Marsh said. "Our prices are fair, reasonable and appropriate."

The Duck Stop accepts tips, but not for its employees. Each academic year the company chooses one organization to donate the money to, Marsh said. It recently contributed \$5,000 to Womenspace, he said.

The Duck Stop has not experienced much competition from the other coffee houses, he said.

"I think being at this end of the block makes a difference for people between classes," Marsh said.

Each coffee shop presents itself individually, Ogo said. "I think each coffee shop has its own following."

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