

Additions include music, seating, drinks Business improves for Mill at new location

By **Cristine Romano**
Staff Reporter

From its unlikely beginning in a corner of Freewheelin' Bike Shop 14 years ago, The Mill has been a thriving source of gourmet coffees, teas, espresso machines and a most potent, legal form of jolt -- chocolate-covered espresso beans.

One chapter in the downtown redevelopment saga tells of The Mill's non-optional move from downtown to the Haymarket. And unlike some other downtown businesses also forced from their homesteads to make way for grand structures such as parking lots and more parking lots, The Mill is flourishing in its new home at 800 P St.

"The move has been good for us," said co-owner Dale Nordyke. "We have no complaints."

Nordyke explained that space in the old location, 119 N. 14th St., was too cramped to allow for the ideas that he and co-owner Duane Krepel had been considering.

"The move came at a good time," he said. "We were growing

-- bursting at the seams."

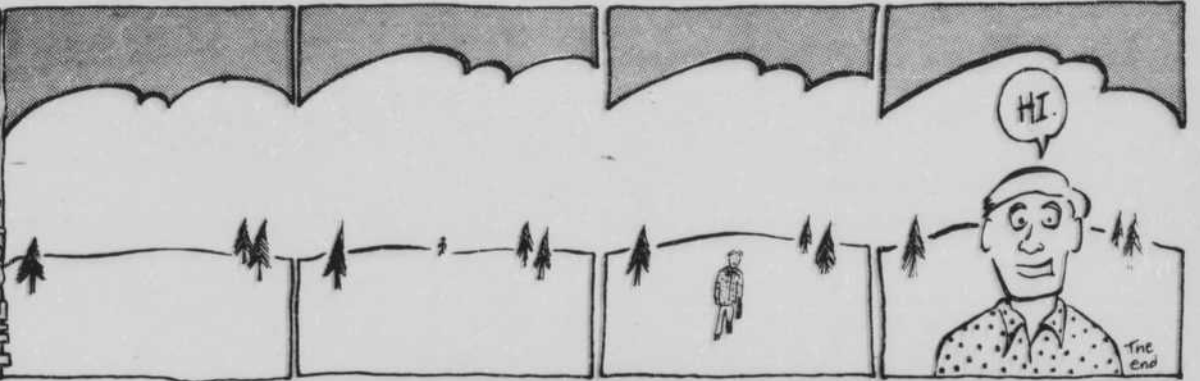
Now the store serves some of the products which are also sold in dry form, such as espresso, coffees and tea. A sunny seating area accommodates 12, but drinks are also available for take-out.

Saturday morning offerings at The Mill are incentive to drag one's body out of bed.

Loaves of fresh-baked bread from Molan's bakery are sold on Saturday mornings, Nordyke said, and last week "every last loaf was sold." Saturday morning customers could also stumble upon live music in coming weeks. Musicians from the area occasionally gather at the store for an informal jam session, to play the fiddle, mandolin and guitar.

Nordyke said business has been "as good as, if not better" than it was at the old store, and this surprises him a little. He expected business to slow down temporarily, right after the move two months ago, while "people figured out where we went." Apparently regular customers had no problem

THE GUY FROM FAR AWAY



finding their way to the Haymarket. Nordyke said he has seen quite a few new faces, too.

Nordyke said he and Krepel were a bit apprehensive about relocating outside of downtown. Friends advised them to wait and see what happened with the development of the Haymarket.

"They said 'No, no, it's too soon to move there now,'" he said. "But the more time we spent down here, the more we saw that there are a lot of people in this area."

Although he relishes the opportunities presented in the new location, Nordyke is still a bit sad that The Mill was forced to relocate.

"I kind of hated leaving downtown, because I liked being on that block (near 14th and O streets)," he said.



William Lauer/ Daily Nebraskan

Christy Tisdale, Jim Bryan and Mike Herres play an Irish jig at The Mill, 800 P St., Saturday morning.

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