

An assorted world of 'Bazar' oddities

Eugene establishment Lazar's Bazar features an assortment of goods from camping cookware to urban clothing

Ryan Bornheimer
Senior Pulse Reporter

Makyadath Lazar has an easy explanation for why his store, Lazar's Bazar, has emerged as a one-of-a-kind retail establishment in Eugene: "My customers are unique."

Lazar's dependence on his customers' input can't be overstated. Patrons themselves have truly created the strange concoction of products that characterizes the nearly 30-year-old store.

"There is little we don't carry. And anything we don't carry, we'll order," Lazar said.

Lazar said special orders that customers have neglected to pick up over the years are thrown on the shelf for anyone to buy. This explains why a person can wander into Lazar's and find anything from Halloween masks to skateboard gear to martial arts supplies — and that's just on the first floor.

Beyond the assortment of vintage clothing and trendy urban garb, customers can find stickers, pipes and even camping cookware. The second floor is devoted primarily to an enormous assortment of posters

and greeting cards.

Eugene resident Hollow Reed said the establishment reminds him of places normally found in big cities, and that Lazar's appeal comes from the store's wide selection of disparate items.

"Basically, it's a conglomeration of a bunch of shit that nobody needs and can't use," Reed said. "And that's a good thing."

Lazar agrees: "It's definitely a different world in here," he chuckled. "People come in here, forget what they came in for and find something they didn't even know they wanted."

Lazar's Bazar could be described not only as a retail store, but as a museum too. Since the shop's opening, Lazar, a self-described "sucker," has attended countless trade shows, snatching up whatever oddities grab his interest — many of which remain on the shelves until that special customer finds it.

Lazar laughs at how long some of his products have lingered. For instance, the owner says one strange little alarm clock has been on the shelf for nearly 25 years. Customers can go in and pick up items that were featured as popular gift ideas, faded into obscurity, and then reemerged as retro-chic. Anyone need an unopened poster of Pat Benatar? Lazar's is the place for you.

Lazar, who rarely uses his first name, could be described as a true American success story. Arriving in



Family-owned Lazar's Bazar, located at 57 West Broadway, offers a cornucopia of old and new amenities alike, from alarm clocks to posters.

Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Eugene from his native India in 1974, Lazar began selling tapestries out of a backpack around the University while his wife, Rosie, took a position as a nurse at a local hospital. From there, the young entrepreneur moved into a small space at 13th Avenue and Oak Street, where he sold tapestries, Indian clothing and handicrafts.

Today, Lazar owns three retail spaces Downtown with plans to open a fourth near the University. In addition to the Bazar at 57 West Broadway, he owns two shoe stores — one next door to the Bazar and Shoe-A-Holic, located

at 957 Willamette St.

He said his preoccupation with footwear came when his son, Priyamon, took up skateboarding in the 1980s. In the anything-goes spirit of his establishment, Lazar began selling skateboarding products with his son in charge — at 10 years old. The growing sales of skateboarding shoes led to the current, larger operations. Meanwhile, Lazar said Priyamon, now 24, will be the chief creative force behind the new University store, which will specialize in shoes and tobacco accessories.

Lazar gained notoriety in 2000 when

he ran for mayor. Spending just \$50 of his own money on advertising, the budding politician garnered 7 percent of the vote — not bad for a guy who started off with 12 tapestries in a backpack.

Lazar credits the success of his store to the constant cooperation of his family. In addition to his son's involvement, Lazar's wife and three daughters are fixtures at the establishment. He said it's truly a family operation, and then laughed: "The only thing is, I can't fire them."

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Pizza

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compost as much as possible.

If the dining area seems eerily quiet, this is because the kitchen is detached from the main building. Dur-

ing the summertime, Cozmic opens up its back yard, a grassy plot of land surrounded by sky and cloud murals. There is a stage, flower garden and bench for customers to eat at.

The restaurant employs seven people, and has recently opened up

another location in Ashland. Employee Tyrone Barnett has worked for Cozmic for three years and puts in about 30 hours per week. Barnett, also a musician, performs a variety of tasks for the restaurant, including delivery.

"I like delivering," he said. "You don't have to stay in one place, you can go around and find things. It's like a video game."

For desserts, the restaurant offers vegan cheesecake and Rusty's Hand-built cookie bars. This isn't mere co-

incidence — the dessert business operates next door to Cozmic.

Cozmic is open from 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. everyday.

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Members of the Task Force on Athletics invite you to an open campus forum to discuss current issues regarding intercollegiate athletics. The panel particularly invites your questions, comments and views on the compatibility of intercollegiate athletics with the UO academic mission and the national athletics "arms race." How are we doing at the UO on these issues and how do they affect us all? Let your voice be heard.

Panelists from the UO Task Force on Athletics

Suzanne Clark, Professor of English, Co-Chair of Athletics Task Force

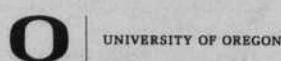
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Jim O'Fallon, Professor of Law, Faculty Athletic Representative

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Margie Paris, Professor of Law, Co-Chair and Forum Moderator

Interested faculty, staff and students are encouraged to participate in this forum.



To view the recently released Task Force statement on U of O Student-Athlete Welfare, go to <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/vpadmin/taskforce1.html> or call 346-3003 to request a copy.

Used

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W. 11th Ave. offers hundreds of new, used and vintage guitars. The prices make the difference between vintage and used obvious.

Buy & Sell Center, at Eighth Avenue and Charnelton Street, is a new and used instrument dealer offering all the standard fare, such as guitars and amps, but manager Stephen Mathys said the store's main focus is a little more eclectic. Buy & Sell Center is the place to go for anyone looking for ethnic instruments such as bagpipes, sitars or harps.

This fact may account for the vast age range of customers who visit the store.

"We get everything from young kids that need a saxophone to 80-year-old Dixieland banjo players," Mathys said.

According to Mathys, used instruments account for at least 50 percent of sales. Although all used goods are sold "as is," Buy & Sell's fully staffed repair shop helps ensure the biggest bang for the budget-conscious buck.

Mathys said saving money is not the only reason to look into used instruments. String instruments, for instance, sound better with age and are often made of wood that is now rare or expensive.

ACE Trading Company, located at 3697 Franklin Blvd., does not specialize in musical instruments, but this consignment shop might be just the place to find that "diamond in the rough." The selection depends greatly on timing. On any given day, ACE can have everything from saxophones, keyboards and accordions to guitars and amps.

The store prides itself on the

extensive quality check performed on every instrument. All instruments bought for resale are held for seven days before being put on the shelf. An in-store music specialist is available Wednesday through Sunday to help guide the weary consumer.

Customers needn't overlook stores that specialize in new equipment.

For instance, some may be surprised to learn that Guitar Center, at 65 Division Ave., carries a variety of used guitars and amps.

For students interested in pianos, Musician's Depot may be worth checking out. This store, located at 92 Centennial Loop, of-

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Stephen Mathys
manager,
Buy & Sell Center

fers mostly new merchandise but also has a selection of used pianos and keyboards.

Eugene's recent placement on Rolling Stone's list of hot college music towns may offer proof of a burgeoning local rock scene. The above establishments could help ensure that legacy without breaking local musicians' wallets. At the very least, it'll anger the neighbors at a low cost. Now that's bang for your buck.

Contact the senior Pulse reporter at ryanbornheimer@dailymerald.com.

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