

MORE SCHOOL SPIRIT THAN A CHEERLEADING SQUAD



NATIONAL LAMPOON'S
VAN WILDER

IN THEATRES SPRING 2002
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ARTISAN

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Luna

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atmosphere that offers a comfortable, casual and social environment with "a hint of elegance."

Bernstein, Luna's co-executive head chef, said the nightclub specializes in a Spanish tapas menu and fine wines. Tapas — savory hors d'oeuvres believed to have originated in Seville — are prepared either hot or cold at Luna, and can be filled with anything from sausage or duck to anchovies or potatoes. They are typically served with wine or sherry.

The bar at Adam's Place is 28 feet from the entrance to Luna, Bernstein said, and the venue features live music three to five nights a week, enhanced with new sound and lighting systems. Bernstein said the staff of about 20 employees has been busy, especially on evenings when the place is packed. Luna doesn't take reservations, so those looking for a table have to arrive a couple hours before showtime.

"It's a really happening place," Mike Olson said on Saturday as he watched the lead singer of the West

Coast Rhythm Kings, dressed in a red zoot suit, bust out a tap dance. "It's a good place to dance and have a good time."

With a wide variety of musicians and talent, Luna offers the over-21 crowd offshoots of jazz music in the form of Latin/world, big band/swing, R&B/soul/blues, funk/groove and acoustic tunes. High-ceilings, modern artwork on the walls and dim lighting give Luna a classic yet eclectic, jazzy feel.

"It's one of the few places to dance anymore," Barbara Aten said. "Dancing is the best therapy there is."

Stepping off the dance floor to catch her breath, the six-year swing dance veteran said she was with a group of "dance buddies" enjoying what she termed "chump blues."

"I wish there was more music like this in town," she said.

Luna features longtime local and regional talent as well as nationally touring acts, including its "house band," Jazz Collective, at 9:30 p.m. Thursdays. The quintet, which has been together for about two months, is composed of pianist and junior jazz studies major Greg

Goebel; University graduate Tim Clarke on trumpet; University graduate teaching fellow Todd DelGiudice on tenor saxophone; University graduate Randy Rollofson playing drums; and junior music major Andrea Niemiec on bass.

Goebel said in addition to the benefits of the new, nonsmoking facility at Luna, Jazz Collective also performs for "a fairly good crowd of people who are actually listening to the music." Goebel said while he would play once a month at Jo Federigo's Cafe and Bar, having a weekly gig at Luna has been a good change of pace — and the grand piano is another plus.

Patty McCulla, a local musician who books Luna shows, predicted that business will continue to grow, especially after the downtown mall is opened to motor vehicle traffic.

"We feel we are filling a niche that was ready to be filled," she said.

For more information about Luna, call 344-6948, or if interested in performing, contact McCulla at 465-1386. Luna's talent lineup is listed in the Emerald's weekly Pulse calendar.

E-mail Pulse/features editor Lisa Toth at lisatoth@dailyemerald.com.

'The Chamber'

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That movie was made by an experienced reality-TV producer, Daniel Minahan, and it shows; all of the TV production values are there, and every 20 minutes or so there are cutaways and upcoming scenes, as though a commercial break were taking place.

The problem that plagued "Series 7," and that will, I think, ultimately kill "The Chamber," is that they both seem really tame. Perhaps it isn't a sign of psychological

health that I think a movie about players slaughtering each other is tame, but it came off that way. It just doesn't seem that farfetched, nor that gruesome.

Why is this? My guess is that reality shows and the incredibly violent fiction that dominate American entertainment have inured viewers to the shock value of killing, or of torture. During "The Chamber," for instance, one contestant yelled, "Ow!" twice and then, "Son of a bitch!" I ooh-ed and giggled. Maybe it was because I had just watched "The Simpsons."

"Series 7" might have seemed a

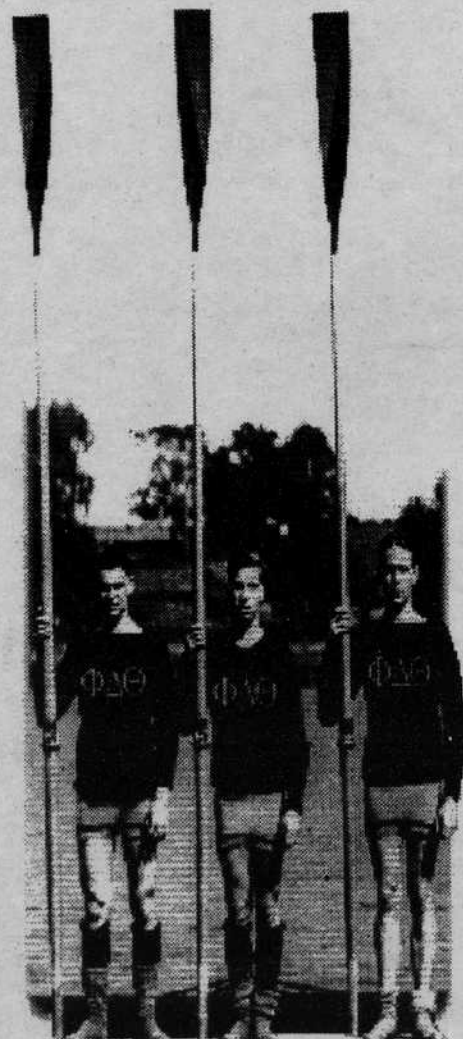
frightening, biting portrayal of the future if it was made 10 years ago, when viewers were first getting used to "The Real World." "The Chamber," by comparison, might have seemed on-the-edge a few years ago, before viewers were assaulted with reality shows of increasingly upped stakes.

The truly sickening part of this is that both productions seem a bit blasé at this point in history. Maybe I'm just a sicko. I hope so, for everyone's sake.

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