

# Coffee and art

## Caffeine, painting draw patrons to High Street spot



By CAROLINE PETRICH  
Of the Emerald

Unlike other Eugene restaurants that sell coffee, the High Street Coffee Gallery combines the atmosphere of a European coffee house with that of an art gallery.

Besides drinking coffee and pondering art, customers study, read the newspaper and play chess. The gallery is also a home of sorts to regulars who come every night, employee April Anthony says.

"All kinds of people come together here," says Ann Blandin, gallery owner. "I like to be able to create environments where things can happen. I like putting things together for people."

Classical or jazz music is usually playing. Blandin says that's the only music she will play.

A substantial part of the gallery's home-like atmosphere is

the 70-year-old house itself, Blandin says. It's filled with wood tables, chairs and lace curtains. One almost expects to see a motherly figure bustling from table to table with a plate of cookies.

"It has a very different feeling."

What sets the gallery apart from other coffee shops is the art exhibit.

The works change each month, so customers are never sure what they'll find. Blandin says she tries to incorporate art into everyday life by displaying it in a casual atmosphere.

Under each painting is the artist's name and the selling price, and Blandin likes to see patrons browse.

However, Blandin says she doesn't like to see customers "sit all day with a cup of coffee," under the artwork.

She does like to encourage her customers to pamper their palates with a variety of foods,



Photos by Martha Stanton

Sandra Goffard and Debbie Hessel share a cup of tea at the High Street Coffee Gallery.

ranging from cheeses to pastries.

The gallery's menu includes breakfast, lunch and dinner entrees. Blandin says the food

menu is a necessary income supplement — without it, she says, she wouldn't be able to support the gallery, her three children and herself.

Blandin hopes to bring more art to the gallery this spring and summer, and perhaps poetry readings and plays on the gallery's brick patio.

## Justice suspends prison release order

SALEM (AP) — Oregon officials got some breathing room Monday when U.S. Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist suspended a federal court order requiring the state to relieve overcrowding in its male prisons.

Rehnquist gave attorneys representing Oregon's prison

inmates until Wednesday to say why they oppose the emergency stay of last summer's order by U.S. District Judge James Burns of Portland.

Burns said overcrowding in Oregon's prisons was unconstitutional cruel and unusual punishment. He ordered the state to reduce its male prison population by 500 by Jan. 31st and by another 250 by March 31.

In seeking the stay, the state attorney general's office argued that Oregon officials were not sure they could meet the Jan. 31 quota.

The state said Burns' order

should be held up while the state's appeal is pending before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Last week, the appeals court in San Francisco turned down a similar request for a stay.

Scott McAlister, an assistant Oregon attorney general, said that as of Monday, the state would have needed to release an additional 88 inmates by Jan. 31 to comply with Burns' order.

"Needless to say, we are extremely pleased that Justice Rehnquist has given the state the vitally necessary breathing room to prepare our case fully

before further actions may be required under Judge Burns' ruling," said Attorney General Dave Frohmyer.

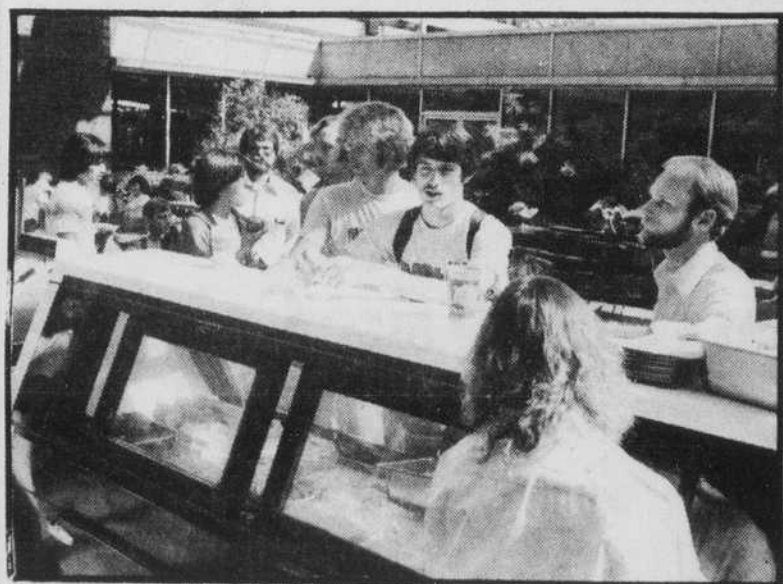
The appeal before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court is scheduled for arguments in April. Oregon officials also felt that Burns' order should be suspended pending a Supreme Court ruling on a similar prison overcrowding case from Ohio.

State corrections officials have put more inmates on work release type programs and changed some of the standards for determining parole in order to reduce the prison population.

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