

FLASH

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

sidelines

Sushin preparing a new 'Boro tradition

By Leslie Carol Boehms
Flash Editor

Japanese culture is a very important part of my life. Coming from a Japanese family, I was taught to respect the culture and enjoy it.

Sushi and sashimi were always prevalent at holidays and celebrations. At the age of 13, my grandmother taught me the fine art of creating sushi. In my short 18 years I have been to various sushi restaurants across the country. From Maui to California to New York, I have seen and eaten the art in a wide variety of places.

Here in Murfreesboro, there are a few Japanese restaurants available. My personal favorite is Sushin, located at 528 North Thompson Lane (drive down Thompson Lane, past Wal-Mart and it's the next building on the right).

Sushin offers dine in and carry out service. They also have a lovely sushi bar and plenty of seating area.

The service at Sushin is excellent, as it usually is with most Japanese restaurants.

I was skeptical at first. The idea that there were even sushi restaurants available in Murfreesboro was scary. I mean, after all this is, well, Murfreesboro.

I ordered my usual green tea and water as a beverage. Then I began to fill out the sushi order form. There was a plethora of choices and varieties. There was such a variety I didn't even know where to begin. I ordered my typical crunchy ship roll, a California roll and the Las Vegas roll, a new roll available at Sushin. I opted not to order any sashimi since I find it less exciting than actual sushi rolls.

My sushi arrived. The art of the sushi really stood out. It was immediately obvious these were true, professional sushi chefs. I was in for a real treat.

My favorite type of sushi roll is anything with eel in it. The Las Vegas roll was deep-



Jae Lee, of Sushin Japanese Restaurant, prepares sushi in the form of a crunchy shrimp roll and California roll.

Photo by Matthew H. Starling | Chief Photographer

fried with smoked eel, cream cheese, crabmeat and avocado. It was the most splendid piece of food I have ever tasted.

Next I tried the popular crunchy shrimp roll. It contains crunched up pieces of shrimp tempura (a type of fried shrimp), avocado and mayonnaise.

Lately, I noticed many of the sushi restaurants I dine at in Nashville stopped adding mayonnaise to their crunchy shrimp.

I was very pleased that Sushin did offer this in their rolls. Sushin also puts an additional heap of crunchy tempura crumbs on top of the roll. This addition, which I had never seen used before, made Sushin's crunchy shrimp rolls excellent.

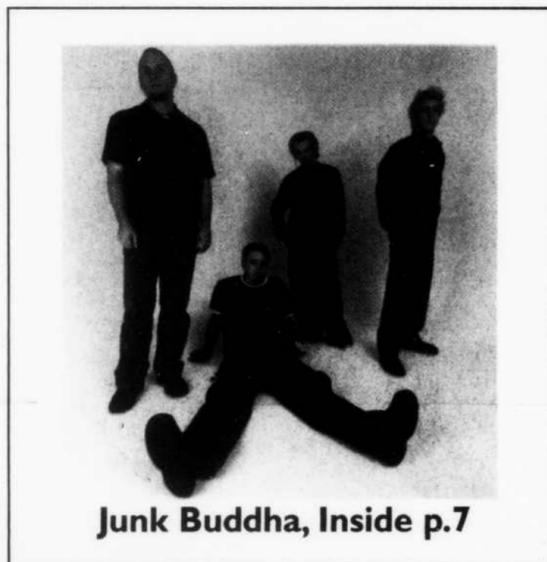
Last but not least, I tried the

classic California roll. This is simply crabmeat and avocado with the rice and nori. The roll was good as usual, but still cannot compare to the original Las Vegas roll that I discovered.

Overall, I cannot say that there was anything bad about my dining experience at Sushin. The only thing I found odd were the metal chickens sitting on top of the roof to the sushi bar.

If you have never tasted sushi, it's time you tried this great delicacy. Read the sushi sidebar (found on page 7) and familiarize yourself with the routine, then go for it.

You may surprise yourself. If you decide you dislike the food, at least you can honestly say you've tried it. After all, college is about being open minded to new experiences. ♦



Junk Buddha, Inside p.7

Suffering from a Venus Hum

By Russell Chamberlain
Staff Writer

A Venus Hum is an inner ear condition that causes a hum in one's head. Tony Miracle (that's his God-given name, by the way) was suffering from this affliction when he decided it would make a good band name.

Venus Hum is part of Nashville's newly thriving electronic scene. Tony Miracle (keyboards), Kip Kubin (keyboards) and Annette (vocals) make up this electronic-pop trio. I caught up with the band at the newly remodeled Exit/In on Thursday Feb. 15. The group is currently supporting its self-titled album.

The show started with a set from another local band, Swan Dive. The band played a set of retro-60s flavored songs — think Burt

For more on the growing electronic pop scene in Nashville, be sure to check out some of the following groups:

- * Audity
- * Exotica
- * Otherness

On the darker side:

- * Pain and its Relief
- * Trash 9000

On the air waves:

- * D.J. Ron on WRVU, 91.1 (Friday evenings)
- * Ichabod on WRVU, 91.1 (Thursday nights)

Venus Hum
at Sebastian's
March 10, 11 p.m. \$5

Bacharach or Air with a modern electronic ingredient thrown in. They are supporting their new electronic EP,

produced by Tony Miracle.

Venus Hum took the stage with "Run Annie Run" and went into "Hummingbirds and Honey." Kubin and Miracle were busy playing keys and tweaking sounds while Annette stood center stage — black trench, yellow scarf and vintage glasses.

As the band began to pick up the pace, Annette lost the coat and danced about like a Bjork-ish pixie, her voice soaring over the electronics on songs like "Sonic Boom" and "Wordless May" (both of which are getting support on 91.1, WRVU Vanderbilt). They also interjected some new tunes and remixed versions of the album's tracks.

Before the show, I had time to talk to Miracle about their place in Nashville as an electronic band.

Nashville is not usually welcoming to electronic

music and the band knew that, but Miracle was pleasantly surprised. "People were more open to the music than I ever thought they would be."

They're even infecting the uninitiated.

"A lot of people tell us they don't like electronic music, but they like us," said Miracle. "I think it's the songs, people really identify with them. It's the music and Annette. People connect with Annette. She is a dynamic singer and personality."

Miracle's mysterious inner ear symptoms have cleared up, but he says, "I hope to be suffering from a Venus Hum a while longer."

Album available at Tower Records, and at www.venushum.com ♦

Roles plague 'The Mexican'

By Zack Hansen
Staff Writer

If you value two hours of your life, please don't spend them watching this movie.

Having a strong distaste for Julia Roberts, I went into this viewing experience excitedly pessimistic with the hope that Brad Pitt and his recent string of successful roles could save the movie. I was quite wrong.

The plot is ridiculous and unoriginal. Brad and Julia star as a quarreling couple in the process of breaking up.

Pitt made a mistake regarding some type of criminal and must do him favors to pay off the debt. His final task is to go to Mexico and retrieve a fabled pistol and return it to the mob boss. Meanwhile, Roberts is kidnapped by a bad guy who wants to hold her for ransom. Each of the characters encounters harkneyed roadblocks while experiencing numerous unfunny hi-jinks.

Julia's plot centers around the bond she forms with her kidnapper, played by James Gandolfini. The man who is famous for playing tough gangsters — such as his role in *The Sopranos* — turns out to be gay, which had the potential to be a funny idea. However, it quickly turns into a played out gimmick. The cold-blooded killer turns out to be a softhearted friend who listens to Julia and helps her with her relationship problems. This gay friend cliché was old years ago and continues to be so in this movie.

Pitt has even more stereotypes deal with. He plays the stupid American who the Mexicans mock, knowing he can't understand a word they say. Pitt adds an "O" to the end of every word, thinking they can understand him that way. Of course, we've all seen this done before.

His screen time consists of him getting the gun, having it taken away and getting it back. But his scenes do seem to be more successful, although this could be due to my contempt for Ms. Roberts and her inability

See Mexican, 8

LINE UP

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

MOONIE & THE JOHN-DOGS: Wall Street, 121 N. Maple St., Murfreesboro.

AC/DC TRIBUTE: 8 p.m., Exit/In \$5.

THE NATIONALS: 10 p.m., The Boro Bar & Grill \$5.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8

DAN ADAMS BAND: w/Nick Riggins & the Ridgerunners, 9 p.m., Exit/In \$5.

MAN OR ASTROMAN?: w/Tyro & The Lost Sounds, 9 p.m., The End \$10.

JACK w/ THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION and LIFEBOY: 10 p.m., The Boro Bar & Grill.

FRIDAY, MARCH 9

THE SWAGGERTS: w/Snake Hips, 9 p.m., The End \$5.

BLUE RODEO: w/John Wesley Harding, 8 p.m., 328 Performance Hall, \$12.

HIGHWATER: 10 p.m., The Boro Bar & Grill.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BENEFIT FEAT. SONIA: w/Mink, Heather Roberts, Doria Brooks, 7 p.m., Tucker Theatre, Middle Tennessee State Univ.

JUNK BUDDHA: w/The Del Giovanni Clique, 10 p.m., Club Wall Street.

MICHAEL ACREE & THE SECOND TIME THROUGH: w/Molly & Gary, 9:30 p.m., The Red Rose Café.

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

PAIN AND ITS RELIEF, 8:30 p.m., Guido's Pizzeria, Nashville, Tenn.

THE GUY SMILEY BLUES EXCHANGE: 10 p.m., The Boro Bar & Grill.

WHIRLYBIRD: w/Ulysses, 9 p.m., Exit/In \$5.

VENUS HUM w/ EDMUND'S CROWN: 10 p.m., Sebastian and Diana's, \$5.

MATTHEW SWEET: 8 p.m., Bongo Johnny's, \$14.

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

STERLING RUTLEDGE FUND BENEFIT: feat. Beth Nielsen Chap.m.an, Kim Richey, Mark Luna, Jen Foster, Ray Vega, & Steve Kolander, 6-10 p.m., 12th & Porter Playroom \$15.

TRENT SUMMAR & THE NEW ROW MOB: 9 p.m., 3rd & Lindsley Bar & Grill \$5.

MATTHEW SWEET: w/Josh Joplin & Neilson Hubbard, 8 p.m., 328 Performance Hall, \$15 door.

MONDAY, MARCH 12

TOM MASON: 8 p.m., Bunganat Pig, Murfreesboro.

RICHARD BUCKNER: w/Pat Haney, 8 p.m., The End \$6.

TUESDAY, MARCH 13

BILLY BLOCK'S WESTERN BEAT ROOTS REVIVAL: feat. Justin Trevino, 7 p.m., Exit/In \$5.

WESLEY RYAN BENEFIT: feat. Glossary, Boo Boo Bunny, The Davenport, & Without, 10 p.m., The Boro Bar & Grill.