

DINING

Gridiron and beef share spotlight at Shula's

BY ELEANOR & RAY HEALD
SPECIAL WRITERS

Open since mid-January in the former location of Stacey's restaurant, off the lobby of the Troy Marriott, Shula's is throwing its pass into the area's steak house arena with a new twist.

Stars of the football Dolphin's no-name defense, other players from the 17 and 0 grandeur year of 1972, Super Bowl champions and their coach Don Shula create the atmosphere. The team's colors, although in deeper tones, set the stage for a host of Dolphin memorabilia on the walls and everywhere you look. The menu is printed on a football, always given to the lady in limo company. The man gets the wine list. Look carefully, there's a plaque with a Dolphin player's name on the back of your chair.

Why would this Miami-based operation open its third location near the Lions den? Several reasons were given by assistant general manager Michael Tehovnik. Shula started his coaching career with the Detroit Lions. There's a connection between Carnival Hotels and Resorts managing the Troy Marriott and Tampa's Sheraton Grand with another Shula's Steak House. Lastly, and also the reason why the first Shula's was opened in 1989, is the friendship between Shula and the Graham family (Bob Graham, U.S. Senator/former Florida governor and William A. Graham), owners of the Graham Angus Farm in Albany, Georgia.

All Shula Steak House locations feature Certified Angus



Steak house fare: Chef Jason Clayton (left), and assistant general manager Michael Tehovnik, at Shula's Steak House.

Beef under the Lazy Q Brand of the Graham Angus Farm. Each diner is reminded by a football-shaped serving of polenta embellished with the letter "G" gar-

nishing the plate. Steak is the play of the day. While listed on the football menu, each cut and portion size is explained in full detail by a

waitperson who comes tableside with a display cart. If you order the 48-oz porterhouse (\$60) and succeed in eating it without help, you automatically become a

member of the "48-oz Club" and get your name inscribed on a plaque. In the short time since opening, 65 people earned membership. However, you should know, that if you got this size steak, or any other for that matter, and wish to split it with a table mate, there will be an extra \$10 charge. Maine Lobster, averaging four pounds and going at market price, is popular along with Florida snapper, dolphin (not the mammal, but the fish) and Norwegian salmon. Thick lamb chops, 22-oz portion, round out the principal plates.

Bloomfield Hills residents, Dr. Nick Castedo and his wife Marilyn, who claim to have eaten at all of the area's other steak houses, were first-timers at Shula's recently. Dr. Castedo declared his 22-oz Cowboy Steak "excellent" and Mrs. Castedo said her 12-oz Filet Mignon was "moist." They enjoyed the ambience, an attentive waiter and overall good service.

At the helm in the kitchen as executive chef is 25-year-old, Troy native and Culinary Institute of America (Hyde Park, New York) grad Jason Clayton. He said he was inspired to follow a culinary career after taking classes at Troy Athens High School. He believes he's challenged in his current position because "in a corporate menu consistency is the key ingredient." However, he gets to express culinary creativity with appetizer specials.

A well-stocked bar services both the hotel lobby and the restaurant. There's a large wine list with high-profile wines, both

Shula's Steak House

Where: 200 West Big Beaver Road, Troy, (810) 680-9616 in the Troy Marriott.

Hours: Lunch daily 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Dinner Monday through Thursday 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday 'til 11:00 p.m. and Sunday 'til 10:00 p.m.

Menu: Steak house fare with a la carte menu.

Cost: Appetizers and salads \$5-13; Entrees \$16-32; Side dishes \$4-7; and Desserts \$5-6.

Reservations:

Recommended

Credit cards: All majors accepted.

domestic and imported. A smoking area is cigar and cigarette friendly. A regular Marriott kid's menu is available, but while a casual, sporty ambience is portrayed, this is a fine, white tablecloth establishment where children who haven't developed gridiron interests might get bored.

Five desserts, not made on-premise, cap the fourth quarter.

RESTAURANT SPECIALS

Restaurant Specials features these dinners, menu changes, and restaurant openings. Send news items to: Kacey Wygonik, Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc., 36261 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or fax them to (313) 691-7273.

NEW

ANTHONY'S OLD WORLD MARKET
Owned by Steve Caramagno of Livonia, Ronald Kohler of Clinton Township, and Ralph Wabur of Rochester Hills, 31300 Five Mile Road, (corner of Merriman Road) diners to go including gourmet pizzas, and fresh soups. The market stocks international wines, breads, pastries, meats, fish and seafood, hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays.

THE LEGACY DINER CLUB

Dinner club at 36600 Grand River, Farmington Hills, offers continental cuisine, seasonal specialties and full bar. Open Monday-Saturday, hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday and Tuesday; 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Lunch hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. with dinner served 5-11 p.m. In addition to food, the club provides a comfortable atmosphere for piano and jazz enthusiasts with local artists performing every Friday and Saturday. For information, call (810) 474-8417.

DELLI UNIQUE

Inside the Kingsley Inn on Woodward in Bloomfield Hills. The Delli Unique offers salads, sandwiches, 12 different omelettes, las and cream cheese on a bagel, and corned beef hash. Opens for breakfast 6:30 a.m. weekdays and 7

a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Delli Unique is the twelfth restaurant in Matt Prentice's Italian Restaurant Corporation.

THEME DINNERS

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER
Celebrate at the Botsford Inn, Grand River at Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, 5 p.m. Monday, March 16. Buffet dinner, cost \$19.95 adults, call (810) 474-4800. First seating at 5 p.m. continues all evening. Menu, planned with the assistance of the Detroit Chapter of the Irish American Culture Institute, will feature such authentic Irish dishes as Brown Soda Bread and Raisin Bread, Dublin Bay Prawns, Pot Roast with Guinness, Ham and Chicken Pie, Colcannon and traditional Irish sweets.

VEGETARIAN FEAST

Offered by Unique Restaurant Corporation, March 28 at Moret's, March 27 at Relish, and March 29 at Sebastian's Grill. Each night will begin at 7 p.m. with wine package offered by Madeline Triffon at an additional cost. Menu features Black bean and roasted tomato soup, roasted eggplant and artichoke salad, artichoke and asparagus risotto, wild mushroom and root vegetable cassoulet with savory sweet potato custard, chocolate raspberry torte with caramel anglaise for dessert. Prix fixe \$29.95 per person, (not including tax and gratuity). For reservations, call Moret's (810) 642-4064; Relish (810) 489-8852; Sebastian's (810) 649-6825.

THE FLAVORS OF SPAIN

At Moret's March 10. Menu includes stuffed mushrooms, olive crusted sea bass, Catalan Grilled Prawn, Roasted Stuffed Pork Tenderloin, Braised Chicken with Sweet Peppers, Roasted Grilled

Vegetable Salad with Manchego, and Pumpkin Custard. Cost \$59.95 per person, not including tax and gratuity. Call (810) 642-1094 for reservations.

SAFARI SUPPER

Wild Game dinner March 24; Easter brunch, March 30, at Pike Street Restaurant, 18 W. Pike St., Pontiac. Call (810) 334-7878 for information.

OSCAR NIGHT

At The Excelsior, 28875 Franklin Road, Southfield (810) 558-3355. Enjoy an evening dining and celebrating the

Oscars. Tickets \$60 per person, include four-course dinner, big screen TV and prizes for the most correct predictions in several categories. Black Tie encouraged.

EASTER BRUNCH

Served 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, March 30 at John Cleveland's Water Club Seafood Grill, 39500 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, call (313) 454-0666.

ENTERTAINMENT

WATER CLUB SEAFOOD GRILL

Walt Fernage on sax and Johnny Cole on keyboards 7-10 p.m. Tuesdays in the saloon, 39500 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. No cover charge, (313) 454-0666.

CAFE CORTINA

Musica Di Cante Napoli performs during dinner, 7-10 p.m. Thursdays, 30718 W. 10 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, (810) 474-3033.

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