

Carts

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tomers by name. He said he enjoys having a conversation with anyone who stops by whether they buy a hot dog or just say hello.

"I like this job in this spot because it really keeps me in touch with the academic world," he said.

Every day, Nally takes the newspaper crossword puzzle to work with him, knowing he can get help if he gets stumped.

"Some customer invariably knows an answer," he said. "You could go crazy making hot dogs if you don't make it fun."

Nally said much of his business depends on the weather.

"This is no job for a sissy," he said. "If you're gonna be here in Oregon, you gotta learn how to work in the cold."

Across the street from One Bad Dawg, business at Alexander's Great Falafel also depends on the weather.

"The weather really affects our business because there's nowhere to sit and eat [when it's cold]," owner Alex Mali said.

The 5-year-old business caters to a vegetarian crowd. Mali serves falafel, which is seasoned balls of ground garbanzo beans, tabouli, a mediterranean salad, or hummus in pita bread.

The favorite among students is the Deluxe Falafel plate, which has hummus, too, he said.

"I like the students," Mali said. "I like the atmosphere of academia, the University. I think it's a good crowd for my type of food."

Things are slowing down because the weather is getting bad, he said.

"Whenever the students take a vacation, I take a vacation," Mali said.

Down the street, across from the south University Lane Transit Bus station, Mark Stern said his business welcomes the change in the weather. Cold rainy weather is soup weather.

Stern is considered the new

"You could go crazy making hot dogs if you don't make it fun. ...

This is no job for a sissy."

Tim Nally
Hot dog vendor

kid on the block because his soup cart, Carte Blanche, has only been in business for the past six weeks.

He rotates about 40 different soups, made with organic and seasonal produce, in groups of three to five soups per day. He serves anything from zucchini and corn chowder to Tex-Mex chili, Bangkok sweet potato to winter squash walnut and apple soups.

"I offer some things that are traditional and some that are palate bending," he said. "I sell out of soup almost every day, and it's best to come early and get your pick."

Juan Portley, a senior psychology major, said he visits Carte Blanche three to four times a week.

"It's the warm food, the easy convenience and the nice people," he said.

Stern's original idea was to sell prepackaged vegetarian gravy, but after taking business courses at Lane Community College, the soup business evolved.

"I didn't want to be some guy moving units over the phone," he said. "I was missing the interaction with people."

Stern said he's been a cook all his life and apprenticed under several chefs who have written famous cookbooks.

"It's great to be able to interact with people and watch the weather change," he said. "It's nice to get out of the kitchen and out from behind the stove."

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