



Photo by Erich Boekeheide
Latarski is currently laying down tracks in a local recording studio.

Latarski plays mean guitar

By Jonathan Siegle
Of the Emerald

Don Latarski is making tracks — the direction, however, may defy classification.

The nationally recognized local guitarist is in the middle of 140 hours of studio work on his second album, "Lifeline."

He's playing the Hult Center for the Performing Arts Saturday at 7:30 p.m. with nationally acclaimed classical guitarist Neil Archer Roan.

Although Latarski is known as a jazz performer, he doesn't see himself that way.

"People call what I do 'jazz fusion,' but it's not that jazzy," he says. "When I think of jazz I think of swing or bebop."

He doesn't know how to classify what he does. "Lifeline," originally titled "Midnight Heat," is "rhythmically like what you hear on a Motown album."

He accepts a "pop" label with a shrug. "I just try to write music which makes me feel great and other people too."

"The music is pretty optimistic."

This summer he plans to do a solo guitar album in a "classical style." The music is already written.

Latarski, the composer, is responsible for all the charts. He writes most of his songs on a classical guitar.

"The classical guitar is really my piano — I don't play the piano. On the classical guitar I hear the voices moving."

Latarski admits he's strongly influenced by the Baroque and Classical styles. He writes with "counter melodies going all the time."

"In the Baroque forms, each part must stand on its own — complete." In the song "Midnight Heat" he plays the melody in a style developed in

the 16th century with first inversion chords with the harmonies underneath.

"It gives a very noble sound."

On "Lifeline," Latarski plays a new Fender Stratocaster for what he calls its "percussive sound."

"I like that raspy, gritty-growly sound, but I also like the clarity. I don't like the distortion — the rock and roll sound."

He says he's heavily influenced by early George Benson, whom he calls the "best guitarist I've ever seen in my life," and the late Wes Montgomery. "I've got a lot of Wes Montgomery albums."

In the early years his influences were B.B. King, Eric Clapton and Jeff Beck.

The album, Latarski's second, is scheduled for release in April by Pausa, an independent label in Los Angeles.

His first album appeared on the Inner City label, but that company has filed for bankruptcy. The arrangement Latarski has with Pausa is a unique one.

Latarski is leasing the album to Pausa for three years. And because he is also paying for the production himself, the royalty rate is three times as high.

"Essentially they're a distribution and promotion company," he says.

Latarski has been playing the guitar 19 years, since he was 10. He came to Eugene from Detroit nine and a half years ago to finish school. He holds political science and music degrees from the University. He makes his living teaching at Lane Community College and the University.

Although he acknowledges that he may have to leave Eugene someday, for now Latarski says "I don't want to go somewhere else."

Present COUPON when ordering

Back-To-School Special Barbecue Beef Ribs

\$3.95

Present this coupon when ordering, then enjoy the area's thickest, meatiest, Texas-style Barbecue Beef Ribs, served with french fries, for only \$3.95!

Hurry, this offer is limited.

OPEN AT 5 P.M. EVERY NIGHT

BRANDING IRON

579 East Broadway, Eugene Phone 344-3201

Not good with any other advertised special

Present COUPON when ordering

EMU Cultural Forum presents

WILLIE NELSON



Tickets
on sale
Jan. 8

McArthur Court 8 p.m.
Saturday, February 5

Reserved Seats \$11.50 & \$9.50

Tickets available at EMU Main Desk, Meier & Frank, Everybody's Records - for more info call 686-4363
Tickets subject to Handling Charge. Listen to KUGN AM-FM for more details.



Complete Sportco Rainsuit \$49⁹⁵

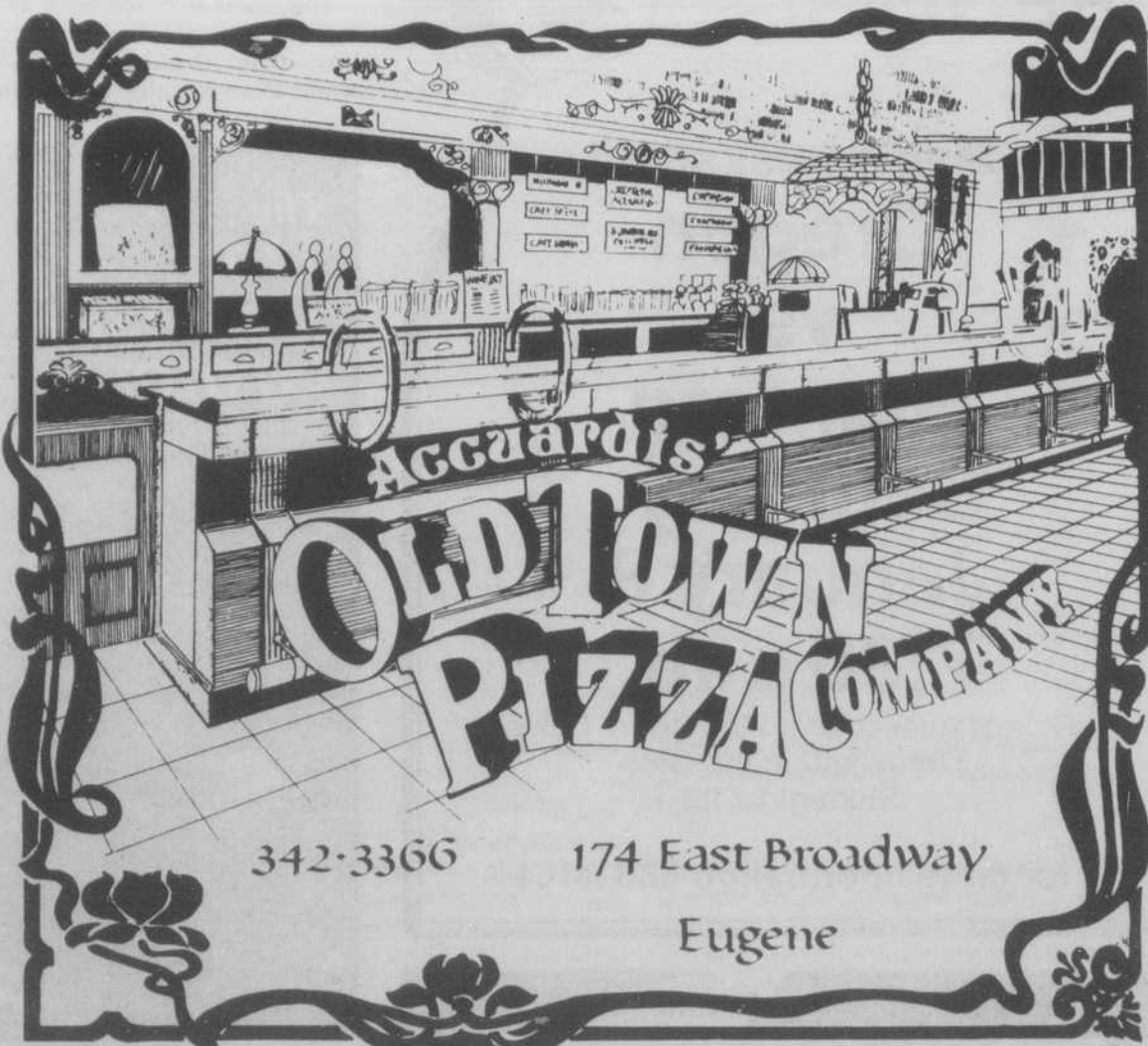
Separates also available
grey and maroon, black and
maroon, and navy

\$5⁰⁰ OFF
any shoe in stock



TRACKSIDE
SPORTING
GOODS
RUNNING
RACQUET SPORTS

1495 E. 19th Ave.
1 Block South of Hayward
Field
683-7513



342-3366

174 East Broadway

Eugene