

# Wunderland gives cheap dates a place to go

■ The arcade in the Fifth Street Public Market is one of several affordable local hot spots

By **Alix Kerl**  
Oregon Daily Emerald

We all are poor college students — so it's time to stop complaining and do something fun.

Face it, drinking beer and just hanging out get old. No friendship or relationship will last long if that's all you do. You always had fun when you were a kid, and you never had to spend much money to do it, so why not have some cheap fun while reliving your childhood?

The fun starts at Pearl Street Ice Cream Parlour on the corner of 13th Avenue and Pearl Street. You can't

## CHEAP DATE

A date for two  
for less than \$10

miss the building, because it is decorated with red, black and white stripes. Glance in the windows, and you know you're in for a good time. The windows are filled with candy, streamers and clowns.

There are so many choices, you won't know what to pick, but remember, you're on a budget. And since you're on a budget, the best thing to do is to share a tasty treat. The children's menu offers some affordable options, but a kiddie chocolate shake is a little boring.

For the same price, \$2.75, you can get the "Luncheon Old Fashioned." It's a creamy scoop of vanilla ice cream with your choice of topping — the choices are blackberry, butterscotch, chocolate, marshmallow, pineapple or strawberry. The whole concoction is then topped with whipped cream, sprin-

kles, a cherry and a crunchy cookie or with hot fudge, whipped cream, nuts and a cherry.

Another tasty option is "Dusty Road," which is a little pricey at \$3.95. This baby comes with two scoops of vanilla ice cream with whipped cream, nuts and a cherry. It's then served with a side of hot fudge and a pile of old-fashioned malt to add as you go.

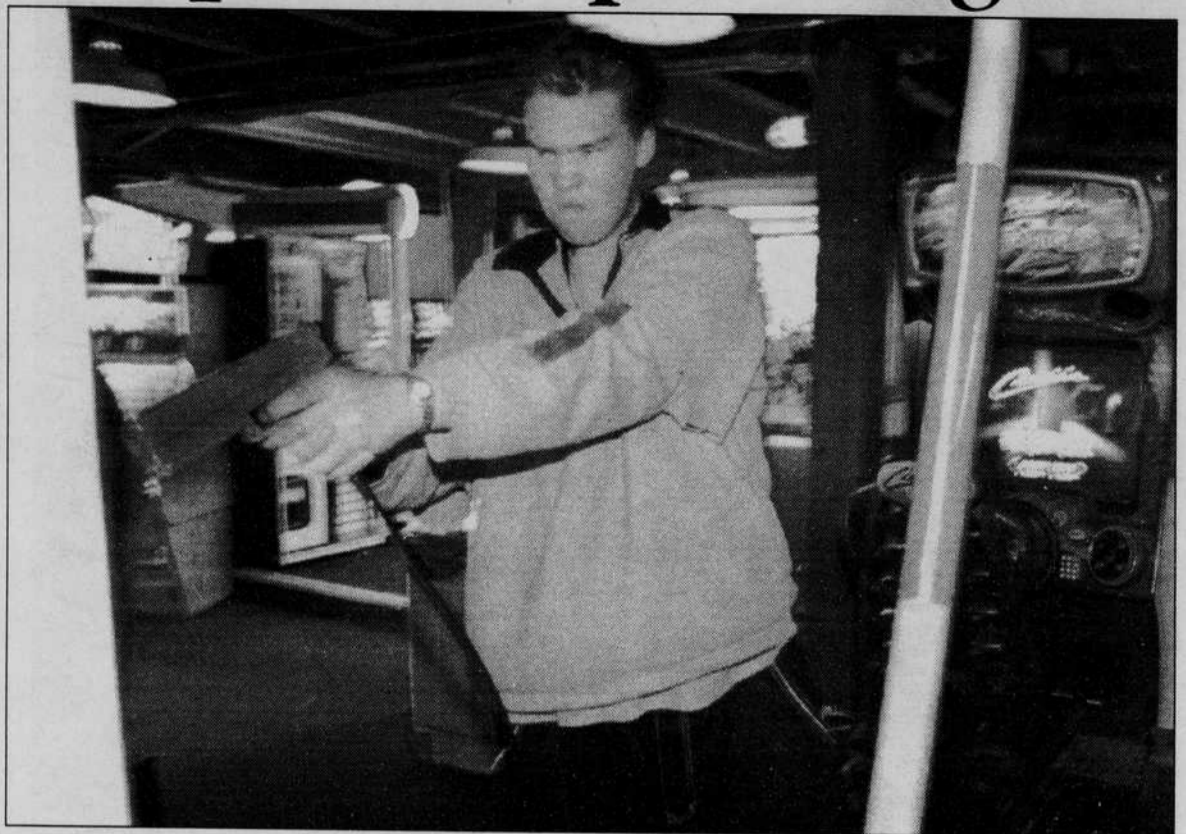
With a little luck, you should be able to spend less than \$4.50. The front counter is like a miniature candy store, but don't let it tempt you. If you spend your change here, you won't have enough for the next stop.

All right, now head right out the door — it's time to work off the ice cream. We're going to Wunderland. This fabulous arcade is only a short eight-block walk or bike ride away. The arcade is located near the corner of East Fifth Avenue and High Street on the back side of the Fifth Street Public Market. General admission is \$2.50, but every day until 6 p.m. admission is only \$1.75. That's only \$3.50 for the two of you! Now it's time to play some games.

There are more than 100 types of games at Wunderland, including video games and what the arcade calls "redemption games," in which you earn tickets that can be redeemed for prizes.

If you want to make a fool of yourself, check out The DJ Game. It's kind of like those interactive snowboarding and karaoke machines: You just hop aboard and pretend that you're a DJ. Your task consists of scratching the records in time to the beat.

The best overall game is Virtual On, a futuristic head-to-head battle. For only 15 cents, you get to play



Former University student David Guggenmos tries his hand at 'Police 911,' an arcade game at Wunderland.

Thomas Patterson Emerald

the part of a giant robot battling other giant robots in an arena. Boy howdy!

You can never get bored at Wunderland, but you will run out of money. When that happens, it's time to window-shop around the market, where there are a lot of fun stores. Urban Garden has everything from elaborate bird baths to those hip little sprigs of bamboo. If you like trendy and expensive jewelry and housewear, there's always New Twist. While there are a lot of cool stores, remember that we're re-

living childhood here, so we're going to the toy store.

Elephant's Trunk is just a few doors down from Wunderland and is filled with stuffed animals, secret code games, playground balls and elephants. It's the perfect place to talk about how much toys have changed since you were kids.

The craziest new toy is "The Kaleidoscope House." It's an interactive play environment for children of the future. The house has transparent modernist walls that

are multicolored to teach kids about color. You can even buy packages to furnish the house with artwork by Cindy Sherman and Peter Halley.

At the front of the store are an motorized elephant, boat and camel that you can ride for a quarter. If you still have a quarter left from playing at Wunderland, take a ride. I recommend doing it when no one is looking.

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