



photo by mark pynes

Metropol Cafe
898 E. Pearl St.

The Metropol is something like an indoor Champs-Elysees with a split personality.

The floor is genuine blacktop. Small marble and maple tables are scattered about the place, and the constant friendly chatter of nearby fellow patrons gives the restaurant an air of semi-privacy. The large windows look out on the sidewalk of a busy downtown intersection. The only things missing are French-speaking passers-by and white-and-blue Cinzano table umbrellas.

At noon, this setting becomes a backdrop for a daily congregation of executives' secretaries who sip white wine as they dawdle over their salads. In the evening hours, when life is a little slower and quieter, the restaurant becomes more relaxed, and a bit more elegant.

Regardless of which meal is being served, The Metropol offers the same faire of continental dishes, salads and fine pastries at all times. Although the selection is fairly good (from

Corned Beef to Boudin Blanc) and the prices are certainly palatable (\$4 to \$8), the food doesn't quite live up to its surroundings.

The Beef and Mushroom Pie is a good, filling, simple dish, but is missing *something*. The port in the gravy overpowers the al-

by a good sense of seasoning, the combination will be unbeatable.

The Metropol's traditional forte has been desserts, and for good reason. It's hard to find better pastries, cakes and cheesecakes in the Eugene-Springfield area. Unfortunately, the Choix ala Creme I had didn't live up to this standard. The pastry dough used was too tough, and eating the "delicate" puff was good exercise for both the knife arm and the jaw. On the brighter side, the cream and bittersweet chocolate toppings used on many of the desserts is a nice change from the sickly sweet artificial icings used in many

bakeries.

With a nice atmosphere, an excellent wine selection and a basic understanding of continental cuisine, The Metropol Cafe has the potential to be one of Eugene's finest spots. The Metropol has a lot to offer. With a little more time and experience, it'll have even more.

by matt meyer

The Metropol:
Inside-walk cafe
brings Paris to
Pearl Street

most unnoticed blend of the beef and mushroom flavors, causing the ingredients to remain distinct and separate.

Greek Meatballs, a special of the evening, is also disappointing. The meatballs are liberally seasoned with mint, which similarly overpowers the other flavors of the dish. The Metropol's kitchen staff has a good feeling for simplicity in its entree offerings. When this is matched

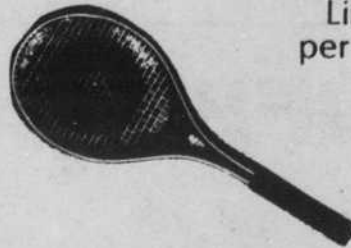
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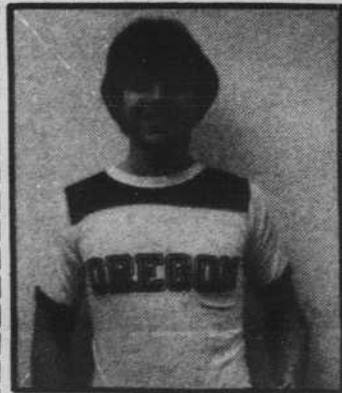
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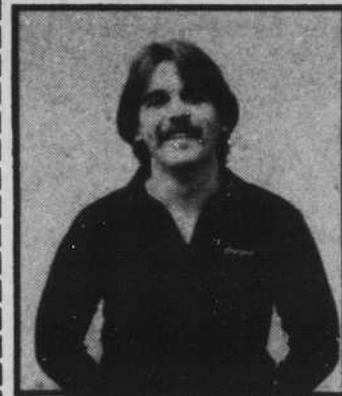
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