

# MARLY'S

After Hours

## PUB

## Marly's Irish Escape

BY DAN NAUMOVICH

**W**e've put together a place that's nice enough to take clients or to go with your parents, but not so nice that you're afraid to have fun." That's Jim Wavering describing Marly's, the Irish pub he and Joe Sipes opened this past September. Stop by the pub for a pint or a glass of wine and you'll see what he means.

In Ireland, a pub is a gathering place for people who'd rather meet with friends than spend an evening with the television. They're comfortable places, free of pretension, and cozy as the old man's den. It's this appeal, coupled with a rising interest in all things Irish, which has led to a growing popularity of pubs located throughout the States and Europe. Michele Fahey, who had frequented Irish pubs while living in Chicago, visited Marly's with her husband Andy. "Springfield needed a place like this," she says, "It's a great place for couples to go."

Having spent time in Chicago's authentic Irish pubs, Wavering knew what he wanted ascetically when planning the decor of the establishment. Rich, dark oak

gives the pub a warm feeling that greets you the moment you enter. The fixtures and many of the wall hangings are from a company in Dublin.

It's a bit disingenuous to discuss a pub for too long without mentioning beer. And if it's Irish, there must be Guinness. Although an acquired taste for those accustomed to domestic brews, having a pint of Guinness is almost ceremonial in its nature. The black and hearty stout flows slowly from the tap and tradition demands that the creamy head be allowed time to settle before topping off the pint. From the moment the froth touches your lip, Ireland embraces you like a long lost cousin. "We've had customers come behind the bar to show us the proper pouring technique," says Wavering, "but we've got it down now."

Harp, Bass, and Amstel, all fine beers in their own right, join Guinness on tap at Marly's. Thirteen more foreign and domestic beers are also served, along with five Irish whiskeys, 17 single-malt whiskeys, a more than adequate wine selection, and all of the other usual suspects that can be

found lingering behind a bar.

Music also plays an important role at Irish pubs and Marly's is no exception. A first-rate sound system plays traditional Irish music early in the evening, giving way to a mix of favorites later on. Marly's goes live from time to time when the pub hosts bands from throughout the Midwest. One band, the Lash, has already become a local favorite and the feeling is mutual. "Marly's is a place where we can feel at home while on the road," says band member Rob Klajda. He and his bandmates fuse elements of Celtic music with rock and roll to create a reeling sound that always makes for a lively time.

Young and old alike regularly fill the pub to enjoy a drink and be among friends. You can expect Marly's to be especially bustling this St. Patrick's Day with doors opening early and live music all day long. Be sure to raise your glass and give a Gaelic toast: Sláinte (to your health)!

*Marly's Pub is located at 9 West Old State Capitol Plaza and is open Monday through Saturday, 4 p.m. to 1 a.m.*