

Tandoor brings India to South Lincoln

J.J. HARDER
Staff writer

Earlier this summer, the sign on the door at 3530 Village Drive read Tandoor: India Clay Oven. When the restaurant opened its doors less than a month ago, however, it debuted as simply Tandoor.

The change was due to a dispute with Lincoln's reigning kings of Indian cuisine, The Oven, over possible confusion over the name. So the owner of the Tandoor, who formerly worked at the Oven, changed the name a little and went ahead with his plans.

Along with Wind Chimes and Charlie's, Tandoor adds to the grow-

ing number of upscale restaurants in the 40th & Old Cheney area. Nestled in the southwest corner by Gary Michael's, the Tandoor is out of the way but still easy to find.

Like the other Williamsburg Village Buildings, it has a clean white exterior and is equally nice inside. It is classy enough that you wouldn't want to wear shorts but casual enough to sit in khakis and have a drink.

The restaurant is dark and decorated with subtle colors, creating a smooth atmosphere, perfect for quiet meals. However, the sounds of a soft rock album in the background seemed more appropriate for a gigo-lo's swingin' bachelor pad than an upscale restaurant.

As for lighting, it is definitely

seductive, but it can't compete with The Oven's atmosphere. The light at dusk combined with glass bottles and candles make The Oven impossible with which to compete.

The Tandoor can hold its ground when it comes to the food, however. The two dishes I tried were as good, if not better, than The Oven's. The distinctive yellow rice complimented the curry-filled sauces perfectly. The lamb and chicken were both very tender to taste and easy to cut.

The restaurant's specialty has to be the bread. While Indian bread is internationally acclaimed, this had to be the best Indian bread I have ever eaten. I tried the Paneer Naan, but there are 10 other varieties from which to choose. Paneer Naan is

unleavened bread, baked and stuffed with a cheese-curry mixture. It was so good I had to get a second order. And all of the breads are under \$4, making them easily affordable.

The Tandoor is not short on unique items either. They offer a selection of Biryani Rice dishes, and I had a Lassi - a yogurt-based fruit drink indigenous to India. For the vegetarian, Tandoor offers 15 entrees without meat.

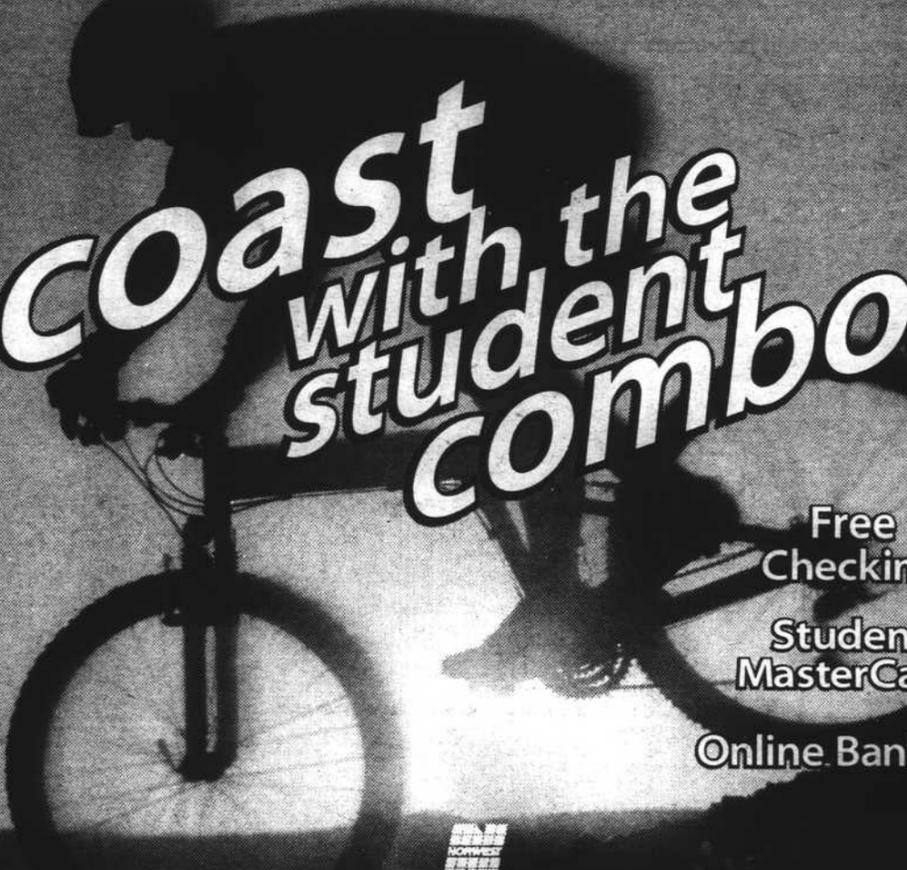
When the bill comes, it will probably be near \$40 a couple. That is, if you have some bread and a few drinks. But the food is solid and worth the price. The main problem with the Tandoor is its location. From downtown, Williamsburg Village seems like it's halfway to Kansas.

Restaurant Review
The Facts

What: Tandoor
Where: 3530 Village Dr.
40th & Old Cheney
Type: Fine Indian dining
Cost: \$10-20 a meal
The Scoop: Great food, but too far to drive

And since the food is about equal to The Oven's, it just makes sense to go to the Haymarket.

But the Tandoor is worth trying at least once. And if you try the bread, be ready to make a habit of it.



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1300 Eldon Dr., 3BR, double garage, A/C, full basement, church owned, nice location. Grad students, no smoking/pet, \$975. Call 489-9516 to see.
1325 S. 13th, 4 bedroom, central air, two baths. \$800, 472-2350 or 1-800-273-9083.
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