



Photo by Jim Marks

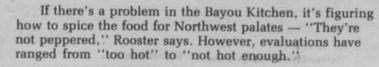


Photo by Dean Guernsey

business of bringing big-name black artists to town. "He helped us with our gumbo, red beans and all kinds of things," Rooster says.

"The red beans was gleaned from a recipe book by Louis Armstrong's wife. We also threw in some tidbits passed down from a friend who got information from Fats Domino's cook," Varner says. Other recipes were picked up by both men's experience living in the area, and

The menu at the Bayou Kitchen includes ribs, and chicken in Louisiana barbecue sauce. Shrimp Creole, Red. Beans and Rice, Hot sausages, cole slaw and varying combinations of the above. Specials include gumbo, boiled eslaw and French bread. (Business hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day except Sunday and Thursday.)



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My friend can't believe I've downed a glass of water and a beer to cool off my palate. "The food is spicy, but it's not hot at all," he tells me

with amusement, digging into his even hotter red beans and rice.

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"Our idea is that the music and food are intergrated. In Louisiana, for instance, the people have big street parties with lots of food, drink and music. The major tourist attraction to the area is the food and music," Rooster explains.

"That's the thing — in other places, the blues is still a happening thing. New Orleans is real proud of their musical legacy. In the West, the music, like the food, has been defused." he says.

Saturdays, to expose the blues to an even wider audience, either Rooster or Ray exchange knives and forks for microphones and LP's to air KLCC's Blues Power, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Other people in the area promoting black music, including rhythm & blues and gospel, are Bill Rhodes of Bill Rhodes Blues Deluxe, John Cooney of KLCC, and Johnny Ethridge of KRVM.

"We'd like to bring more exposure to people of a crawfish and other dishes. The prices range from 75 cents a culture they haven't been much in touch with, so that we rib, to \$4.50 for a half-chicken with red beans and rice, col- can all find some common ground and aren't afraid of each other. I'd like people to be able to get together with the music, culture and food," he says.

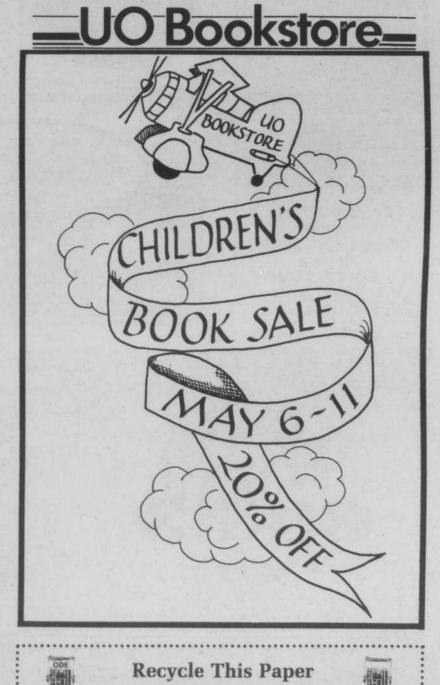




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