

Today's crossword solution

PAC	MERCI	PLUGS
LEO	ACORN	AISLE
URN	TRAIT	RESEE
MITE	UNMEASURED	
BERGS	SERVE	
OOHS	ACE	OSLO
AWL	INANER	UPON
TELAVIV	PROTEGE	
ORES	FASTED	ESS
PERK	FLU	DEAD
PLANT	SILLS	
REFERENDUM	MILL	
ERODE	CANON	MAE
SIREN	HYENA	IMP
TEENS	ESSAY	TAT

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The Pizza Research Institute serves up quality pizza and a complete avant-garde dining experience.  
Danielle Hickey  
Emerald

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# Institute serves organic slices at moderate prices

## Restaurant review

**Aaron Shakra**  
Pulse Reporter

I spent my Saturday evening dining at the Pizza Research Institute, located at 1328 Lawrence St. Readers may have noticed lately that I've been writing about pizza places around the community; along with Cozmic Pizza and Bene!, this pretty much covers the gourmet pizza locations around Eugene.

The Pizza Research Institute restaurant itself is quite small. But with spring finally here, a number of tables sit outside, so people can eat in warm weather and open air. Inside, the ambiance is playful and friendly, even slightly hip. Numerous power boxes stylishly painted black decorate the far wall, and the stereo system (playing reggae during my visit) is hooked up to an old-school oscilloscope so customers can see the sound waves of the music. Origami, crayons, books and games adorn the shelves. Live flowers are set on the tightly-spaced tables, and a sign above where we sat read, "Tomorrow's Pizza Today."

I ordered a medium Chef's Choice pizza, which the menu ambiguously describes as "always elaborate, changes based on the availability of the freshest ingredients." It's also available in a vegan variant, but I went for the cheese.

When it came time to pay, I made the mistake of coming without cash in my wallet. The place doesn't accept credit or debit cards of any type, so I ended up having to ride to the bank to pay for the meal.

There was about a half-hour wait

for our food, and the restaurant steadily filled with hungry customers. I drank a homemade honey lemonade soda, and my friend and I were able to get in a game of mancala while we waited.

Then the pizza arrived. I was completely unprepared for the wealth of ingredients — artichoke hearts, asparagus, baby corn, broccoli, olives, peaches, portobello mushrooms and ricotta cheese. I was hesitant to eat because the meal was clearly so artfully prepared. However, my stomach quickly spoke louder than my eyes.

Because there were so many ingredients covering the dough, there was not much additional crust. A medium pizza gives you six large slices — more than enough for two people. In fact, we couldn't finish, and ended up giving our last slice to the people sitting next to us.

The homemade sodas continued to intrigue me, so I ended up having another — at first, I wanted a hemp cola, but they were all out. I ended up with a homemade root beer, which was a little on the flat side, but mostly good.

The total price of our meal, including tip, was around \$20. The food is a little spendier than typical pizza fare, but entirely reasonable — especially when considering the size of the pizza, and the quality of ingredients, which are mostly organic, or as I was told "as organic as possible," according to the season.

And of course, you can eat without having to go all out: The restaurant offers soups, salads and pizza by the slice. The Pizza Research Institute is open 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. seven days a week.

Contact the Pulse reporter at aaronshakra@dailyemerald.com.

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## Ask Nat

continued from page 5

statement, "in case something bad happens between Benny and me." Maybe you should work on stabilizing things with Benny, not Evan, because the tone of your love relationship sounds insecure. You are afraid of being alone if Benny leaves you, which worries me about your emotional stability. It's important to have friends and family as a support system, but don't put all the pressure on Evan. Work on gaining support from other friends and

family and being independent so you can rely on yourself as well as a slew of supporters — not just Benny or Evan. If you and Benny do break up, I'm sure Evan or any other friend would be there with a shoulder to cry on. But it is best to be strong enough to stand on your own two feet first so you won't collapse if others decide to bail on you.

Contact the columnist at natashachilingierian@dailyemerald.com. Her views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald. Send questions to advice@dailyemerald.com.