

## Caliente to cha-cha the night away

Valentine's Day is almost here and promises to be a special day for friends and lovers. How 'bout a night on the town to celebrate?

Try this: Hit Eugene with your honey or buddies and enjoy some of the best entertainment offered by seeing local salsa band Caliente.

Caliente promises to get everyone in the cha-cha dancing mood when they play Valentine's Day at Los Baez, a new restaurant and bar located at 85 Oakway Center on Coburg Rd.

The members of Caliente have been working hard during the last few months to write new music for their first compact disk. The Valentine's Day sound will be new for many Eugene residents because the band has only presented some of its new material once.

"Valentine's Day is well celebrated in Latin America," said Fernell Lopez, lead vocalist. It is called Dia de la Amistad or Dia de Amor, both of which mean the day of friendship or love. He explained that it is a tradition to celebrate this day with music — especially by serenading your loved one or listening to mariachi bands.

Caliente plays many salsa favorites as well as new material that will make any crowd want to get up and dance — even if concert-goers aren't familiar with meringue dances.



Eugene band Caliente will perform its own brand of salsa music at Los Baez, 85 Oakway Center, on Valentine's Day.

The band formed in 1985 and has grown to be a nine-member ensemble boasting a five-piece rhythm section and a four-piece horn line. Featuring members from the United States, Mexico and Chile, the band keeps busy with practices and full-time college class loads.

Caliente is especially happy to be able to play at Los Baez because many bars in Eugene can't afford to hire a nine-piece band for the evening. Caliente enjoyed good success at a bar called La Salsa, but its closure left the band without a regular place to play.

Angel Baez, general manager of Los Baez, hopes to attract a

big crowd on Valentine's Day because they "would like to be known as a place for the Latino community to go and celebrate special occasions."

Caliente has just finished recording their new CD and they are still working on the artwork for the cover and translating all the lyrics into English. "We expect to get the CDs back in mid March and they will be distributed in some local stores and sold at live performances," Lopez said.

Their goal is to get national distribution and to present their own material to a wider audi-

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## A Valentine's Day Evening

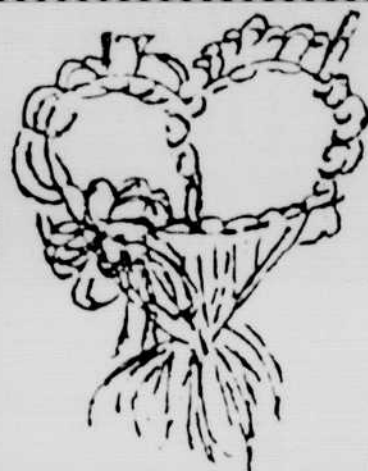
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