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**SIT DOWN AND STAY A WHILE**

**Crema . 2728 S.E. Ankeny St.; 503-234-0206**  
**Hours: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday,**  
**7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday**  
**Queer Quotient:** ☹ **Cup:** ☹☹☹ **Vibe:** ☹☹☹

Of all the cafes in our survey, none surpasses Crema for delicious food, particularly baked goods. The delectable selection of croissants, biscuits and scones complement the smooth and carefully rendered coffee drinks. Crema's space on the corner of Southeast Ankeny Street and 28th Avenue features large glass garage doors that are opened in pleasant weather. The feel of Crema is accommodating, well-designed and light. The blonde wood furniture and interior accents add to the sunny space.

Copies of the past two days' *New York Times* crossword puzzles are available to patrons, as are a selection of design and art magazines.

Owner Brent Fortune bought Crema in May 2004 from the owners of Florio Bakery. In addition to the baked goods at the shop, Fortune runs a wholesale business from the bakery. Fortune, who moved from San Diego in order to be more involved with the coffee culture of Portland, wanted to make a place where there are really good baked goods as well as really good coffee under one roof. The aesthetic of Crema is not speed but rather the hand-crafted nature of both a good pastry and a good

coffee drink. There is no one yelling "grande latte!" at Crema. You order your drink, you sit down and relax.

For whole cakes, Crema cannot be beat. Ranging in price from \$22 to \$35, the menu features seasonal fare like strawberry tarts with dependable standbys like

coconut crème cake (the best in the city) and bittersweet chocolate tarts.

The clientele of the shop changes as the day passes, and Fortune estimates about 90 percent of his business comes from the neighborhood. In the morning there are people on their way to work; mid-morning brings in the moms with kids; and in the afternoons the place fills with students utilizing the free wi-fi.

Crema's philanthropic activities include feeding AIDSWalkers and hosting organizing meetings for AIDSWalk in his shop. He has also been

involved with the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Nearly all the organizations and schools he gives to are within a two-mile radius of his shop, except for Coffee Kids, an organization that addresses the needs of children in coffee-growing regions of the world.

Although the feeling at Crema is not particularly gay, its sophistication and quality are unsurpassed in our survey. It combines the best aspects of a neighborhood coffee spot without compromising on the treats.



**LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION**

**Foster Grounds . 5532 S.E. Center St.; 503-777-8515**  
**Hours: 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday**  
**Queer Quotient:** ☹ **Cup:** ☹☹☹ **Vibe:** ☹☹☹

Step inside Foster Grounds and you'll know this isn't your corporate coffee joint. Free from stainless steel tables, leather couches and snotty baristas, this 2-year-old coffee shop has a slow, comfortable feel.

With her establishment serving as somewhat of an anchor for the outer Southeast

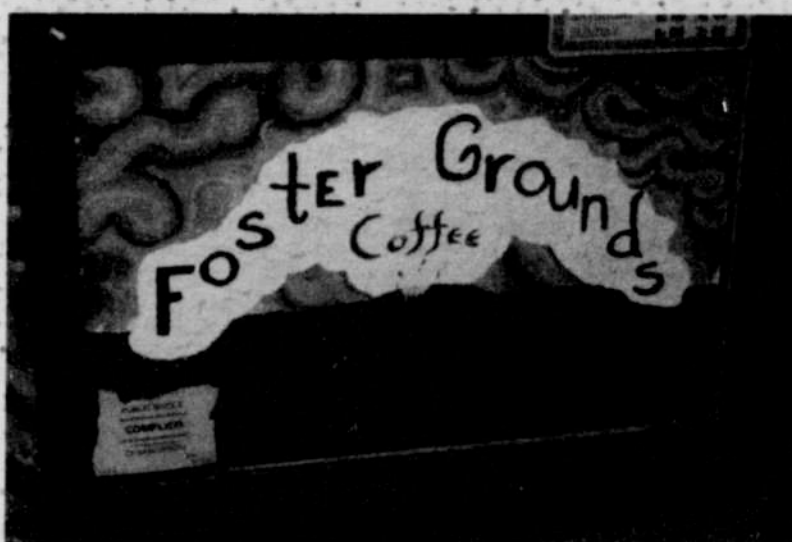
Getzlaff raided a local antique shop to dress the store in one-of-a-kind, secondhand comfort. She has also procured turn-of-the-century photos of olde Foster.

Foster Grounds hosts live acoustic blues Sundays and holds regular book club meetings. With stacks of games and a shelf of books and magazines, the only element missing from Foster Grounds is a wireless Internet connection—according to Getzlaff, by choice.

"I'm proudly alone in saying this, but I don't want to turn this into a library. When people are plugged in, with headphones on, you lose the community aspect and conversation in a coffee shop," she said.

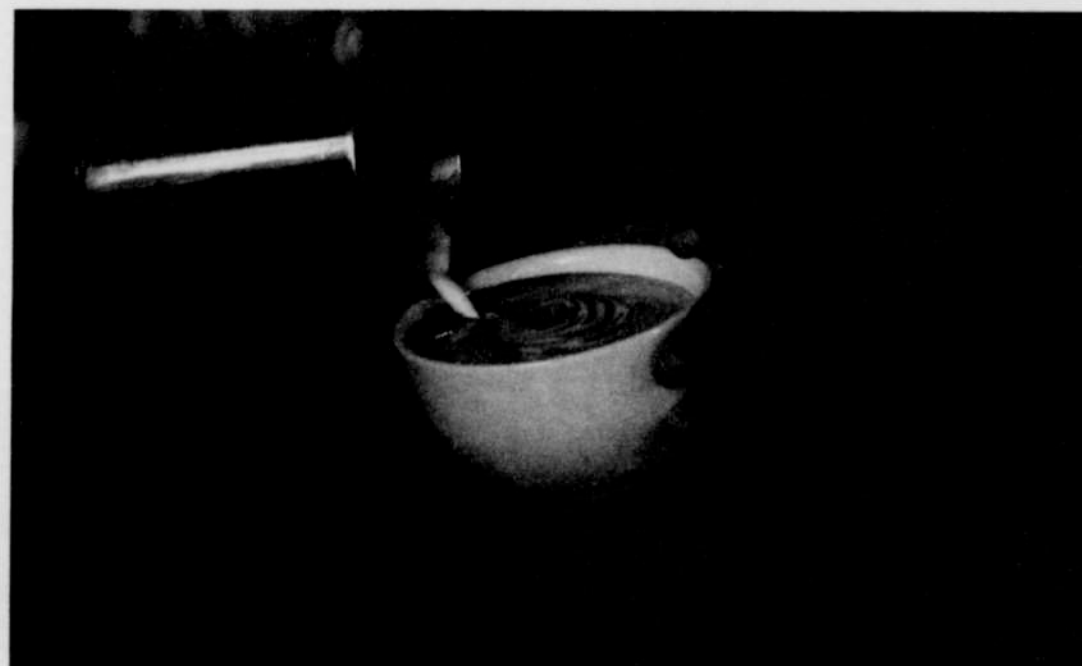
The menu offers smoothies, Italian sodas, an assortment of bagels and pastries, as well as dependable espresso and tea drinks.

The kindness of the staff, comfort of the décor and mocha treats encourage customers to sink in for a long and lazy afternoon.



neighborhood, owner Lynne Getzlaff has pride in the "colorful" Foster Road strip.

"I still have high hopes for this area—for Foster," she insists. "It's going to be one of the next up-and-coming areas."



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