

# Inexpensive options available for overseas travelers

By Sarah Kitchen

Of the Emerald

Portugal, Spain, Hawaii, Greece, Italy and Mexico are the travel bargains for students this year, according to travel agencies in Portland and Eugene.

Europe is not considered the best deal this year, because the U.S. dollar has dropped in relation to many European currencies. The dollar is, however, still strong in Portugal, Spain, Italy and Greece.

For instance one could typically pay \$1.50 for a

breakfast in smaller towns in Spain and Portugal, and about \$5 for a dinner. In Portugal there are several student restaurants which cost even less.

Accommodations are easy to find in Portugal, and the youth hostels are rated on a five-star system. The cost for a room in one of the lower rated hostels is about \$15. Currently there are 13 youth hostels in Portugal.

For beach bums the southern part of Portugal, the Algarve, is

the place to be. And while some spots have become heavily traveled by tourist traffic, a few secluded beaches remain, especially outside the resort areas. The area between Lagos and Sagres is the best place to look for peace and quiet. The resort areas of Lagos, Sagres, and Albufeira contain a variety of nightclubs, and English has become a second language in the area.

A town north of Lisbon that is worth a visit is Coimbra, with its steep, tiered streets that

wind above the River Mondego. Coimbra, a university town founded in 1290, has been called "Portugal's foremost center of learning."

In Spain the Costa Del Sol and Ibiza are two resort areas that are growing in popularity. According to one guidebook, Ibiza, called the summer camp for Europe's idly affluent, boasts "a perpetual frenzy of social activity... which you'll either love or loathe."

Because of this, the area may cost a bit more than other areas

within Spain.

Madrid, the country's capital, offers a multitude of things to do and see. The University main library's reference section contains several guidebooks on Spain.

Greece, another place where travelers can spend a few weeks for a relatively small price, is a country where terrorism is "no worry at all," according to a Portland travel agent.

A Eurail Pass is one inexpen-

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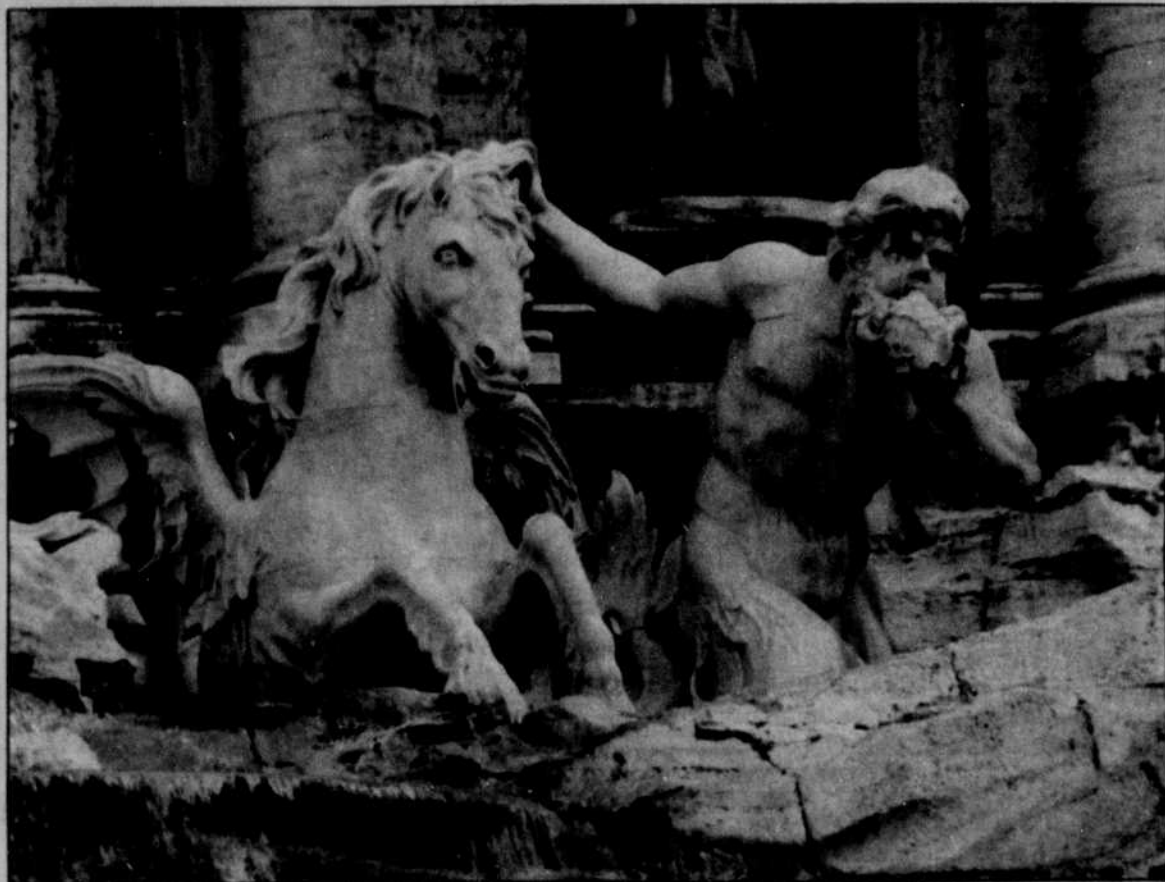


Photo by Maria Corvallis

The Trevi Fountain is located in Rome and is one of 300 fountains in the city. According to legend, those who toss coins in the fountain are guaranteed a return to Rome.

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