

# Lowry's is a comfortable scene for dining

Your traveling taster visits area eateries and rates them on a 100-point scale. Up to 30 points are awarded for ambience, which includes general atmosphere and service; 55 points for food; and 15 points for price/value rating. A total count of 55 points or less indicates a restaurant is not recommended; 54 points signify from passing to poor; 75-89 points designate very good with some extraordinary features; and 90-100 points show that every special dining experience awaits you.

**LOWRY'S**, 390 Miller, West Bloomfield (682-134), offers a casual dining experience with pleasant food in a country-lan setting. The lighting is subdued which adds to the atmosphere, but the ventilation system is not adequate, and the male dining area is both smoky (from patron's cigarettes) and too warm.

In addition, tables are crowded, making it difficult to walk through. There is a little waiting room at the entrance of the restaurant, but a comfortable bar area provides a space if needed. Our reservation was honored promptly and graciously. **GENERAL ATMOSPHERE** — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 10.

Service was prompt and pleasant. Our waitress was not intrusive, but she was normally busy when needed. Although she did not provide much additional information about menu items,

seafood is the specialty, and most entrees were easily understood. We did not think it was very classy, however, to leave our used forks at the table from one course to the next. Our meal took about two hours. **SERVICE** — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 12.

The complimentary cold carrot relish with green peppers, onion and dill was excellent. Also good was the homemade herb bread. However, forget the extra hors d'oeuvres here. We tried two: fried brie with walnuts and plum sauce (\$4.95) and potato skins with guacamole, sour cream and cheese (\$3.75). The brie had little flavor and was overpowered by the jelly-like plum sauce. Serving it with toast would have been an improvement over Triscuits. The potato skins were not hot enough and seemed dried out. Drinks were strong. **DRINKS, APPETIZERS AND BREAD** — 10 points maximum. Points awarded — 6.

A hearty cream of mushroom soup was included with the meal. It had good mushroom taste and was not too creamy or heavy. The house salad with herb dressing was fresh and refreshing. Sadly, the Caesar salad (\$3.95) was a real failure. It was not prepared at the table, and the lettuce was wilted and the dressing detracted. Here again, stay with the items included with the meal and don't waste your money on the extras. **SALAD** — 5 points maxi-

## a counting for taste

by D. Gustibus

mum. Points awarded — 3.

The blackened whitefish with Cajun spices at \$12.95 proved a real surprise. The dish itself was delicious, with the spices delicate enough to enhance the flavor of the whitefish, not overwhelm it. It was much milder than the traditional Cajun dish but was, perhaps, better suited for most diners' enjoyment. The pasta with shrimp, scallops and salmon in a basil cream sauce (\$11.95) was also very good. It was loaded with seafood, and the pasta was not overcooked. The vegetables and potatoes

served with the whitefish were just right also and a real complement to the meal. **ENTREE, VEGETABLES AND GARNISHES** — 30 points maximum. Points awarded — 27.

Desserts were disappointing. The fried apple rings with cinnamon and ice cream were a good idea, but had too few apples and too much ice cream. The Jamaican chocolate cheesecake was not bad but not special. The chocolate mousse torte cake was dry and not especially tasty. **DESSERT** AND

**COFFEE** — 10 points maximum. Points awarded — 6.

If you stay with the entree and included items, and don't try to enhance your meal with the less appealing extras, Lowry's is a real value. Even with the extras, our meal was about \$44 per couple; ordering just drinks, entrees and dessert should keep the cost at about \$35-\$40 including tip, which is very reasonable for what you receive. **PRICE/VALUE** — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 14.

A Counting for Taste — 100 points

maximum. Total points awarded: 78. Lowry's provides a nice dining experience that is not a budget breaker. What Lowry's needs to be really first rate is a more definite "personality," leading to a more distinctive and pleasing atmosphere.

D. Gustibus welcomes your reactions, comments and suggestions of favorite restaurants in the Observer & Eccentric communities. Write to D. Gustibus, in care of Observer & Eccentric, Entertainment Department, P.O. Box 503, Birmingham 46012.

## ON THE TOWN

**COUPON**

**FOX'S** of Troy *delights foods & spirits*

"T.S.T.D." (TAKE SOMEONE TO DINNER)

**FREE**

**SURE TO BEAT THE "WINTER BLAHS"**

One Free dinner entree when a second dinner entree of equal or greater value is purchased

OFFER GOOD MONDAY THRU SATURDAY FROM 4:00 P.M. CANNOT BE USED WITH ANY OTHER PROMOTIONS. Reservations: 649-1840

3770 West Big Beaver Road  
Sheffield Office Plaza  
EXPIRES JANUARY 23, 1986

**BANQUETS**

Beautiful facilities for Wedding Receptions, Bridal Showers, Bar Mitzvahs, Bat Mitzvahs, Rehearsal Dinners and every other important occasion.

Accommodating Meetings and Seminars from 5 to 500. Banquet office open week nights and weekends for your convenience.

**Kingsley Inn**

Selected to serve at the U.S. Presidential Inaugurals in Washington, D.C., 1981 and 1985.

WOODWARD AT LONG LAKE ROAD  
BLOOMFIELD HILLS • 644-1400

**Gay Ziegler**

## Nothing sparkles in comedy 'Opal'

Performances of the Avon Players production of "Everybody Loves Opal" by John Patrick continue at 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, Jan. 17-18 and 24-25, and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19, in Avon Township.

By Gay Ziegler  
special writer

"Everybody Loves Opal" is not a good play, despite one lick of a good try by the Avon Players.

The evening was without incident. No one forgot a line. All was audible. Scenes changes were unobtrusive. The intermission was just long enough. The only prop the collapse was supposed to be — a roof cld up by a pole. But the production looked whatever elusive quality it is that makes for good theater.

For one thing, the script decidedly weak. Playwright John Patrick relies on pratfall humor and the quaintly of words like "bazooms" evoking laughter. There is no subtlety here. The characters are caricatures of real life. The female lead out-ecceives Howard Hughes. She is a junky who talks to her cat, her plant, her chair. She hangs teabags from a wa-to-wall clothesline. Her house is a rejair sty, but she sees no evil in people ad hence "Everybody Loves" etc.

MYSSKA REECK plays throwman with consistent good humor. So obviously has studied the role assiduously

enough to become comfortable with the character. Opal summons visions of the Clamptett family matriarch though and might be played with a little more restraint.

This good woman becomes the target for a foul deed by three foul miscreants. Initially they want to use her house, so felicitously located next to a dump, for the manufacture of bogus French perfume, but soon dream up a scheme to kill her and collect insurance.

As the moll, Gloria, Amy Sharpe has a kind of Judy Holliday smoldering shrewd dumbness. She is best when challenging the pretentious vocabulary of her fellow hoodlum, Ixophilie Brad. In this role Tim Penn is rightfully infuriating and funny.

The trio is rounded out by Sol, played with affection by Fred Shulak, who has a vaudevillian flair that suits the part nicely.

In minor roles, Joe Urkshus and Jerry Anderson also contribute. Unfortunately, the performers cannot rescue the play.

Though reactions were mixed — one theatergoer noted that this was a "super good year," another groaned at the evening's "unrelieved diet of whimsy" — it is clear that this production will not live in Avon Theatre annals. There was laughter and applause but not nearly enough. And while some audiences love physically, you can't appease all audiences thusly all of the time.

**Jacques**

**Four stars for Jacques**

**Business lunches**  
Outside of your boardroom, Jacques is the perfect place to meet. The food and ambience will serve to make you a star.

**Romantic dinners**  
Continental cuisine, fine wine, and a secluded table for two... the rest is in the stars.

**Fashion lunches**  
Today's fashions. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Enjoy delicious lunches and dazzling styles that'll make you shine.

**Complete catering**  
Our gourmet food will travel to your location. And we'll work within your budget, so you'll have a four-star affair.

For reservations call 642-1373  
30100 Telegraph (IN. of 12 Mile)

**Marhus Sly Fox**

Presents  
a Theatregoer's Special

Neil Simon's  
**BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS**

**COMPLETE DINNER AND THEATRE PACKAGE FOR TWO, JUST \$49.95**

Price includes Dinner and Theatre Tickets to "Brighton Beach Memoirs" playing at the Birmingham Theatre Jan. 24-Feb. 23.

Call 642-6000 for Reservations Now • 725 South Hunter Blvd., Birmingham

**StarLine**

**Topinka's PRESENTS**

**ALL STAR REVUE**

Neil Diamond  
Tina Turner  
Barry Mannilow  
Wayne Newton  
Diana Ross  
Boy George  
Stevie Wonder  
Bobby Darin  
Roy Orbison

**A Spectacular Vegas Style Stage Production.**  
Come see the famous look alike star impersonators performing LIVE! See your favorite Stars!

Music By: The Starline Orchestra  
Also Featuring: Beautiful Dancing Show Girls!  
Showtimes: Tues. thru Saturday — Sunday Matinee  
Fri. Sat. Showtime  
7:30 P.M. and 10:15 P.M.  
Sun. Matinee 2:30  
24010 W. 7 Mile At Telegraph

Phone 531-9000

**"Meet Me At The Haymarket"**

for the  
**Troy Hilton**  
**Champagne Brunch**

Begin with islands of fresh fruit, ice shrimp, smoked salmon and bagels...Sample made to order specialties...Taste carved roast beef, turkey and ham...Partake of the extravagant pastries and desserts.

**Every Sunday 10 A.M.-3 P.M.**

Adults... \$12.95 per person  
Seniors ..... \$11.95  
Children under 12 ..... \$7.95  
Children under 3 ..... FREE

Call 583-9000 for Reservations

**Troy Hilton Inn**

Maple Rd. at Stephenson Hwy. • Troy, MI 48064

**Bed and Breakfast Sheraton Style...**

is breakfast in bed and more.

Begin with a candlelight dinner in front of a log fire... enjoy relax entertainment in our lounge... unwind in the pool, sauna, and whirlpool... and then in the morning we'll serve you a split of champagne and a full breakfast in bed.

All of this is yours...  
\$109.95 inclusive

**Sheraton University Inn**

Sheraton Hotels, Inns & Resorts Worldwide  
The hospitality people of I.T.T.  
State Street at 194, Ann Arbor 996-0600

RESERVATIONS  
(313) 996-0600