

THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY

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# GUARDIAN

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# Cheap Eats

By [Dan Leone](#)

## Slacker

**OH, I'M** home, finally, and the postcard I never sent to anybody goes like this: The more I see of my country and the people in it, the more I love the people and hate the country. I might be the least misanthropic terrorist the world has never known. Maybe someday I will find a way to blow away all our bogus patriotic nationalism and even more annoying self-righteous religiousness without hurting a hair on anyone's head. In the meantime, here's a steel drum solo ...

In Salt Lake City when Chris said we were from Ohio, the old folks cheered. I didn't know why. I don't know why Chris, my brother, continues to insist we are from Ohio. I always say San Francisco. Over lunch at my new favorite restaurant, the One World Cafe, our hostess explained that the cheer was because Ohio won this last election for Bush.

At the One World Cafe you pay whatever you want. It's anarchy in action and poetry in motion. You go in, get what you like, however much of whatever dishes – and it's all organic, healthy ingredients, even meat. And you eat and eat, and then afterwards you put whatever you think the meal was worth, plus a little something to help end world hunger (ha ha), into an anonymous can with a slit in the lid. If you can't pay, you can still eat; you just have to help out in the kitchen. Please. But it's all conducted on the honor system.

This is in Salt Lake City. Would it work here?

Why not?

In Wyoming the old people started requesting "God Bless America." They requested "God Bless America" from Wyoming to roughly Cleveland (not quite sea to shining sea), and when we said we didn't know "God Bless America," they said, "Well, play

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