

■ Last call

Full house: Five businesses function together at The Strand

BY AMY LIGHTY
PULSE REPORTER

The typical bar includes cheap drinks, loud music and often, obnoxious drunks. The Strand, at 199 W. 8th Ave., is not your typical bar — there's coffee and pizza instead of beer and peanuts, and drunks on the Web instead of in person.

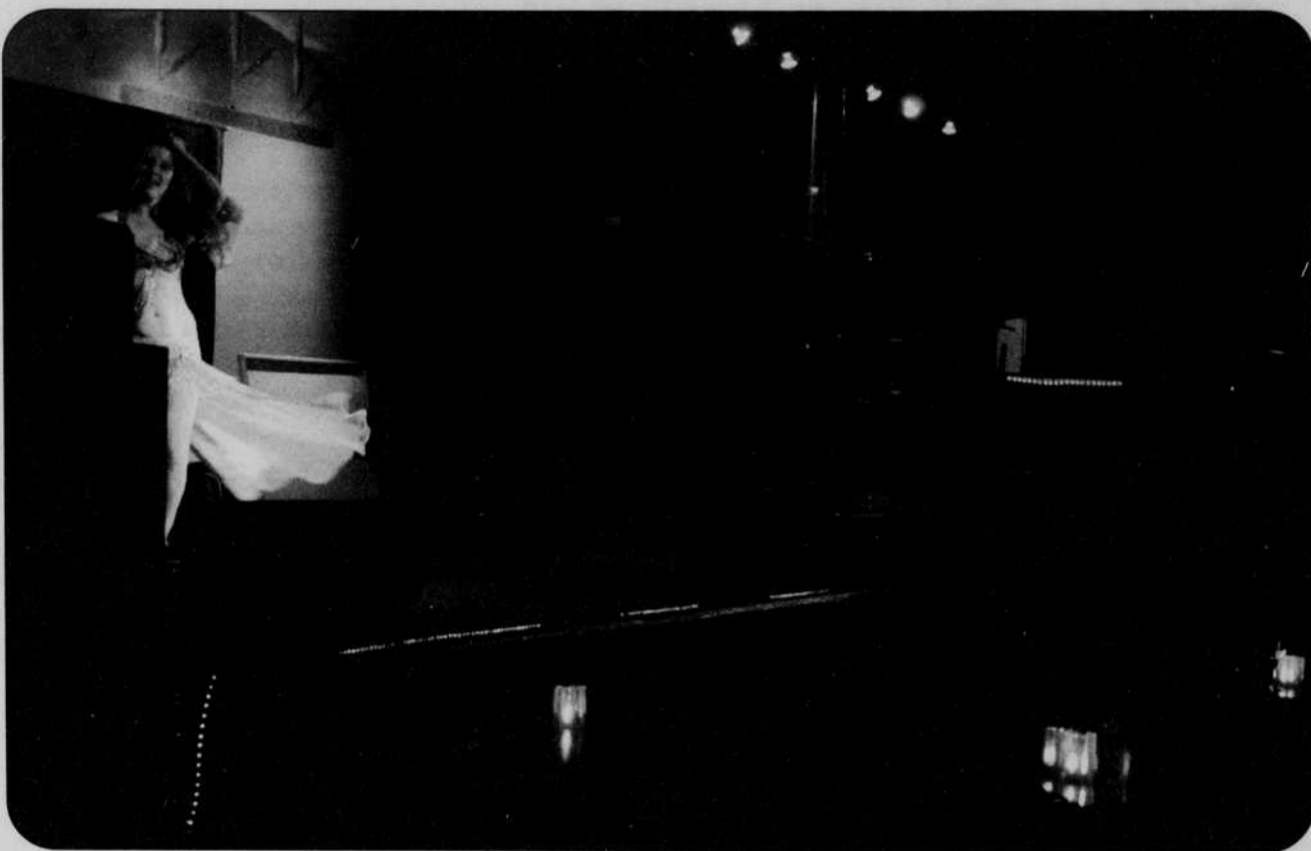
The Strand is compiled of five separate businesses: Cozmic Pizza, Theo's Coffee House, Indra's Internet Lounge, Window's Booksellers, and Wipf and Stock Publishers. It might seem next to impossible to cram all of these businesses under one roof, but The Strand is a wide open space with beautifully tall ceilings and plenty of room for everyone to share.

The look of The Strand is enough to set it apart from other bars. Its entryway, although located on a corner, is rounded. Inside, the colors that decorate the walls — from peach to sky blue to pea green — are very calming, and stunning murals that reflect scenic autumn days paint an equally comforting atmosphere. Huge, cushy couches and armchairs provide a great place to study, listen to music and have a cup of coffee. For those looking for entertainment, there are tables with built-in chessboards and a large stage in the center that hosts a variety of live music acts.

The smell of pizza is overwhelming, but in a good way. Cozmic Pizza, which specializes in organic gourmet pizza, offers great food at decent prices. Salads range from \$3.50 to \$6.75, but with ingredients such as artichoke hearts, sun-dried tomatoes, feta cheese and basil/gorgonzola dressing, paying nearly \$7 is worth it.

Cozmic Pizza also serves focaccias for less than \$5, calzones for \$8.75, and of course, a wide variety of pizzas, in either regular or fresh ground whole wheat crust. For only \$2.50 patrons can buy a slice of cheese pizza, and the gourmet pizzas' prices range from \$11.50 for a medium to \$22.75 for a large. Toppings such as green peppers, jalapenos, onions, minced garlic, mushrooms, broccoli, zucchini, spinach, kalamata olives, smoked salmon and pesto, among others, are all available. Cozmic Pizza also serves a wide selection of organic wines and fresh draft beers made with organic hops and grains.

Theo's Coffee House serves up a mixture of inexpensive coffee drinks, from a 12-ounce latté for \$2 to a 16-ounce mocha for \$2.95.



NICOLE BARKER | PHOTOGRAPHER

The Strand hosts a variety of entertainment, including The Middle Eastern Dance Guild of Eugene every third Friday of the month.

Unlike Starbucks, the most expensive drink is the large espresso shake, which still costs just \$4.

Right next to Theo's Coffee House is Indra's Internet Lounge, which allows users to purchase minutes for exploring the Web. Indra's turns The Strand into more than just a restaurant — it can be a great place to surf the Web and do homework in a chill, friendly environment.

My favorite aspect of The Strand is Window's Booksellers. Beautiful old books line the walls begging to be picked up and read. Topics range from history, biography, poetry and plays to literary

criticism, bargain fiction, "odds and ends," economics and literature. Most of the books I saw were less than \$10, but there's also a special selection of books that can be purchased for just a dollar. Because of their age and wide range of topics, these books probably can't be found in many other bookstores in the area, making Window's Booksellers a wonderfully unique book nook.

All in all, The Strand is very relaxing and laid-back. From families to students to hippies to yuppies just looking for a great place to meet up with friends, The Strand is just the place to go.

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UO professors of history, literature, religion, and philosophy will lead discussions on topics related to "Peace and War" on Saturday mornings over coffee in the elegant Autzen Stadium Club Room. These affordable college-level classes for the community are available at \$75 each. A "season ticket" for all six seminars saves \$75. Books are available through the UO Bookstore. Register at 346-3475 or visit uoinight.uoregon.edu.

LIFE OF THE MIND
February 26, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

A one-day seminar designed to resuscitate the reading and thinking habits of adults. Based on David Denby's book, *Great Books*, about going back to college as an adult. A great introduction to the other seminars. \$35

<p>THE RAGE OF ACHILLES March 5, 12, 19, 26, 9:30 a.m.-noon</p> <p>The first and still the greatest book about war is Homer's <i>Iliad</i>, the epic of warrior culture. You will love it as an adult, even if you didn't as a student. As hair-raising and relevant as the daily news, this is the foundation of the West's thinking about war. \$75</p>	<p>BAND OF BROTHERS June 4, 11, 18, 25, 9:30 a.m.-noon</p> <p>Shakespeare's <i>Henry V</i> presents the Hundred Years War. Olivier's stirring 1945 film version rallied wartime England, but Branagh's 1989 film is anti-war. Shakespeare: pro- and anti-war at the same time? Read the play and watch the films. \$75</p>
<p>CULTURE OF TOLERANCE April 2, 9, 16, 23, 9:30 a.m.-noon</p> <p><i>Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain</i> was a surprise bestseller in 2002. What is more timely to learn about than Islam, and tolerance? A highly enjoyable book about the history and literature of Jews and Muslims in medieval Spain. \$75</p>	<p>WAR AND PEACE July 9, 16, 23, 30, 9:30 a.m.-noon</p> <p>It is time—at last—to read Tolstoy's great novel <i>War and Peace</i>, or read it again. A novel so good you need to talk about it with other readers. Tolstoy has great characters and stories, but is also exploring the nature and meaning of history and war. \$75</p>
<p>VIKINGS April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 9:30 a.m.-noon</p> <p><i>Njal's Saga</i> is the epic story of Iceland's greatest lawyer, a man of peace in a culture of violence—an authentic and absorbing portrait of Viking life written in the 13th century. How do you break the vicious cycle of revenge, when it is the law? \$75</p>	<p>MAHATMA GANDHI August 6, 13, 20, 27, 9:30 a.m.-noon</p> <p>Martin Luther King Jr. learned about non-violence from Gandhi. Read Gandhi's autobiography and the <i>Bhagavad-Gita</i>. What is nonviolence? What did King learn from Gandhi? How to confront a violent world with a vision of peace. \$75</p>

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