

Chang's Mongolian Grill appeals to empty wallets

ALISON FIELDHOUSE

The aroma wafting from the Mongolian Grill was an enticing lure for our empty stomachs. Chang's Mongolian Grill in Milwaukie, (check www.changsmongoliangrill.com for other locations), offers both lunch and dinner. Each person picks their own ingredients as they go through the food bar and then hands it to the chefs who are in open view. This is a traditional Mongolian grill, where customers can watch as their food is prepared.

Chang's is a family restaurant that provides a sufficient meal including your choice of soup, ice-cream and as many times through the grill as is satisfactory. For kids under four, the price is \$2 for lunch and \$3 for dinner. Children between five and ten are \$4 for lunch and \$6 for dinner. Adults cost \$7.95 for lunch and \$11.95 for dinner. Seating is inside, but it is open and airy, with the grill in plain view. The chefs put on a show with entertaining spins and tricks while the food is being made.

The food bar includes a vast selection of meats, fish, noodles, vegetables and your

choice of sauce appealing to both hearty meat-eaters and vegetarians. If you're unsure

of what combination of food would taste good, experiment and try a little of something

the first time around, then come back and try something else if that dish didn't work



Photo by Alison Fieldhouse

Chang's Mongolian Grill is known for their unique style of cooking; an open grill in plain view. The restaurant has six locations in Oregon, including Beaverton and Milwaukie.

out. You're guaranteed to find a combination you'll like. The only downside to the cooking is that the fish may not be fully cooked. I added some shrimp to my first dish and they weren't completely cooked. However, all of the other foods were fine.

The service was personable and helpful. Our server instructed us on how the grill works and made sure to check up on us regularly. He also explained how we were supposed to use the sheets of rice paper to make our meal even more enjoyable, (my family originally thought they were napkins). You place either rice or part of your dish on the sheet of the rice paper and then wrap it into a mini-burrito.

Music was not needed in the restaurant because the sizzling of the grill and buzz of conversation created a pleasant atmosphere.

The location is a little uninviting, but there is ample parking space and the good food made up for the neighborhood. I would definitely recommend Chang's Mongolian Grill to anyone who enjoys Asian stir-fry and is looking for a cheap meal.

Ani and Maggie

COLLEGE CHOICE CONCERNS

Dear Ani and Maggie,

I have a dilemma. My boyfriend and I are both seniors and have been dating for a year and three months. He has already decided that he wants to go to Oregon State University and nowhere else. He has been trying to convince me to go there too, but I want to go to college in Hawaii since I'm part Hawaiian and can get in-state tuition and a scholarship. I have no idea what to do. My parents are pressuring me to go to Hawaii and my boyfriend is pressuring me to go to OSU. It is a very, very hard decision because I love my boyfriend and I don't think our relationship would work if we went to different colleges. It's one of the hardest decisions I've ever had to make.

Thanks,
College Dilemma Girl

Dear College Dilemma Girl,

You need to do what makes you happy. Take some time to think. If you weren't dating this guy and your parents didn't care where you went to school, where would you want to go? Also, talk to your boyfriend about the possibilities of a long distance relationship. It would be difficult, but you need to do what's best for

you. You should also look into scholarships at OSU and see what's available. Apply to both schools and leave your options open. You still have plenty of time to make the decision.

Ani and Maggie

Dear Ani and Maggie,

I have a crush on a guy friend whom I've known for years, but when we are in school I can't talk to him at all. I start to get all nervous and I end up saying stupid things. Outside of school, I feel fine and confident talking to him. How do I talk to him without getting nervous?

Signed,
Sweaty Palms

Dear Sweaty Palms,
Don't psych yourself out!

If you can talk to him outside of school, you can do it in school too. Keep in mind that he seems to enjoy talking to you outside of school, so a change of environment shouldn't make a difference. Try to catch him alone so if anything goes wrong, it doesn't go wrong in front of his friends. Start slow and you'll become acclimated to talking to him. Suggest hanging out more outside of school where you feel more comfortable, and maybe the confidence will spread to school as well. Good luck!

Ani and Maggie

Dear Ani and Maggie,
I was out with my friends, and one of them brought along someone else to hang out with. I started talking

to that person, and he was really nice. A week later we talked on the phone a lot, and he asked if I wanted to hang out. I wanted to, but the problem is that he is 24 years old, and I am only 16. My parents forbid me from hanging out with him, which I guess is okay with me, but they also forbid conversations. I know my parents are trying to protect me from bad things, but I want to be able to talk to him. Is it fair that my parents completely cut me off from this person, even if he is trustworthy and willing to follow any rules they make?

Sincerely,
Potential Friend?

Dear Potential Friend,
It seems fair that your

parents are concerned about the situation because there is a big age difference between you two. You could try to negotiate, but it might be in your best interest to listen to them this time. Consider why he wants to hang out with you — you're probably a lovely person and a great friend, but it seems odd that someone who is 24 would be so intent on spending time with someone eight years younger than them. If you're truly convinced his intentions are good, try to talk to your parents about the potential for supervised time with him. If that doesn't work, you might have to settle for spending time with people closer to your own age for now.

Ani and Maggie

The Drama Behind the Amplifier:



Give your amplifier staff a pat on the back: they work really hard to produce the school paper each month.

ETA SANTORO