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L/A, is it happening here??? It is definitely happening here!!! There are many strengths that L/A can lay claim to and its strengths are growing as I write. Once considered a withering mill town with little to offer but vacant mills and rundown buildings, I often wondered how this could be so. Surely the booming mills and the jobs that they provided have come and gone, but they have been replaced with other businesses that offer new opportunities for the residents of L/A. While all of the growth in L/A is too widespread to cover in this paper, I will focus on the wonderful selection of new eateries.

Having grown up in a family with a mother who definitely appreciated making a reservation rather than a meal, restaurants are of great significance to me. As a child I was a regular at "Steckino's" where we were considered part of the family. Choices for eating out at that time were very limited, so I became all too familiar with their menu. Fortunately, with the twin cities striving to overcome their mill town reputation, growth in the food industry was soon to boom as well. Over the years restaurants would come and go. Some were good and some have been rightfully forgotten. Thanks to the area's visionaries and community leaders some very impressive and some just plain convenient restaurants have popped up.

While the chain restaurants certainly deserve mention, the upscale restaurants are something to write home about. On the night that I was inducted into the National Honor Society, my parents took a group of us to "Fuel" to celebrate the occasion. While I considered myself to be somewhat restaurant savvy, I experienced a meal and an atmosphere that was very new to me. Even at the age of seventeen, I knew that the Agren's had brought a gem to Lewiston. I left that night thinking that this was a place that I'd like to return to, and we have.

A couple of other great restaurants and equally worthy of mention are "Mac's Grill" and "Fishbones." The Landry's, who are friends of my parents, co-own and own the above mentioned restaurants. They are proof that great people create great things. Fishbones is a restaurant that we also frequent for special occasions. I crashed my parents' twentieth anniversary dinner there last July, only to have the best meal that I have ever had. Again, coming from a seventeen year old that might not sound like much, but I have done more than my share of eating out in many different states. Mac's, well need I say more. They make one mean mini-mac steak.

There are many good restaurants in L/A and the chains are to be commended as well. Rarely, with the wide selection to choose from, can you walk in and be seated immediately. Granted, we are a society that eats away it's hard earned money, but they must be doing something right to attract all of this business. Speaking of doing it right, "Heidi's Deli" is high on the list of Edward Little High School's favorite places to eat. I've been accused of being Michelle Tribou's best customer. Take out or eat in, she has added another winner to the growing list of fine places to dine in L/A.

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At this point, I would not only like to thank the entrepreneurs who have given so much to the experience de L/A, but also to those who are working tirelessly behind the scenes to draw in new businesses. Thanks to their efforts, the cities of Lewiston and Auburn now do have a lot to brag about. L/A - It's definitely happening here!

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