



CAREFUL MAN, THERE'S A BEVERAGE HERE!

Caucasians really tie the room together
BY SHANNON FINNELL

I've got information, man! New shit has come to light! Ever want to sip a white Russian in a bowling alley without worrying that you'll end up serving 6 months in Chino? As long as you don't do something foolish, like expose yourself to an 8-year-old, you can enjoy what you want at Strike City, out on Highway 99.

First a little clarification: This is not 'Nam. This is bowling. There are rules. Liquor is sold downstairs in the Spare Room, in an area where minors aren't allowed.

Christie Scott at the OLCC says that liquor can be sold in the area without minors and that place is said to have a "predominant activity" that's drinking-related. When patrons leave the bar, they enter an area where the predominant activity is bowling, and liquor can be consumed but not sold — so separating the selling from the drinking makes it legal.

I know, I know, this is a very complicated case. A lotta ins, lotta outs, lotta what-have-yous. And, uh, lotta strands to keep in your head, man. You might have to adhere to a pretty strict, uh, drug regimen to keep your mind limber.

Don't get down on yourself if you can't keep all those strands in your head; if you're into the whole brevity thing, you can just be a nihilist about it and not adhere to any belief. "Every restaurant is different; every bowling alley is different," Scott says.

The white Russians — or Caucasians, if you're a fan of the preferred nomenclature — are just about perfect, with their milky softness and coffee punch, and they were just on the right side of strong the night we visited.

Strike City's Eric Gilbert says having a bar with a full liquor license is a pretty rare thing. "We're the only one I know of," he says.

Gilbert says that right now specials like 75-cent tacos on Fridays and Saturdays are the most popular, but he's looking to start up more Lebowski-themed events, such as a night with drink specials or special deals for those who bowl in costumes or bathrobes. Anyone with ideas or who wants to be kept in the loop can contact Gilbert at info@eugenegamecentral.com

In the meantime, sipping on Caucasians isn't the only way to celebrate the Duderino at Strike City. Each of the Spare Room's burgers is named for a character in the movie — Brandt, Jeffrey, Donny, Hungus, Maude, Jackie, Bunny and The Sobchak Slammer — and made with Ninkasi's Brew Beef Patties; they're range-fed, hormone and antibiotic-free and finished with spent grain from Ninkasi. Does beef make you feel like you're out of your element? Substitute a turkey, chicken or garden burger for free. There's also a handmade free-range buffalo burger for \$1.50 more.

Still think having liquor in a bowling alley is too scandalous for Oregon? Well, that's just, like, your opinion, man. ■

Note: Those unfamiliar with the 1998 Coen brothers classic film The Big Lebowski might wonder about the origins of that reference to Chino, 'Nam and Caucasians. Check out the movie before writing to our dear editor.

IZAKAYA MEIJI COMPANY

CALENDAR

SUNDAYS: Burger, Bourbon & Beer for \$10

MONDAYS: Happy Hour Menu All Night

TUESDAYS: Cowboy Karaoke at 10pm Come in your best duds!

WEDNESDAYS: Do It Yourself Sushi Handroll

THURSDAYS: Moules Frites (Steamed Mussels and Fries)

COWBOY KARAOKE TUESDAYS AT 10 PM

345 VAN BUREN • 541-505-8804 • NIGHTLY 5PM-1AM

b² wine bar

b² Wine Bar

Over 60 Wines
Full Bar
Local Microbrews
Lunch - Dinner
Dessert - Appetizers

Monday - Thursday 12-10pm
Friday - Saturday 12-12
Sunday 3-9pm

Located in Eugene's Crescent Village
2794 Shadow View • 505-8909 • b2winebar.com

BEER! with YOUR LUNCH

NOT ONLY GOOD - BUT GOOD FOR YOU

VOTED BEST SELECTION OF BEER ON TAP

2005 • 2006 • 2007 • 2008 • 2009 • 2010 • 2011

The Bier Stein
Over 1000 Bottled Beers for you to choose from!

345 E. 11th Ave • Eugene • 541-485-Bier
www.thebierstein.com

The Best OF EUGENE