

table talk

THE MEN'S GRILL is the new name for the Brasserie at Restaurant Duglass, the elegant eatery tucked away in Farrell's Shopping Center in Southfield.

Restaurant owner Duglass Duglass (who has removed the outdoor sign for an "exclusive" touch) has just spent \$40,000 remodeling the interior. Changes include new wood paneling for the sumptuous main dining room and a floor-to-ceiling glass paneled wall in the grill. Duglass himself has been applying finishing coats to the wood of the grill's contemporary-styled piano bar. He also personally installed a parquet floor there.

Entertainment at the piano is by Alan Singleton, who returns to Duglass' on Monday after a stint in Lebanon and Saudi Arabia, where he was performing at the request of the Hilton Hotel people.

Duglass is encouraging business luncheons in the Men's Grill, which, of course, is also open to women. The restaurant's new menu will offer grilled beef and seafood dishes as specialties. Emphasis is on fast service (in an hour, if desired) and quality food at prices (it's promised) that are not sky high.

The restaurant is open for lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays and for dinner from 5-9 p.m. (last seating) Mondays-Saturdays. Music at the piano bar hours is from 7:30-11 p.m. Mondays-Tuesdays and Thursdays-Saturdays.

PETITE PORTIONS are just one of the ways Fred Bean, owner of Kog's, has revamped the menu for his restaurant at the bottom of the Top of Troy building on Big Beaver Road.

The ground floor restaurant has gotten a new menu in response to customers' needs. "People appreciate the opportunity to eat quality food in smaller portions," said Bean, who took over the day-to-day operation of the restaurant since the death of his manager, who was known as "Kog."

"Petite seems to be outselling the larger portions," Bean noted. Steak specialties are still on the menu — anything from a five- or 10-ounce filet mignon up to a 16- or 24-ounce porterhouse — but there are also such choices as fresh fish and seafood selections in petite and full-size. Spaghetti, nachos and quiche can be ordered in big or little servings, too.

"We went with the petite idea and went a la carte at the same time," Bean said. For lower prices, entrees are accompanied by salads only.

The separate salad section of the menu offers a variety of salads in both petite and larger sizes. The Kog's Special salad at \$6.75, \$3.95 for petite, is a popular choice.

Petite servings are about half the size of regular portions. With the addition of petite selections, the restaurant has found its carry-out business picking up.

The Kog's menu also appeals to diners with daily lunchtime and dinner specials and a drink of the week.

Comedy Club opens at Orchard Ridge

A "Comedy Club" series featuring Detroit-area and Michigan comedians is being sponsored by the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills.

Tony Hayes will be spotlighted, with guest Eric Tunney, at 8 tonight in J-306. Snacks will be provided a la carte by OCC's Culinary Arts Department. Admission is \$3, \$2 for OCC students.

Comedy Club will continue Oct. 14 with Fast and Mased, a musical duo. William Thomas, a member of the Detroit Comedy Society, will complete the series Nov. 11.

For more information, call the Office of Student Activities at 476-9400.

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Bean said the restaurant is doing a good lunchtime business but hopes to pick up more dinner trade. For nighttime entertainment there's piano and vocal stylings by Charles Rowland, Tuesdays-Saturdays. "He's the Bobby Short of the Midwest," Bean said of Rowland.

Kog's chef is Mark Carter, whose latest challenge is preparing sauteed catfish, a new dish on the menu. This fish comes from catfish farms and it's served minus head or whiskers — in filets — Bean said. "It's been popular in the South for years. It tastes a lot like pickerel."

IT WAS A HOT competition at the fourth annual Michigan Championship Chili Cookoff held recently at the Lark restaurant in West Bloomfield.

Contestants prepared their own chili recipes, and the winners were Jeanne Johnson-Lackey of Grasse Pointe Farms, first prize; Pat Stevens of Windsor, Ontario, second prize; and Mike Flynn of Birmingham, third prize. Showmanship honors went to Tom White of Windsor.

Lackey will be going to the World Championship Cookoff on Oct. 24 at Universal Studios in North Hollywood, to compete for a \$25,000 first prize. The world cookoff also will include as participants Jim Lark, owner of the Lark, recent winner of the Ontario Chili Cookoff, and Jim Adamski of Redford, winner of the North Central States championship and a former three-time world championship chili cook.

— Ethel Simmons

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auditions

The Birmingham Theatre will hold auditions for the musical hit "Oliver" on Oct. 1, from 3-6 p.m. for children and 7-10 p.m. for adults.

The theatre is looking for boys 8-12 to fill the roles of 12 workhouse boys and pickpockets and character actors of all ages for all other roles except Nancy and Fagin.

No boys younger than age 8 or under five feet tall will be seen for the boys and pickpocket roles. Actors must look undernourished. Piping soprano voices are needed and some altos, but they must project a legitimate theatrical sound.

For character roles, both Equity and non-Equity actors will be auditioned. Actors must be older than 30 and "Dickens-like" in appearance.

For further information, call the Birmingham Theatre, 211 S. Woodward, Birmingham, at 644-3333.

The Comedy Players Dinner Theatre of Allen Park will hold auditions Monday for its next show, "Vanities" by Jack Helfner.

Casting will be for three experienced actresses in the 25-35-year-old range, capable of a Southern accent and cheerleading skills.

"Vanities" will open Nov. 5 at the newly remodeled dinner theater facility in the Allen Park Motor Lodge on Southfield Road between I-94 and I-75 in Allen Park.

Reservations for the auditions may be made by calling 661-1333.

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