

Pasta's popularity continues to grow

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bacon bits, scallions and Italian sausage. Pasta Primavera Gregory will be a vegetarian version of Chicken Primavera. Tortellini Gorgonzola is crescent-shaped pasta with cheese. Seafood Fettuccine Parmesan also is being put on the menu.

BECAUSE CAFE Pastels has no liquor license, a special drink being served is non-alcoholic Chamay Silver, a sparkling French cider. "It's very sexy," Bears said. "It adds to our ambience."

Presently, there's a pasta salad on the day, using dill vinaigrette. The new menu will have several pasta salads: Cuddled Seafood Fettuccine, Chilled Pasta Primavera and Antipasto Salad, from one of the employees' grandmother's recipe.

The restaurant also may offer a side dish of pasta, either chilled or heated, if there is customer demand.

A cold pasta salad is on the Sunday brunch.

At Mama & Pasta's, the cheese graters at each table have proved so popular that customers want to buy them. At Cafe Pastels, grated cheese is served in small open containers, and it's perfectly proper to use your fingers to dip into them, to spread onto the pasta, Bears said.

HOTEL RESTAURANTS are getting in on the pasta craze with special nights that offer a variety of pasta dishes. The Wicker Works at the Northfield Hilton in Troy goes all out for "Leta's Pasta" Friday nights.

Checkered tablecloths, candles in

wine bottles and even an accordionist make the setting a romantic one reminiscent of an Italian cafe. Menu highlights include Spaghetti alla Napoletana (with tomato sauce), Spaghetti con Polpetta (with meat balls) and Lasagna al Forro (baked).

Or diners may order from a choice of two buffets. Le Pasta Tre Signori is a buffet with a selection of pasta, made to order, and three different sauces. Le Pasta Tre Signori con Specialita del Giorno also offers a special of the day.

Dinners are priced to include a trip to the Antipasto Bar, a glass of red wine, dessert and coffee. L.J. Loophole's restaurant at the Sheraton-Southfield Hotel has an "International Pasta Feast" Friday nights. Customers get a menu that allows them to check off their choice from one to five pastas, including fettuccine (egg or spinach), linguine (egg or tomato), vermicelli, tortellini and ravioli.

THEN IT'S a pick-your-sauce: tomato, marinara, clam, pesto, cream or butter. One garnish may be selected from meatballs, Italian sausage, four cheeses (parmesan, romano, gruyere and goat), ricotta cheese, primavera, carbonara, sauteed mushrooms and seafood (shrimp, clams, whitefish).

Anyone who doesn't feel up to the mix-and-match way of ordering can also check off one of eight dishes that suggest a combination of pasta, sauce and garnish.

The complete dinner also include a glass of chianti, minestrone soup, salami, cheese, bread and spumoni ice cream.



STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

Kim Cooke is Charley Davenport and Liz Walters is Dolly Tate in the Birmingham Village Players production of "Annie Got Your Gun."

upcoming things to do

● VILLAGE PLAYERS

Irving Berlin's musical "Annie Get Your Gun" will be presented by the Birmingham Village Players at 8:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays through April 7 at the playhouse at the corner of Hunter Blvd. and Chestnut Street, south of Maple Road, Birmingham. Tickets at \$5 are available at the door, but reservations are recommended. For reservations, call 644-2075 anytime. The Oakland County Welfare Rights Organization will hold a theater benefit night on Tuesday, March 27. Playgoers are being asked to arrive by 7:30 p.m. as no reserved seats are available. For benefit tickets at \$10 call 646-3094 or 879-6080.

● CANDIDA OPENS

The Meadow Brook Theatre production of George Bernard Shaw's comedy-romance "Candida" will open a four-week run at 8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 22, on the Oakland University campus near Rochester. Barbara Barringer will play the title role. William Wright, who was on Broadway in "Equus," will play Morrell, Candida's minister-husband. Others in the cast are Joey L. Collier, William LeMassena, Mary Benson and Thom Hancine. Tickets are available at all CTC/Ticket World outlets and at the box office, 377-3309.

● ON CAMPUS

Auditions for students interested in enrolling in the Oakland University commercial music program will be offered by the Center for the Arts and the Department of Music from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, March 22, and 3-5 p.m. Thursday, April 19, in Room 134 Varner Hall. For details call the Department of Music at 377-2030 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

● IN RECTAL

A jazz band ensemble and a 19-piece jazz band will perform with Oakland University student Steve Carryer in a recital at 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 27, at Varner Recital Hall. The free concert is presented by the Center for the Arts and the Department of Music.

● NOVA 9

A science fiction, fantasy and gaming convention, Nova 9, will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 24, and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, March 25, at the Oakland Center at Oakland University. Nova 9 is sponsored by the Order of Leibowitz, a student organization at OU. Admission to Nova 9 is \$3 a day or \$5 for the weekend, for the general public. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

● ENCORE CINEMA

The classic film "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" will be shown by the Cranbrook Cinema Club on Monday-Tuesday, March 26-27, at the Cranbrook Institute of Science auditorium, 500 Lome Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. A discussion period following the film will be conducted by Tom Kegel, teacher of film and theater at Oakland Community College, as well as director of the Southeastern Theatre Center in Royal Oak. The film program will follow gourmet dessert with coffee served at 7:30 p.m. Tickets at \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and senior citizens are available at the door.

● FOURTH STREET

Carolyn Blackinton, daughter of former Birmingham residents Horwell and Maria Smith Blackinton, and Southfield resident Decia Pearlman are appearing in the Fourth Street Playhouse production of John Murrell's "Waiting for the Parade." Performances of the play are at 8:30 p.m. Fridays, 6 and 9 p.m. Saturdays and 7:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$7 and \$5, with students and seniors admitted for half price. For more information call 643-3668.

● MUSICIANS NEEDED

Orchestral musicians are needed for the Oakland Community College production of "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum." Violins, violas, cellos, clarinets and flutes are being sought in a Community Outreach Project, where participants may earn college credit. For more information call the theater box office at 471-7700 or Paul Ferriss at 6872-7411. The Stephen Sondheim musical will be presented.

● DRAMA CLUB

St. Mary's College drama club Skarga will present the play "1984," based on George Orwell's famous novel, Friday-Saturday, March 30-31; Sunday, April 1; Wednesday, April 4, and Friday, April 6, in the auditorium on campus at St. Mary's College, Commerce and Orchard Lake roads, Orchard Lake. Dinner-theater performances will be held March 31 and April 1, with dinner at 6 p.m. To reserve tickets at \$17 call 682-4124. All other performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$5.

● CAMPUS THEATER

The Lincoln-Center Players of Oakland Community College will present its first production in a new campus theater at 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, March 23-24 and 30-31, at Lincoln and Center streets, between Washington and Main, Royal Oak. The comedy "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" will be directed by Dick McGowan of Rochester. James Thompson of Troy is featured as MacMurphy. The \$2 million theater designed by Straub, Van Dine and Associates of Troy seats 400. Admission is \$3.

● DANCE BANDS

Oldies band Flashback is appearing through Saturday, March 31, at the Sheraton-Southfield Hotel, 17017 W. Nine Mile Road, Southfield. Top 40 dance band Kaleidoscope will appear from Monday, March 26, through Saturday, March 31, at Fanny's in the Troy Hilton Inn.

● MEDIEVAL FEAST

Old Shillelagh Medieval Feast will be at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, March 25, at the Irish pub at 349 Monroe in Detroit's Greektown. Entertainment will be by the Merry Knights of Old. Participants in the feast include Maggie Hienman as Moriah, Robert Papineau of Redford as the Jester and Karen Burke of West Bloomfield and Monique Hienman of Canton among the Wenches. Medieval cuisine is provided by Moriah. Guests who desire may wear "apparel of the day" and take part in a competition for best costume. Tickets are \$25 in advance (phone 964-0097) or \$30 at the door.

● PERFORMING ARTS

Lloyd Bochner, known to the TV public as Cecil Colby in "Dynasty," will appear in a program on the Bushnell Performing Arts Series at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 24, at the Bushnell Congregational Church, 15000 Southfield at Grand River, Detroit. Bochner, a former member of the company at the Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Ont., will present readings from Shakespeare, Shaw, Sandburg and others. Tickets at \$7, \$3 for students, can be obtained by calling the church at 272-3550.

● GOLD MEDALIST

Robin Cousins, the 1980 Olympic Gold Medal winner in men's figure skating, highlights the cast of International skaters in "Ice Capades" new revue continuing through Sunday, March 25, at Joe Louis Arena in Detroit. For information, call 887-6000.

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