

Cafés allow for social interaction, study time

Some students prefer local cafés for quiet studying and social opportunities

By Athanasios Fkias
Freelance Reporter

University senior Bobby Wood said coffee is a vital element in his college experience. Without it, cramming for his accounting homework the night before it is due would be impossible. For this reason, Wood finds himself frequently spending evenings at The Buzz, a café on the ground floor of the EMU.

"Hey, it's open as late as the library, and it serves coffee," Wood, an accounting major, said.

Wood plays the guitar, watches lots of television and has cable Internet — an environment that he said is not conducive to studying. The Buzz does have "open mic" nights on Mondays and live music on Fridays, however, and on those days Wood's studying must be done elsewhere.

Enter the Starbucks/Espresso Roma dichotomy. Located close to each other on East 13th Avenue, each also has its own unique following. While Wood doesn't go to either often enough to have a preference, there are the loyal devotees such as sophomores Tyler Stout and Kawika Victor.

"I support small businesses, and (Espresso Roma) has really good food," Stout said. Both said they enjoy the quiet atmosphere and the friendly clientele.

Junior Rachael Danley, on the other hand, prefers Starbucks.

"Starbucks is consistent," she said. "I do like independent coffee shops, but with Starbucks, you always know what to expect."

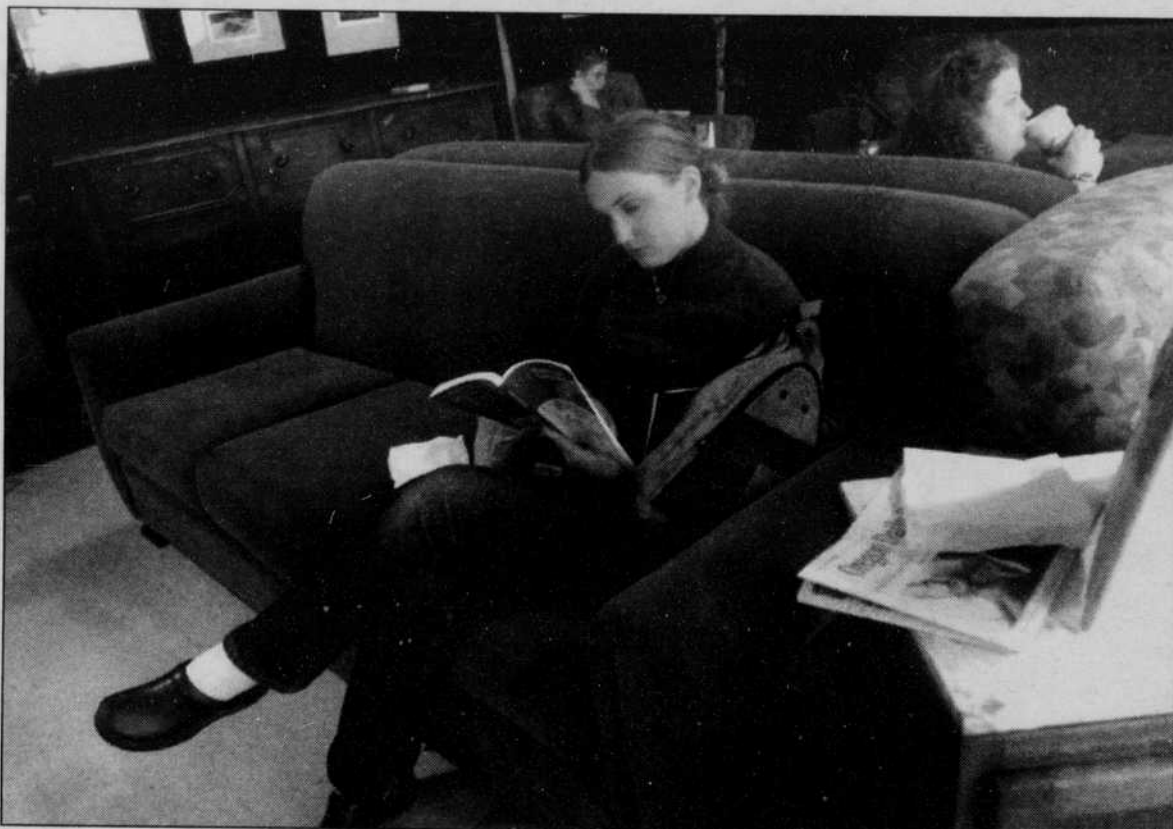
Danley said that in contrast to Espresso Roma's quieter music and academically oriented scene, Starbucks has a livelier atmosphere. The breakdown she said, is as follows:

"If you want 'froofy' drinks and a chance to meet people while you're studying, go to Starbucks. If you prefer a quieter setting and stronger coffee, go to Espresso Roma."

Other close-to-campus café alternatives include the Common Grounds Café in the Hamilton Complex and Clancy Thurber's Underground in the basement of the Collier House. Both take campus meal points.

Wood said that as far as he is concerned, no matter where one goes to study, it cannot be at home and coffee must be part of the equation.

Athanasios Fkias is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.



Adam Amato Photo Editor

Sophomore Anna Mezger-Sieg studies at The Buzz on Oct. 7. Mezger-Sieg said she studies in The Buzz because it is more relaxing than the rest of the EMU. The Buzz also offers "open mic" nights on Mondays and live music on Fridays.

University host to wide range of activities, groups

A variety of student clubs, including political, social and environmental activist groups, are on campus

Aimee Rudin
Freelance Editor

A wise man once said variety is the spice of life. What he may have meant was trying new things keeps life interesting. In following, the University hosts several opportunities for students to get involved with different groups, clubs and activities.

For students with a taste for political debate, the University College Republicans, the University College Democrats, Campus Greens and Generation Dean all have groups

on campus.

Members of the College Republicans tout themselves as the conservative voice on the University campus, and their Web site said their purpose "has always been to help facilitate conservative students' needs in exploring the Republican Party, as well as acting as a campus outlet for the state and national Republican Parties." The group has existed at the University for the last 50 years and currently has an office on the ground floor of the EMU.

The College Democrats, located in Suite 300, operates as a venue through which University students can gain experience in "campus, local, state or national politics through voter education, voter registration, voter turn-out effort" and other aspects associated with the Democratic Party, according to the group's Web site.

Students with political persuasions off the beaten path may want to check out some of the groups housed in the Survival Center located in Suite One of the EMU.

"Inside the Survival Center you can find a wide variety of organizations, from animal rights to environmental groups, human rights and independent media," Survival Center co-Director Marshall Kirkpatrick said.

The Survival Center is

also a good source for valuable information on issues pertaining to social justice and environmentalism, according to its Web site. This fall the Survival Center is working with the Multi-Cultural Center on a weekly film series.

One of the most visible groups in the Survival Center is OSPIRG. The group focuses on student activism and public interest issues. This year OSPIRG members at the University will be focusing on the Willamette Campaign to clean up the Willamette River, a renter's rights hotline and programs to assist the hungry and homeless populations of Eugene. The Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group

will hold a general interest meeting at 6 p.m. on Oct. 15 in the EMU Ben Linder room.

Across the hall from the Survival Center in Suite Three of the EMU is the University Women's Center. The Women's Center is dedicated to providing "information, support, and services to facilitate education around issues of feminism, women and gender" on the University campus, according to its Web site. The Women's Center is involved with several campus events throughout

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