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## A beer at B-52 Billiards: It's da bomb

Ricardo Baca, Denver Post Staff Writer

Thinking purely in terms of theme bars, B-52 Billiards works better than most. At the core of this LoDo bar is the stratofortress, the big mother herself, the world's foremost heavy bomber, the B-52. The plane's



Andy Gordon 23, plays pool at B-52 Billiards, one of his favorite hangouts. He goes there a couple of times a week for happy hour. (Post / John Leyba)

likeness and its accompanying memorabilia are everywhere, and amid current war-torn times, it makes a visit to the billiards bar more bizarre than ever.

Right after watching a Centcom briefing, which relays news of successful B-52 strikes on Baghdad, you're settling up to this pool hall's front bar, a replica of an old B-52 cockpit. Retired ejection seats sit near its Market Street entrance, and reminders of war are everywhere.

Strangeness definitely abounds.

But it's not intrusive to the bar's main purpose, which is leisure. People are at B-52's (1920 Market St., 303-383-1941) to play pool, darts, shuffleboard and Golden Tee. And to schmooze.

During happy hour, the schmoozing is of the drink-with-the-guys type, with the men-to-women ratio at about 10-to-1 (and that includes the waitresses and female bartenders). The later and darker it gets, especially when the upstairs Red Monkey Lounge opens at 9 p.m.,

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the more women show up.

While B-52s is an unabashed beer-in-your-hand sports bar/pool hall, the Red Monkey is a Red Bull-loving, martini-swilling lounge. The DJ on the weekends is better than anything else you'll find within four blocks, and it's tremendously comfortable. Red is obviously the lounge's color of choice, and it handles the scheme much better than similarly themed, Colfax-rooted Red Room.

**Funky:** The Blue Room is the best escape from downstairs' war-related, TV-centric madness. It's sectioned off and illuminated in all hues of blues.

**Skunky:** The crowd at B-52's is typical LoDo. "Drinks at Jackson's, pool at B-52's and nachos at LoDo's? Cool, see you there, dude."

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*Ricardo Baca writes about bars on Fridays. Contact him at 303-820-1394 or [rbaca@denverpost.com](mailto:rbaca@denverpost.com).*

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