

'Plate Club' encourages waste reduction

Holy Cow Café in the EMU gives patrons the option of using reusable plates and utensils for a \$5 deposit

Andrew Black
Environment/Science/Technology

The food at the EMU's Holy Cow Café is fresh, organic and flavored with a healthy spoonful of smiles. But for restaurant co-owner Kathee Lavine, there had always been something about the business that left a bitter taste in her mouth. Ever since she first began peddling pad thai and chow mein back in 1997, Lavine has been stewing about the trash.

"Waste has always been a little grain of sand in our oyster," Lavine said.

So following on the heels of an EMU waste audit that revealed paper plates and plastic utensils make up 13 percent of EMU Food Services waste, Lavine has cooked up a plan to take a bite out of trash. Lavine said Holy Cow patrons now have the option of using reusable plates and silverware with a \$5 deposit.

"We've been trying to do this for a year, but it has taken us a while to get our ducks lined up," Lavine said.

The plates, which were purchased for last year's Willamette Valley Folk Festival from an ASUO grant, are being rented to the cafe. By providing reusable plates, Holy Cow will incur extra labor expenses

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Kathee Lavine
Holy Cow co-owner

and a \$155 per month charge to lease a dishwasher. Despite the increased cost, Lavine said she thinks waste reduction is worth it.

"We believe one's food choices are a powerful political statement," Lavine said. "We want to decrease our footprint on the planet and reuse things rather than throw them away."

Doctoral student Jackie Schwandt said recycling is an important part of her lifestyle and added that she was drawn to the café because of the new reusable plates.

"I want to contribute toward stopping the amount of garbage that is thrown away," Schwandt said. "I had never eaten at Holy Cow before this week, but then I saw the Plate Club."

The recent EMU Food Services waste audit also found that compostable materials make up roughly 40 percent of the volume of trash. In addition to reusable plates, Lavine said Holy Cow also composts nearly all of its food waste.

"Right now, the compostable materials are going to the night manag-



Danielle Hickey Emerald

Kevin Kunev dishes up food at the Holy Cow Café in the EMU, which recently started using reusable plates and forks.

er's garden," Lavine said. "We're trying to undo people's thoughts that things like plates are free, and that there is no cost to the planet."

If the reusable plate program is successful, Holy Cow may try

reusable bowls, Lavine added.

Holy Cow employee and singer/songwriter Luna Lacey said most of her customers don't want to use paper plates.

"People are really excited about

it," Lacey said. "It's so much more cozy and comfortable than the fast food disposable world we live in."

Contact the reporter at andrewblack@dailyemerald.com.

Billy Corgan's Zwan delivers 'Honestly' decent pop-rock



Courtesy

Music review

Helen Schumacher
Pulse Reporter

During their heyday, the Smashing Pumpkins captured the roller coaster ride of adolescence — with all its beautiful urgency and angst. They captured the freedom of knowing that your curfew wasn't for another few hours. To a similar extent, Billy Corgan's new band, Zwan, carries on this legacy.

Like a phoenix rising from the ashes of low album sales and disappointing reviews, Corgan has returned to once again reclaim his throne as an alt-rock virtuoso. With the release of the group's first album, "Mary Star of the Sea," Corgan is reborn as Billy Burke and is joined by part-time Smashing

Pumpkins drummer Jimmy Chamberlin, Chavez's Matt Sweeney, Paz Lenchantin of A Perfect Circle and Dave Pajo from the bands Slint and Papa M.

Although comparing Zwan to the Pumpkins is inevitable, it's also futile, and it will only prevent the listener from fully enjoying the album.

Tuning into the poppy, optimistic radio-friendly single 'Honestly' is a stark reminder of Corgan's trademark alley cat vocals. The chord progressions too are familiar — Corgan receives most of the songwriting credit.

However, Pajo's incredible talent is a new addition. His touch is at its finest about five and a half minutes into the track "Jesus, I / Mary Star of the Sea." Each note is heavy like ether, until Chamberlin picks up

the beat and Corgan starts singing. "And everything just feels like rain / the road we're on / the things we crave ... if I should sleep / what's left to dream."

Other standout tracks include the ballad "Of a Broken Heart" and "Settle Down," which is filled with classic Pumpkins guitar riffs.

The music floats painlessly from the speaker to the ear, but the songs fail to stay with the listener for longer than the duration of the album. "Mary Star of the Sea" is none of the artists' best work.

Although the release lacks some edge, when compared to what has been poisoning the airwaves the past few years, it is a small beam of hope.

Contact the Pulse reporter at helenschumacher@dailyemerald.com.

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