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Photo by Hank Trotter

A round-trip ticket on the Amtrak Coast Starliner from Eugene to Portland costs \$22.

Travelers should plan ahead

By Dave Rodewald
Of the Emerald

Students who are planning to travel home or take a vacation this winter should start planning now if they are going to fly.

But if you want to save a few bucks or just try to avoid having to spend the entire winter in Eugene, there are several bus companies that might fit your local or out-of-state needs perfectly.

For those flying, now is the time to reserve your seats, according to Simon McPherson, a travel counselor for Eugene Travel. McPherson suggests that people expecting to fly should make their arrangements three months in advance.

"We are already doing a lot of business for the Christmas vacation months," he says.

Doing your scheduling three months in advance will not only guarantee you a seat, it might save you some money. That, plus flying out of Portland International Airport instead of the Eugene airport, are two ways that the air traveler can save some money, McPherson says.

Budget travelers who want to travel around the country or just to the coast might want to consider taking a bus. Greyhound and Trailways are the two largest bus companies serving the Eugene-Springfield area, and both boast that they are the cheapest type of public transportation and that they go to every major city in the United States.

If you want to go somewhere special, and take a group, then Greyhound offers a charter service in which it will provide you with an air-conditioned bus which can have the seats turned around, and will have tables and portable bars installed if requested.

Both bus services offer a no reservation, guaranteed seating arrangement. More buses will be brought in if there are more riders than the bus can hold.

Still another way to travel is to take advantage

of the alternative bus companies. The Grey Rabbit, The Green Tortoise, and Oregon Coast Line Inc. all offer their different routes at a lower cost than their more established competitors.

On the Rabbit a trip to San Francisco from Eugene costs \$35, and \$16 from Eugene to Seattle. On Greyhound and Trailways the cost of the Eugene to San Francisco trip is \$66.50, and between Eugene and Seattle the cost is \$32.

The Grey Rabbit service offers a basic run from Seattle through Portland, Eugene and on to San Francisco. But it also offers special trips to the Bahamas, Baja, and down to the Mardi Gras in Louisiana.

The Grey Rabbit is listed in the phone book under Grey Rabbit Ride Center, 683-5628. The number for the Green Tortoise is 343-5081.

Oregon Coast Lines Inc. offers low cost trips to several destinations along the Oregon coastline. The company makes the trips in a remodeled 1964 24-passenger school bus. The bus also has room for 12 to 15 bicycles. The price schedule ranges from a one-way trip from Eugene to Veneta for \$1.40 to a round-trip ticket from Eugene to Honeyman Park for \$12.

Tickets can be purchased before departure at the bus stop at 10th Avenue and Olive Street and advance tickets can be purchased at the Atrium Shoe Repair, 99 W. 10th Ave., or by calling 345-3011.

Another alternative for the student traveler is the train. The Amtrak Coast Starliner goes from Los Angeles to Seattle with stops at several cities along the way.

A round-trip ticket from Eugene to San Francisco on the Starliner costs \$120. A round-trip Eugene to Portland trip will cost \$22, and from Eugene to Seattle the price increases to \$53.

Amtrak recommends that travelers make their reservations 3-4 weeks in advance for trips out-of-state.



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