

RESTAURANT GUIDE

Visit Murfreesboro's City Cafe; escape the 'plastic world'

City's oldest restaurant offers down home cookin' in a down home atmosphere

By Chris Patterson / staff

More than 20 restaurants have opened or are planning to open in Murfreesboro this year, yet the city's oldest restaurant, the City Cafe, continues to thrive.

The City Cafe, located at 113 East Main Street, just off the historic square, preserves the old-time atmosphere of its founding days 95 years ago by cooking everything the old-fashioned way.

"We cook it like your grandmother used to cook it at home," explains Gary Simpson who owns the City Cafe with his wife, Pat. "We still do everything the old fashioned way. The vegetables are home cooked complete with hamhocks and bacon grease. We still cook the beans in the big huge pot and cook 'em all day long. We cook the roast all night long so it'll be tender the next day."

"That's the hardest part," says Simpson. "It's really time-consuming to prepare the food the way we do it. You can never rush it."

Simpson admits that at times it's hard to preserve the old-time atmosphere.

"It's kinda unique," Simpson says. "You have to be on guard about it to really keep it natural. You have to get to know everybody. You have to keep the atmosphere where they feel comfortable coming in and talking to each other."

The City Cafe opened in

1900 under the ownership of "Uncle Dossie" Cantrell. When the cafe first opened it was located across the square where the Big B Cleaner's is located now and "Uncle Dossie" lived upstairs.

In the 1950's when Uncle Dossie's estate was sold the cafe moved to its present location. Gary and Pat Simpson have owned the City Cafe for 10 years now.

"We kinda look at the restaurant like it's a social gathering for the people of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County, and all we do is take care of it," explains Simpson.

"I would like to think we're preserving part of the heritage of Murfreesboro—the old part of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County, because there's so much of the outside world moving in on us now," he adds.

"They open a new restaurant practically every day. It's a plastic world, ya know the fern bars-n-stuff like that," says Simpson.

Simpson admits that he and his wife don't have an extensive marketing plan to keep up with the competition.

"We like for it to be their home away from home. If they don't want to prepare a meal at home, they can come here and be at home."

Gary Simpson
Owner of City Cafe

In fact, they don't have one at all.

"We don't try to keep up," he explains. "We just have to do what we need to do and not worry about anybody else. We're not tryin' to keep up with 'em. The more they open, the busier we get for some reason or the other. We just keep goin' on like we always did, doing the same old thing as always."

This philosophy is the City Cafe's formula for success. Simpson says other restaurants have come and gone in Murfreesboro because "they tried to keep up with the Jones's you might say. Instead of keepin' it simple, and keepin' doin' what they're doin', they got away from the basics, the traditions."

Simpson believes the City Cafe continues to be so successful "cause people need a place to get away to step away from the outside world and not be reminded that they live in a plastic world all the time."

"We like for it to be their home away from home," he explains. "If they don't want to prepare a meal at home, they can come here and be at home. They bring their kids with 'em. If they get down and run all over the house, that's fine too. Sometimes they'll even bring their own food and want us to cook it."

Usually, though, they're busy preparing home fried chicken, country style steak, roast beef, and their famous recipe rolls.

If you need a history lesson, a trip to the City Cafe can do that for you, too.

Simpson says the regulars come in just about every day to have their morning coffee or their supper. He knows just about everyone who walks through the door.

"There goes Mr. Taylor now. He got frostbit in the Battle of the Bulge," he begins.

"There's Jim Pierson, he comes in at night. He's a retired colonel from the Air Force," Simpson says, nodding to the door. "When you go to the Smithsonian and see the Enola Gay, to the side you see a big picture of half an airplane near the landing with the whole side out of it. He's the pilot who brought his crew home in it."

"They elected a new president the other night and the big war that they refer to is the war between the states,"



Todd Sorum/staff

Simpson continues, nodding to the group of men seated by the front door.

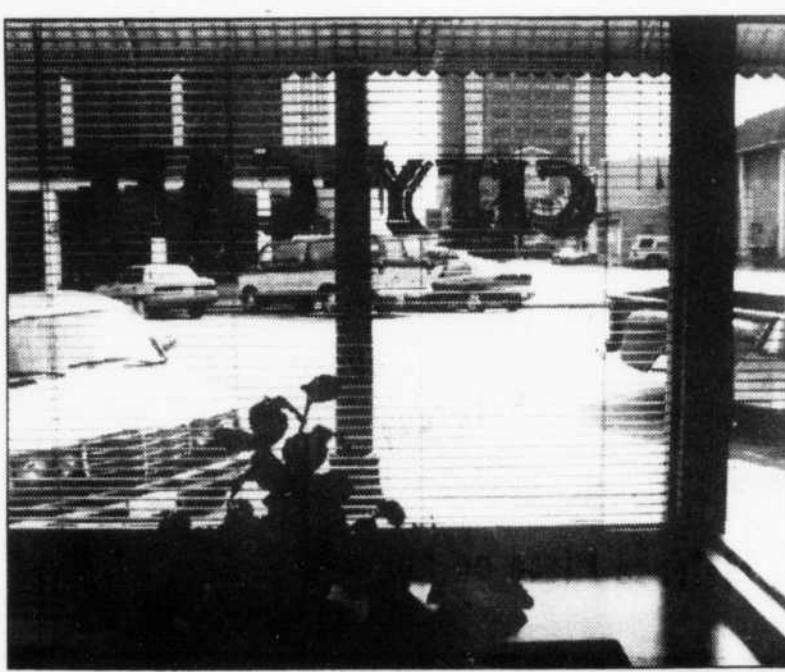
other, whatever. They even try to see who can tell the biggest tale."

"There's Mr. Haynes, he escaped from the Germans twice," Simpson adds, looking up at the man walking out the front door.

"People come here for the fellowship, to talk, reminisce, to see friends, they even meet friends here," Simpson explains. "They can relax an' talk to each other an' tell jokes to each other or lie to each

other, whatever. They even try to see who can tell the biggest tale."

There is one change the Simpsons have had to make with the changing times. "We've had to change from the pencil and the notebook to the computer to keep up with the world," he says. "But we keep it outta sight and outta memory. No one wants to see it."



Todd Sorum/staff

Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

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DIRECTORY OF LOCAL RESTAURANTS

Bars

The Boro Bar and Grill

1211 Greenland Drive
895-4800

Hours: 12 p.m.-3 a.m.

Specialties: live music, burgers, beer
Average Prices: Appetizers \$3, Entree \$5

bw-3

1122 Memorial Boulevard
848-9325

Hours: Sun.-Thu. 11 a.m.-2:30 a.m., Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-3 a.m.
Specialties: imported beer from around the world, buffalo wings, sandwiches, 3 big screen TVs, pool table, delivery, Tue. \$.20 wings

Average Entree Prices: daily lunch specials start at \$3

Bunganut Pig of Murfreesboro

1602 W. Northfield Boulevard
893-7860

Hours: Mon.-Thu. 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-12 a.m., Sun. closed

Specialties: live entertainment, no cover charge, feature blues, English Pub atmosphere, shepard's pie, steak and biscuits,

fish and chips, ribeye steaks, filets, shrimp, catch of the day, sandwiches, appetizers
Average Entree Prices: Lunch-\$6, Dinner-\$12, Appetizers-\$4

Coyote's Sports Grill

720 Memorial Boulevard
895-5026

Hours: 11 a.m.-12 a.m.

Specialties: \$.20 wings on Tue. and Wed. \$.25 oysters on Fri., burgers, nachos, armadillo eggs, fried dill pickle spears, salads, sandwiches
Average Prices: Entree \$4, Appetizers \$4

Jonathan's on the Square

114 N. Church Street
895-1133

Hours: Mon.-Wed. 11 a.m.-1 a.m., Thu.-Sat. 11 a.m.-3 a.m., Sun. 12 p.m.-1 a.m.

Specialties: live entertainment on Thu. and Sat., ladies night on Wed., pizza, calzones, sandwiches, appetizers, burgers
Average Prices: Sandwiches-\$5, Appetizers-\$4, Pizza-\$9

Toot's Restaurant

860 NW Broad Street
898-1301

Hours: Sun.-Thu. 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-12 a.m.
Specialties: wings, oysters, shrimp, burgers, ribs, \$.21 wings on Mon., 9 TV's, onion straws, daily lunch and dinner specials
Average Prices: Lunch- \$4, Dinner-\$6, Appetizers-\$2

Stone Pony Dance Restaurant

1695 Memorial Boulevard
896-5587

Hours: Mon.-Thu. 4 p.m.-12 a.m., Fri.-Sat. 4 p.m.-2 a.m., Sun. closed
Specialties: quesadillas

Average Prices: Appetizers-\$6, Dinner-\$11

Bucket's

2209 N.W. Broad Street
849-3241

Hours: Mon.-Wed. 10 a.m.-12 a.m., Thu.-Sat. 10 a.m.-3 a.m., Sun. 12 p.m.-10 p.m.

Specialties: country atmosphere, sandwiches, appetizers, pool table, darts, dance floor, sand volleyball court, horseshoes, daily beer specials, karaoke on Tue. and Wed., live music on Fri. and Sat., solo night Thu., food 11-8 Mon-Sat
Average Prices: Sandwiches-\$2, Appetizers-\$2

Pardners

915 Old Fort Parkway
890-6666

Hours: Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-8 p.m.
Specialties: burgers, onion rings, sandwiches

Average Price: \$3-4

Squeezer's

2111 E. Main Street
896-8175

Hours: Mon.-Sun. 2-3

Specialties: sand volleyball, pool tables, dance floor, big screen TV, pinball machines, D.J. on Wed., live entertainment on Thu.-Sat., beat the clock beer and free pool on Mon., happy hour all day and night on Tue., appetizers, burgers, wedge fries, chicken fingers
Average Prices: Dinner-\$5, Appetizers-\$3

Buster's Place

1615 N.W. Broad Street
895-5464

Hours: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Specialties: burgers, sandwiches
Average Price: \$2.50

Gentleman Jim's Bar and Grill

1325 Greenland Drive
893-9933 or
2115 E. Main Street

896-9716

Hours: 3 p.m.-3 a.m.

Specialties: \$3 pictures, happy hour 3-7 p.m., hotdogs, pizzas, polish sausage

Average Prices: starting at \$.25

Pontiacs

225 River Rock Boulevard
895-9590

Hours: 12 p.m.-3 a.m.
Specialties: pizza, burgers, sandwiches, wings, cheese sticks
Average Entree Prices: \$2-5

Tradesmen Tavern

104 W. Northfield Boulevard
896-4072

Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-3 a.m., Sun. 12 p.m.-3 a.m.

Specialties: sandwiches, appetizers, burgers, hot dogs, pizza, steak, daily food and drink specials
Average Entree Prices: \$4

Cactus Jack's Cantina and Dance Corral

2433 S. Church Street
890-8280

Hours: Mon.-Sat. 1 p.m.-3 a.m., Sun. closed

Please see LOCAL, page 4

*Jonathan's Deli Belly Busters
32 Speciality Sandwiches*

Gourmet Pizza

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Jagermeister on tap

Live Entertainment

Ladies Night

Full Liquor Bar

24 Drafts

Daily Specials

Outside Patio

UT Football every Saturday

Melrose Place on Mondays



3 Projection Screen T.V.'s

LOCAL...

Continued from page 3

Specialties: pool tables, burgers, sandwiches, jalapeno poppers, appetizers, bbq, D.J., line dancing, big screen TV, dance floor, full service bar

Average Prices: Sandwiches-\$5, Appetizers-\$3

BBQ

Bar-B-Cutie
905 Old Fort Parkway
890-9470

Hours: Sun.-Thu. 10 a.m., Fri.-Sat. 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

Specialties: sandwiches, hamburgers, family packs, ribs, chicken, turkey, vegetable plate, traditional southern meal platters, chili, cobbler
Average Prices: Sandwiches-\$2, Dinner-\$6-12, Family Packs \$12-32, Appetizers \$4

Whitt's Barbecue
105 Sulphur Springs Road
890-0235
Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Specialties: bbq pork, beef, turkey, sandwiches, plate specials, sold by the pound, ribs on Fri., \$1.20 pork sandwiches on Wed., stuffed potatoes

Chinese

BoBo Chinese Restaurant
1312 N.W. Broad Street
896-5661
Hours: Mon.-Sun. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
Specialties: sesame chicken, sweet and sour chicken, chicken cashew, chicken with five flavor sauce, vegetable delight, combination platters
Average Entree Prices: Lunch-\$4, Dinner-\$8

Great Wall
1433 Memorial Boulevard
895-3816
Hours: Sun.-Thu. 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-11 p.m.
Specialties: 50 item buffet, menu items
Average Prices: Lunch-\$5, Dinner-\$7

Sidelines

Average Prices: Entree-\$2-3, Family Packs \$7.59-28

Slick Pig Bar-B-Q
1920 East Main
890-3583
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Sun. closed
Specialties: \$.99 bbq sandwiches, hickory smoked wings, smoked bbq ribs, family packs, pork and beef bbq, country dinner plates, brunswick stew
Average Entree Prices: Lunch-\$4, Dinner-\$5, Family Packs \$8.95

Hunan Chinese Restaurant
I-24 & Highway 231
893-7008

Hours: Tue.-Sun. 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Mon. closed
Specialties: candonese food, mandarin food, chinese food
Average Entree Prices: Lunch-\$4, Dinner-\$6

King's Table
1630 S. Church Street
896-2002
Hours: Mon.-Sun. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
Specialties: 30 item buffet, menu items
Average Prices: Lunch-\$5, Dinner-\$7

Other Ethnic Foods

Far East
1529 E. Main Street
895-2727
Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun. 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Specialties: authentic Thai and Chinese food, lunch buffet, dinner specials, free delivery
Average Entree Prices: Lunch-\$4, Dinner-\$5

Kebab Cuisine
223 W. Main Street
895-4999
Hours: Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun. closed

Please see LOCAL, page 5



Todd Sorum/staff

Melissa Hartman, a server at Toot's Restaurant takes orders Sunday afternoon.

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LOCAL...

Continued from page 4

Country**Cracker Barrel**

2115 Church Street
890-0789 or
138 Chaffin Place
893-4980
Hours: Sun.-Thu. 6 a.m.-10 p.m.,
Fri.-Sat. 6 a.m.-11 p.m.
Specialties: authentic country
cooking, pork chops, country fried
steaks, biscuits, country ham
Average Entree Prices: Lunch-\$5,
Dinner-\$6

Cracker Barrel Corner Market

1641 Memorial Boulevard
895-6868
Hours: 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m.
Specialties: chicken and
dumplings, meatloaf, grilled
chicken tenderloins, roast beef,
daily specials, thirteen side items
to choose from, drive thru, take
out, eat in
Average Entree Price: \$5

Q's Kuntry Cookin'

2420 S Church Street
849-8023
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-8 p.m.,
Sat.-Sun. 6 a.m.-8 p.m.
Specialties: pinto beans, turnip
greens, roast beef, fried chicken,
black-eyed peas, rolls, cornbread,
breakfast buffet on Sat. and Sun.
Average Entree Prices:
Breakfast-\$4, Lunch-\$4, Dinner-\$5

Italian**Marina's on the Square**

125 N. Maple Street
849-8881
Hours: Mon.-Thu. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.,
Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m., Sun.
11 a.m.-8 p.m.
Specialties: calzones, stuffed
pizza, chicken, light menu, wine,
beer
Average Entree Prices: Lunch-\$4,
Dinner-\$8

Meacham's Italian Cafe

352 W. Northfield Boulevard



Todd Sorum/staff

Rutherford County paramedics enjoy lunch at Kleervu Lunchroom, a locally-owned establishment that features old-fashioned home cooking served cafeteria style.

Sidelines

890-6030
Hours: Mon.-Thu. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.,
Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-11 p.m.,
Sun. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Specialties: manicotti, seafood,
lasagna, honey glazed beef tips
and chicken, italian chicken tips
Average Entree Prices: Lunch-\$4,
Dinner-\$8

Lucheons and Cafes

Church Street Cafe
125 S. Church Street
848-0077
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 5:30 a.m.-4 p.m.,
Sat. 5:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
Specialties: homemade biscuits
and gravy, home cooked meats
and vegetables, homemade pies
Average Prices: Breakfast-\$4,
Lunch-\$4

City Cafe

113 E. Main Street
893-1303
Hours: 6:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
Specialties: roast beef, homemade
rolls, fried chicken, country style
steak, home cooked vegetables
Average Entree Prices: Lunch-\$4,
Dinner-\$5

Front Porch Cafe

114 E. College Street
896-6771
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-2 p.m.,
Sunday brunch 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Specialties: from scratch desserts,
catering, private parties
Average Entree Prices: \$4

HRH Dumplings

107 East Main
895-1776
Hours: Mon.-Sun. 7 a.m.-2 p.m.
Specialties: muffins, cinnamon
rolls, diet special, quiche, soups,
salads, desserts, casserole of the
day, sandwiches
Average Entree Price: \$5

Kleervu Lunchroom

226 S. Highland Avenue
896-0520
Hours:
Specialties:
Average Entree Prices: \$5

Luby's Cafeteria

1720 Old Fort Parkway
890-4188

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-2:30
p.m. and 4-8 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 11
a.m.-8 p.m.
Specialties: cafeteria style, Lu
Ann Platter, various side items,
free dessert with student ID
Average Entree Prices: Lunch-\$4,
Dinner-\$5

Mexican

Camino Real
301 N.W. Broad Street
890-1412
Hours: 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
Specialties: fajitas, combination
meals, chimichanga, chilaquiles,
steak mexicano, mexican pork
tips, burritos, taco salads
Average Entree Prices: Lunch-\$4,
Dinner-\$6

La Siesta
1111 Greenland Drive
890-0773 or
1608 N.W. Broad Street
890-4646
Hours: combination dinners,
Specialties:
Average Entree Prices: Lunch-\$4,
Dinner-\$6

El Chico
210 Stones River Mall Boulevard
848-0989
Hours: Sun.-Thu. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.,
Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-11 p.m.
Specialties: garter margarita,
fajitas, fiesta nachos, guacamole,
chicken breast dinners, mexican
apple pie
Average Entree Prices: Lunch-\$5,
Dinner-\$7

Pizza

Papa John's
135 W. Northfield Boulevard
890-7272 or
1106 Mercury Boulevard
896-7272

Mick's Pizza and Pasta Shoppe
1107 Greenland Drive
890-4889

Little Ceasar
805 S. Tennessee Boulevard
895-3000 or
1724 W. Northfield Boulevard
890-8080

Please see LOCAL, page 7
Mazzio's

**1902 E. Main
893-2111**

Sun. 3:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
Mon.-Thurs 11:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.
Fri.-Sat. 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.



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• PASTA BAR**

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LOCAL...

Mazzio's
1624 Memorial Boulevard
895-8646

Pizza Hut
1618 N.W. Broad Street
896-3782 or
1301 Memorial Boulevard
898-0100 or
104 Lasseter
896-0657

Sir Pizza
2932 Franklin Road
896-7744 or
1902 E. Main Street
893-2111 or
230 Stones River Mall Boulevard
896-2410

Steakhouse

Logan's Roadhouse
740 N.W. Broad Street
895-4419
Hours: Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
Specialties: hand cut steaks, baked sweet potatoes, roadhouse tea, ribs, fresh rolls, wings
Average Entree Prices: Lunch-\$7, Dinner-\$10

Santa Fe Cantina and Cattlemen's Club
127 S.E. Broad Street
890-3030
Hours: 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Fri-Sat. 11 a.m.-12 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
Specialties: mesquite grilled steaks, happy hour daily, tumble weed, kids eat free under age 10,

enchiladas, quesadillas
Average Entree Prices: Lunch-\$5, Dinner-\$8

Quincy's Family Steakhouse
1145 N.W. Broad
895-2920
Hours: Sun.-Thu. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
Specialties: food bar, yeast rolls, steaks, chicken, seafood
Average Entree Prices: Lunch-\$5, Dinner-\$7

Parthenon Steakhouse
1935 S. Church Street
Hours: Mon.-Thu. 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-11 p.m.
Specialties: steaks, seafood, salad bar, Greek salads
Average Entree Prices: Lunch-\$6, Dinner-\$12

Ponderosa Steakhouse
1845 S. Church Street
Hours: Sun.-Thu. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-11 p.m.
Specialties: food bar, steaks, chicken
Average Entree Prices: Lunch-\$4, Dinner-\$8

Ryan's Family Steakhouse
1829 Old Ford Parkway
895-4272
Hours: Sun.-Thu. 10:45 a.m.-9:30 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 10:45 a.m.-10:30 p.m.
Specialties: food bar, steak, chicken, fish
Average Entree Prices: \$6

Seafood

Red Lobster
1745 Old Fort Parkway
896-9499

Sidelines

Hours: Sun.-Thu. 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-11 p.m.
Specialties: fresh catches daily, shrimp scampi, crab legs,
Average Entree Prices: Lunch-\$6, Dinner-\$9

Traditional

O'Charley's
1006 Memorial Boulevard
898-0390
Hours: Mon.-Thu. 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-12 a.m., Sun. 10:30 a.m.-10 p.m.
Specialties: prime rib, chicken tenders, Sunday brunch, kids eat free, spinach artichoke dip, fresh soups daily, salads, steaks, Monterey beef tips
Average Entree Prices: Lunch-\$5, Dinner-\$7

Pronto's
1505 E. Main Street
890-1101
Hours: Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-12 a.m.
Specialties: sub sandwiches, gyros, chicken sandwiches, burgers, beer
Average Prices: sandwiches \$3

Demo's Steak and Spaghetti House
1115 N.W. Broad Street
895-3701
Hours: Sun.-Thu. 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-11 p.m.
Specialties: seafood dishes, various spaghetti dishes, steaks
Average Entree Prices: Lunch-\$5, Dinner-\$9

Applebee's Bar and Grill
1740 Old Fort Parkway
849-9954

Hours: Mon.-Thu. 11 a.m.- p.m., Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.- a.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
Specialties: quesadillas, bourbon street steak, salads, ripples, vegetable plate,
Average Entree Prices: Lunch-\$5, Dinner-\$7

Shoney's
1950 S.Church Street
890-6895
Hours: Mon.-Thu. 6 a.m.-11 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 6 a.m.-a.m., Sun. 6 a.m.-10 p.m.
Specialties: breakfast bar daily, salad bar, seafood bar on Fri. and Sat., burgers, late night breakfast bar,
Average Entree Prices: Lunch-\$4, Dinner-\$6

Coming Soon

Corky's of Murfreesboro—Opening in November
116 John Rice Boulevard
890-1742
Hours: Sun.-Thu. 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-11 p.m.
Specialties: Memphis style ribs and bbq, drive thru, and catering, pulled pork shoulder, bbq chicken, bbq beef
Average Entree Prices: Lunch-\$3, Dinner-\$8.50, Family Packs \$3.50 per person, Appetizers-\$4



Ruby Tuesday

Barbwires

The Cooker

Steak Out



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Great Food Too!

MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL
Tailgate Party
Huge buffet starts at 5.
\$1.50

Wed: Build Your own TACOS
Mexican Feast - FREE
5-8

Conrad's Menu includes:

- Burgers
- Stuffed Jalapenos
- Sauteed Mushrooms
- Buffalo wings
- and lots more...



1602 W. Northfield
Georgetown Park
893-7860

Mon-Thurs 11:00a.m. - 11:00p.m.
Fri-Sat 11:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.
Lunch & Dinner Daily

Drink Specials 12p.m. - 6p.m. Daily
Draft - Killians Red & Molson Ice
\$1.00

Music Schedule

| | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Mondays: | Treble Makers |
| Tuesdays: | Lindy Gravelle |
| Wednesdays: | Colombia Hwy Bluegrass |
| Thursday 9/28: | Christian Hastings |
| Friday 9/29: | J. Markham & the Jukes |
| Saturday 9/30: | Amy Watkins |
| | No Cover Charge |

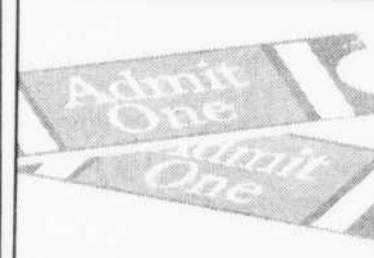
Good food, good cheer.
Good music served here.

Must be 21 years old with valid I.D. to drink.

El Chico

99¢ Marguerita Wednesday Night

Next to Stones River Mall



Looking for an age-old treat? Try Red Rose

By Brent Andrews/staff

Coffee.

For centuries it has been a mainstay of human consumption, a pick-me-up and social stimulant and even a topic of heated debate: Which areas of the world produce the best coffees? What is the best method of roasting and brewing coffee? Why would anyone want to drink something that tastes like that?

Whatever your view of coffee might be, there should be no doubt in you mind about the significance of the beverage in the lives of college students. We drink it in the morning to help wake us up, at night to help us struggle through those intense study sessions, and in the middle of the day for whatever reason sounds best at the time. We spill it on important papers, burn our tongues with it and sometimes even end up with it in our laps as we navigate our autos through city traffic while precariously holding a cup in one hand.

Everyone knows that cities--well, real cities--are

smattered with coffee houses where intellectuals gather and discuss high-mannered topics like Thoreau and Longfellow and the meaning of life. Some of us might have mental pictures of beret-wearing artist-types conversing in hushed, French-accented voices about these things while sipping the freshest cappuccinos and espressos, maybe one or two of them recording the whole scene on canvas with oil paints for posterity.

But the love of coffee extends beyond these bounds. From businessmen to homeless men, from fashion models to professional mud wrestlers, the world's citizens are deep in the throes of a passionate love affair with the power and aroma of coffee bean. These lovers flock to coffee houses everywhere to sample new and old coffees and comment on their aroma. And Murfreesboro--not to be left behind by the rest of the world--has bred a few coffee houses of its own.

A standout among these local coffee houses--and the only one still in business

today--is the Red Rose Coffee House and Bistro, located for the last year and a half at 528 W. College Street. The building Red Rose is in is itself a Murfreesboro landmark, having housed Red Rose Dairies--a local ice cream company--from the mid 1930s until 1975, when the dairy was bought out by Kay's Ice Cream of Knoxville.

In a room where milk and sugar were once turned to ice cream, people now sip gourmet tea, sample some of the best micro-beers in the country--including Blackened Voodoo from New Orleans, Saranac from New York, Sam Adams from Boston and more than 35 others--and eat delights such as BLTs, chicken salad sandwiches and avocado sandwiches. And, of course, the drink coffee. Lots of coffee.

Specialties at Red Rose include several cappuccinos, espressos, flavors of the day and chillers--or coffees on ice.

Patty Hoffman, who owns Red Rose along with her husband, said that her inspiration to open a Murfreesboro coffee house came while on a trip to Southern California.

"I went to Southern California and spent a month there with my step-daughter, and we went to all the coffee houses out there, in the different areas--like Laguna Beach, Huntington Beach, Newport Beach and all the beach towns of Southern California."

"When I saw how popular they were and what kind of atmosphere they create, I decided it would go well here in Murfreesboro, with the university in town."

Micro beers were not on the original Red Rose menu but, Hoffman said, the burgeoning interest in micro brews led to the offering of some of the country's finest micro beers.

"Interest more or less stems from the micro-brewery business, and ... their popularity. We thought of putting a micro-brewery in the building and adding onto the coffee house like that," Hoffman said.

"We decided to just add about 40 different types of beers, just specialty beers and micro-brewery beers. There's not any Bud[weiser] or anything like that."

"We had quite a few customers that suggested they'd like to have alcohol on the premise, so that's why we did it too."

Food at Red Rose, according to Hoffman, is mostly health-type sandwiches, and vegetarian sandwiches are popular as well.

"Avocado sandwich is one of our most popular sandwiches here," she points out.

But those of you with a sweet tooth don't have to despair. Red Rose also offers an extensive selection of pies and cakes, which are displayed under a sign that proclaims "just do it." The sweet selection is always changing, Hoffman said.

Ruth Dunkerley, a junior German/English major, said that Red Rose is a nice place to go to escape the confines of campus, and that the personal service is a bonus as well.

"I walked up to [an employee] one time and I said 'Can you suggest a good beer?' and he described it. People here are relaxed. You can study here; you can hang out here."

"I like it--it's a good place to go off-campus." ●

Pictured on the back cover are employees of Kleervu Lunchroom. Each day the lunchroom cleans its own turnip greens for the day's lunch crowd.

Cover photos by Todd Sorum.

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Served with a side of spaghetti, baked potato, rice pilaf or homemade hashbrowns and soup or salad and the best bread in town

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11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Closed on Sunday

Monday-Thursday
Friday & Saturday



Todd Sorum/staff



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PORK
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