

COFFEHOUSES

Cafe Paradiso has eclectic mix of ambiance, entertainment

ANNE MOSER-KORNFELD
Oregon Daily Emerald

Cafe Paradiso, located at 115 W. Broadway, offers an eclectic mix of good food, great coffee and drinks, and entertainment that includes summer gigs by *Babes With Axes*. Better yet, the cafe will be open until midnight from May 30 through finals.

Cafe Paradiso's great mix is what keeps customers and audiences coming back. From the outdoor cafe to the cozy interior with full-size couches and arm-chairs, to the atmosphere reminiscent of a European cafe, Cafe Paradiso aims to fit whatever mood meets the occasion.

Owner Greg Fleener said because of the different regions in the coffeehouse/cafe, people feel comfortable in a space that covers 3,000 square feet.

"In the mornings during the day, most people like the light and the window and the view," Fleener said. "In the evenings people like to come in the back and get cozy."

"It's almost funny how intimate people can get here," he said.

Entertainment begins on Thursday nights with an open mic and runs through Sundays. During the summer, Fleener plans to offer performances on the other days of the week.

The open mic format includes poetry and music. Many of the acts follow-up by contacting Fleener to perform on a more regular basis.

Because Cafe Paradiso charges a minimal cover from \$1 to \$5 for shows, bands are paid a percentage of what the house takes in.

Word in the community seems to be getting around about Cafe Paradiso. Fleener said the downtown business crowds enjoy pastries and coffee breaks. And underage students often come in to relax and enjoy the comfortable setting.

In Town, a Eugene downtown publication, wrote a food review highlighting the quality and care that Cafe Paradiso takes in preparing its sandwiches and pastries.

The sign board menu above the espresso-pastry counter describes specially prepared sandwiches on Italian baguettes, with cheeses that tempt even the fussiest eater's appetite. Recently they began serving ice cream, just in time for summer.

Although they don't serve sandwiches after 10 p.m., most of the cafe's menu (which covers everything from lasagna to pastries) can satisfy anyone who's staying up late to study or has stopped in to listen to music.

Leaving nothing to chance, artist Toni Chiapelli's work in collage, water color and color photograph decorates the right-hand walls of the cafe.

Cafe Paradiso is open 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday, and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fleener said the hours may be extended during the summer.



LES ZACZEK/Emerald
Trubador, a local acoustic guitar player and singer, performs on Cafe Paradiso's stage.

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