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# Fancy looks, low prices make 'Simple Pleasures' enjoyable

Some people don't take the time to enjoy the simple pleasures of life.

But it would be worth anyone's time to sample the goods at one of Lincoln's newer downtown eateries, "Simple Pleasures," 10th and O streets.

Simple Pleasures, which opened last June, offers a menu that should appeal to nearly everyone's taste — from the hamburger lover to the vegetarian. It boasts sandwiches, salads, daily specials, fantastic desserts, beer, wine and pasta specialties.

Simple Pleasures isn't your McDonald's or Bonanza steakhouse-type business. It's a sit-down restaurant that caters predominantly to a Yuppie (young urban professional) crowd. The tables are adorned with cloth napkins and vases of real flowers that add to the restaurant's semi-formal atmosphere. If the lights were dimmed, Simple Pleasures might pass as a fancy restaurant.

But it's not. No, sir, don't let the coats, ties and dresses intimidate you.

I felt right at home in my jeans.

"We do serve mainly a Yuppie, business-type of crowd," manager Bob Rudolf said, "but I think we can cater to a varied public, and our menu should appeal to everyone . . . including college students."

would be proud.

Service at the downtown restaurant is more than friendly, but a little too ambitious. My waitress tried to make my meal enjoyable, but the kitchen had my noodles delivered to the table before I could polish off the soup. Too fast.

**RATING:** I liked the place. The food satisfied my stomach but didn't break my budget. I ate for under \$8 and could have easily spent less than \$5. Out of a possible five stars, Simple Pleasures gets three (\*\*\*)

**SIMPLE PLEASURES**  
**Location:** 947 O St.

**Hours:** Lunch is served Tuesday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dinner is offered from 5 to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Beginning Jan. 24, Simple Pleasures will begin serving dinner on Thursday also.

**Reservations:** Optional.  
**The Bucks:** Only cash and checks are accepted. No credit cards.

— Ad Hudler

## REVIEW DINING

I ordered the fettuccine with spinach (\$3.95) and a cup of sliced vegetable soup (\$1.25). Simple Pleasures doesn't make one of Lincoln's better fettuccines, but it's far from being the worst. The soup was great, complete with crisp, "cooked-just-right" veggies and a light broth that wasn't overpowering.

Simple Pleasures offers a small but tasty dessert menu. I chose a rum chocolate cake from four selections. The whipped topping wasn't too sweet or heavy, like it is at some places, and the cake was MOIST. Betty Crocker

# Mangione style transforms songs from simple to exciting melodies

By Richard Ayala  
 Staff Reporter

Chuck Mangione's latest album, *Disguise Great*, shows a different side of his style. His new producer, Eumir Deodato, is responsible for this electronic, yet relaxing sound.

Deodato does much of the synthesizer work, but Mangione wrote the music. The first tune, "Diana D," was written for Mangione's daughter. This laid-back electronic sound sets the

tone for the entire album. "Diana D," "Shirley MacLaine," and "Leonardo's Lady" have the same driving beat that is characteristic of many Herbie Hancock compositions.

## REVIEW DISC

Mangione dedicates the album to Broadway star Shirley MacLaine, a comical tribute to their friendship.

Mr. Versatile, Chris Vadala, who made major contributions to previous Mangione albums, has a lesser, but still important role. Vadala's bass and alto flute playing can be heard on several songs the same way he played the beautiful Mangione ballads — "Bellevia" and "Chase the Clouds Away."

Musically, *Disguise Great* stacks up with Mangione's best. His continuing success stems from his transformation of simple melodies into exciting, pretty songs.

# Authors . . .

Continued from Page 17

Cowboy Bob, it says in the brief biography, has spent all his life in the livestock industry and much of the subject matter of this book is about nature, cattle, horses and related matters.

One of the better poems is titled, "Do You Bite The Hand That Feeds

You?" and urges people to look at the farmer from a different perspective.

The insights and experiences in these poems and short stories are worth the price of the book (\$4), but the poetry writing itself is not exceptional.

I personally didn't like the book, but I'm sending it to my uncle, an old

Nebraska cowboy himself, because I know he would enjoy it.

That's about the best advice I can give. If your own life is rich with the same kind of experiences as Bob Johnston's, I'm sure you will enjoy the book. Some of the poems anyone can appreciate, but a city person looking for some good plains poetry may be disappointed.

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## Shorts

Auditions for *The Hobbit* will be Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Men performers, age 10 to adult, are needed. Callbacks will be Thursday at 7 p.m. All auditioners will be asked to read from the script.

The Emmy Gifford Children's Theater production will run from March 8 to April 21. For more information, call the Omaha theater at 345-4862.

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