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Robbie Basho


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 One show in the EMU Ballroom
\$5⁵⁰ UO Students \$6⁵⁰ General Public

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... and to think we met
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ODE PERSONAL

The middle-of-the-wallet date:

Running around in search of the Ultimate Restaurant

Some cities are great for people who like to go out and enjoy a great evening without spending too much money.

Eugene isn't. If you were in Portland this evening, you and your honey could rip over to Poncho's for some incredible Mexican food, whip down to The Guild for a classic double feature, and make it back home for less than \$15.

In Eugene, it's a different story. There are lots of expensive restaurants, and a few really cheap places, but you have to work hard to find a nice inexpensive place to go for an evening away from the books.

The key is to seek style. Avoid the easy excuses. For example, there are a few "campus hangouts" that everyone's been to a million times. Go someplace else.

The Ultimate Place has incredible food, an interesting atmosphere, miniscule prices, and few people. You want to discover a place and establish yourself as a regular there before the hordes know about it.

There aren't many Ultimate Places left undiscovered, so most of us settle for A Great Place. A Great Place has most of the qualities of The Ultimate Place, but not quite all of them.

Some of the Great Places in Eugene are:

- La Posada—OK, it may look

like the classic seedy Mexican restaurant (complete with blaring Mexican dances on a scratchy P.A. system), but La Posada has the best Mexican food in Eugene. When you enter, you're greeted by a smiling lady who asks "Two fore deener? Non-smoking? Chure, we can feet you een." If you're not crazy about Mexican rice, you can save a bundle by ordering from the ala carte side of the menu.

- The Spagetti Warehouse—a nice, bustling place with low prices, a great atmosphere, and decent food. They are suspiciously similar to Portland's Spagetti Factory, but use mozzarella cheese (gross!) instead of the Factory's authentic mizithra (incredible!). Nonetheless, the food is plentiful and pretty cheap. The best possible thing to do at The Spagetti Warehouse is to ask the waiter what the special of the month is. They're usually excellent, and always interesting. There are two things to watch out for: two-for-one coupons the restaurant occasionally runs, and your waiter (they tend to disappear for half an hour at a time).

- Pizza—There are a number of really excellent pizza places in town. Everyone already knows about Sy's, Old Town, Track Town, and East Broadway. But few people seem to know about Tino's, a nice, quiet, private little

place with huge candlesticks on each table. Their pizza is a cross between thick and thin, and it's really something.

OK, you've finished eating. Now for something completely different: Entertainment. Eugene doesn't have any classic movie theaters, so what can you do that's unique and interesting?

Lots. Eugene has some great live theatre for excellent prices (including the University's own fine troupe, which is presenting "Trojan Women" starting tonight). Tickets are not as expensive as you'd probably think, and you can almost always get discounts for being a student.

So theatre's not your thing. Eugene also has great opera, symphony, modern dance and ballet shows at affordable prices. There's almost always someone playing at Beall Hall, for free or a couple of bucks. Why limit yourself? Try something out of the ordinary, and you may find yourself a new interest.

Of course, there's always a wide selection of normal movies to choose from, and plenty of nightspots to visit. If you've got the time and money, it might be interesting to go pub-hopping some evening.

If none of these ideas inspire you, there's another important alternative: Travel. Portland, the

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While it's not impossible to have a great medium-priced evening in Eugene, it's sometimes easier to try different climes. A quick drive is fairly cheap, fun, and much more interesting than watching "Airport '79" again.

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