



Saint Mary's students Whitney Powell and Kaley Smalley

Cafe Connections

By Sarah Henningsen

Walking around in circles trying to find service for your cell phone is not only frustrating, but also embarrassing. The same goes for laptop computers, which aren't quite as easy to carry around. Thanks to a few cafes in Lamorinda offering Wi-Fi internet access, this should not be a problem anymore. Although there are no real "cyber-cafes" in the area that have public computers anyone can connect to, there are several coffee shops providing this great service to the sleep-deprived, multi-tasking workaholics of Lamorinda.

The Starbucks boom has definitely been beneficial for the millions of internet junkies in the world. The commercial chain store offers T-Mobile HotSpot across the United States and in other parts of North America. At the various Starbucks stores in Lamorinda— in Rheem, in Orinda Theater Square, and two in Lafayette—broadband connections are fast, convenient, and most importantly, free. The hardest part is simply finding a table big enough to fit your shiny computer, venti caramel frappuccino, and jumbo-sized scone.

Café Terzetto in the Moraga Shopping Center is yet another coffeehouse that balances 21st century technology with traditional, to-die-for coffee and meals. Small tables lining the perimeter of the restaurant are perfect for individuals seeking a quick minute to check emails or to spend an hour working on a business project while still getting a nice dosage of warmth and sunshine. The café serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner throughout the week and also boasts a to-go line for Italian sodas, morning coffee

and snacks.

Chow Restaurant, located in the Lafayette Circle near Coldstone Creamery and A.G. Ferrari, has high quality food, ambiance and wireless service. Although the restaurant has only been in existence for a few years, it is always crowded with people seeking meals with the freshest of ingredients. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are served daily and the menu often changes throughout the week. A small grocery store also adjoins the main restaurant. For those that cannot handle the noise and energy within the restaurant, there are several tables out on the patio where you can work in relative solitude.

Though rare, coffee shops offering wireless internet connections are a great service to Lamorinda residents. Toting a laptop around may be a hassle for some, but for others these internet cafes present the perfect opportunity to take a break from the boring home office. And isn't it nice, as you sit typing and sipping, to receive a nod and a smile from a similarly-inclined neighbor?

Sarah Henningsen is a feature writer and a student at Campolindo High School.



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