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### CBEST

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## THINGS TO DO

### Coffee Continued from Page 27C

ty of breakfast and lunch items, plus the house blend of Columbian and Kenyan available for 45 cents.

An eccentric, flavorful item on the breakfast menu is the Kona Blend, a combination of one egg, milk, banana and orange juice, blended with a dash of vanilla. Kona cafe also serves omelets and sandwiches, along with some less-common items like Huevos Rancheros, which is two eggs cooked over easy in salsa, served over refried beans and cheddar cheese, and topped with green onions and black olives.

Kona cafe is a warm, cozy place that occasionally plays classical music to augment the already soothing atmosphere. Large front windows provide good light for reading the newspaper in the morning or just watching the people walk by.

Next door to Kona Cafe are the **Fall Creek Bakery** and **Valentine's**, at 881 E. 13th Ave. Combined, these two establishments offer a delicious selection of morning pastries, breads, and rolls, and specialty coffees. Valentine's has a fine selection of wines as well.

**Hoot's Family Restaurant**, located at 440 E. 8th Ave. is the paragon of coffee houses in the campus area. The best aspect of Hoot's is not the coffee, which is mediocre at best, but the restaurant's authentic working-class ambience. Open 24 hours, Hoot's is bustling with activity on Friday and Saturday nights, especially during the early-morning hours after 1 a.m.

Hoot's harbors a clientele representative of Eugene's diverse population. During the day or night, all types on individuals can be found there; and by no means is the restaurant student-oriented.

However, according to Sue and Val, graveyard waitresses at Hoot's, students can come and study at night. But if the seating capacity becomes compromised during busy hours, it is best that the students pick up their books and leave. "They can come and study until it gets busy," Val said.

The food is priced more than fairly, and the service is delightfully slow. The waitresses at Hoot's generally serve you well, even when they are under the pressure of working in a fast-paced environment.

Food recommendations: While at Hoot's, go with the inherent American spirit of the place and try the hot beef sandwich for \$3.15 or the 16oz. Rib Steak and Rings for \$7.95. Hamburgers are consistently good, and inexpensive. Hoot's is also a fine place for an early breakfast.

Coffee at Hoot's costs 40 cents and includes refills. But if you are burned out on coffee, try a old-fashioned malt at \$1.35.

All and all, Hoot's is an excellent place for some late-night fun in a meaningful environment. Hoot's has that special all-American truck-stop type charm that must be experienced with aesthetic sensitivity to be understood and enjoyed.

**International House of Pancakes**, located at 355 E. Broadway and directly across the street from Hoot's, is open 24 hours and provides a feasible, although unsatisfactory, alternative to Hoot's.

The IHOP is not only geographically opposite of Hoot's, the restaurant is contrary in style and spirit as well. As contrasted against a traditional, small-town diner like Hoot's, IHOP stands out as a institutionalized cancer on the

restaurant front.

Essentially, the restaurant looks the same as any other IHOP anywhere in the country, and as a result the place has no individuality to call its own. Let's face it, if you've seen one orange-and-brown-molded-plastic-pseudo-woodgrain interior, you've seen them all.

The same concerns apply to the slow, but mildly polite waitresses that serve you. Dressed in dreadful, homogeneous uniforms, the waitresses appear to be carbon-copies of one another, just as the restaurant, in both its architecture and interior, is a copy of its corporate prototype.

The food is not bad, but it's not the greatest either. As its name implies, the restaurant offers pancakes, including an array of different types. And most of the pancake dishes are pretty palatable.

Hamburgers, such as the mushroom burger, are prepared well and usually suffice for a late-night munch out. But much of the food, including both the hamburgers and pancakes, is overpriced.

The IHOP does offer one particular benefit: the bottomless cup of coffee. For 50 cents, the restaurant provides patrons with a carafe of freshly-brewed coffee that ensures a constant supply.

Considering the accessibility of coffee at IHOP, it is a viable place to go for a late-night study session, if one can tolerate the decor and the institutional pretentiousness. But if you are looking for a place to eat, bypass the House of Pancakes—it will pay off, literally.

**The Hult Plaza Coffee Shop**, located at 401 E. 10th Ave. and tucked away between Franklin Blvd. and 11th Ave. in the Hult

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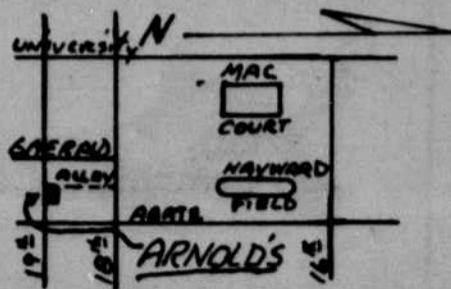
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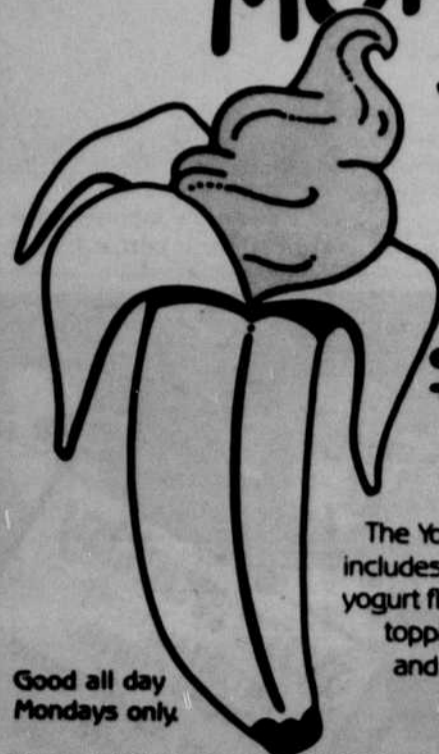
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