

The Blarney Stone offers a wee bit O' class

BY DAPHNE PHILLIPS
 THE BATTALION

Far from the "sloppy, get-drunk-and-throw-down" atmosphere of other local bars is The Blarney Stone, a 21-and-up, casual, elegant bar with an Irish theme, located across from Carney's Pub in Bryan.

Mary Wier, a senior journalism major, said the bar attracts an older, relaxed crowd.

"It's not this huge bar of people where the music's so loud you can't hear anything," she said.

Wier visits The Blarney Stone often and said it is quieter than other places. With a large selection of shots and mixed drinks, the Blarney Stone offers visitors a diverse choice of drink specials.

One of The Blarney Stone's specialties is the Oatmeal Cookie shot, which is exactly what it sounds like. The mixture of Bailey's, Buttershots, Goldschlager and Jagermeister combine for a syrupy, sugary taste. Visitors have also made the

frozen Raspberry Margarita a favorite.

The bar also serves Irish coffees, domestic beer and Messina Hof wine. "The Carney," owner Joe Carney's favorite Irish coffee, is a blend of Kahlua and Jose Cuervo. Brews on tap include Newcastle Brown Ale and Miller Lite.

Blarney Stone bartender Jennifer Limmer, a senior architecture major, said what makes it different from Carney's or any other bar in the area is the classy atmosphere, with rich taste and high-dollar drinks.

"Its low lighting, dark wood and nicer liquors make it comfortable," Limmer said.

Not only do the soft lights, blackcherry-wood furniture and cream-colored walls decorated with framed Irish beer emblems comply with a classy decor, but they also give off a cozy aura.

One picture on the wall illustrates all the family crests of Ireland. Visitors wondering if they have any Irish blood can look for their last name on one of the crests in the picture.

The Blarney Stone does have a TV, but

Limmer said it is not like a sports bar.

"It's clean and not crowded," she said. "There's not the hustle and bustle, but people come here to have a good time."

Limmer said Fridays are the most crowded, with the after-work crowd beginning their weekend there.

Visitors can also sit outside on the back patio in the "Beer Garden." Management is considering building an arbor to cover the patio and eventually expanding.

The Blarney Stone is Aggie owned and operated and is open 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Monday through Saturday. The bar offers dollar drafts and well drinks 8-10 p.m.

Limmer said there is a welcome atmosphere at The Blarney Stone.

"You can talk to the bartender and just get to know people," she said.

Clay Taylor, a Blarney Stone frequent customer and a senior business management major, said what he likes most about the Blarney Stone because it is a little bit different.

"You can sit in a calmer atmosphere, chill out and just relax," Taylor said.

Geof Younglove, a senior business analysis major, serves up one of The Blarney Stone's specialty margaritas.

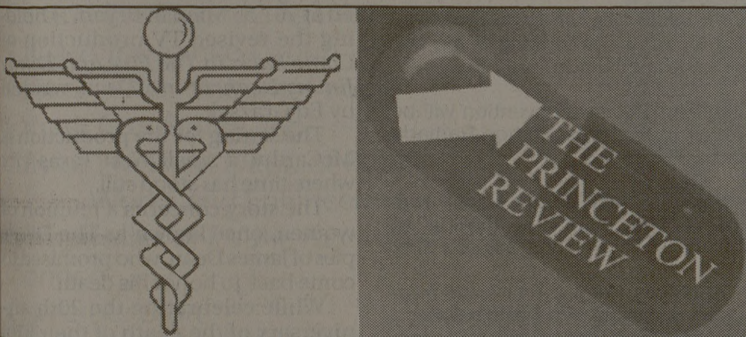
The Blarney Stone is located across the street from Carney's Pub in Bryan.



Left: The bar features mixed drinks, shots, Irish coffee, wine and draft beer.



Photos by Dave House



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