

pulse eugene

Friday What: Benefit show featuring The Shudders Where: John Henry's	When: 9 p.m. How much: \$5 suggested donation	Sunday What: Bad Wizard and the Witnesses Where: John Henry's	When: 7:30 p.m. How much: \$5
Today What: Beltline Where: Lucky's	When: 10 p.m. How much: \$3	Saturday What: Big Band Ballroom Dance Party Where: StaverDanceSport, 55 W. Broadway	When: 9 p.m. How much: \$5



The Shudders will perform at John Henry's on Friday

■ Restaurant review

A Taste of India's flavorful buffet satisfies appetites, bank accounts

The buffet-style restaurant provides the perfect place for a nice, low-key lunch

BY NATASHA CHILINGERIAN
SENIOR PULSE REPORTER

I remember visiting an Indian buffet restaurant in London when I was 15 that was a complete disappointment. The servers didn't show my companions and me where the buffet was located, so we had to search for it ourselves. When we found it, we almost wished we hadn't. The food consisted of something that resembled ground meat, a mixture of beans and a bowl of iceberg lettuce.

Walking into A Taste of India for a buffet lunch gave me a few flashbacks to this tasteless incident, but fortunately, I walked out having renewed my faith in Indian food buffets. While the looks of the \$6.99 buffet reminded me a bit of the London eatery (A Taste of India's small food cart held only a few choices and included an iceberg lettuce salad), dishes were satisfying and flavorful.

Lunchtime diners at A Taste of India can pick from fried, crispy dumplings; soft, chewy nan bread; curried potatoes; and buttery, saffron-spiced basmati rice topped with either hearty lentils or a veggie-filled yellow curry sauce. Tandoori chicken is also offered; it's decent, a little spicy and might taste better if it weren't for its off-putting orange color. Out of this short list of dishes, the rice and yellow curry sauce is what the thing to get seconds of — skip the iceberg salad.

Unlimited coffee, tea and soda are available with the buffet, which is offered daily from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Sunday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. The restaurant also has a full menu, which is available during lunch hours and from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. every day except Sunday. Highlights of the menu include Indian breads for less than \$3; lamb, chicken and vegetarian curries; shrimp dishes and kebabs. Entree prices range from \$7.95 for most of the vegetarian curries to \$15.95 for the Tandoori Mixed Grill plate. You can also get the buffet to go, either in a large container for the same price as the sit-down buffet or



DANIELLE HICKEY | PHOTO EDITOR

A Taste of India, at 2495 Hilyard St., offers a great lunch buffet that features items such as rice, lentils and nan, an Indian bread.

in a small container (a special for University students and students of a few Eugene high schools) for \$3.

Although the restaurant's exterior is an unattractive blue building, the decorations inside are charming. The walls sport photographic portraits of Indian scenes and giant fake trees with leaves and branches that spread across the ceiling. Tables sit looking well-groomed, and in a corner a fountain gently trickles water. The mood is relaxed and comfortable. While the servers were pleas-

ant, they were not as accommodating as I would have liked. After a waiter told my companion and I to sit where we liked, he pretty much left us alone, and I had to get up and find him to request my beverage.

A Taste of India is a cheap, tasty dining option, perfect for a casual weekend lunch outing. It's by no means gourmet, but if you're nearly broke and longing for something on the exotic side, check it out.

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John Henry's: A relaxed Eugene atmosphere

Continued from page 8

Employees were in here re-painting and working on the place because we wanted our jobs back. It's been doing a lot better than it was before."

For all the theme nights and its punk-rock shows, John Henry's manages to maintain a relaxed atmosphere.

"We're a pretty straightforward bar," bartender Molly McKeown said. "I think the craziest thing we've done here is pudding wrestling. By the end of the night, I was the only person not covered in pudding."

Despite being pretty straightforward, the place does have its points of interest. The bathrooms have a wide range of reading material and the list of bizarre drink orders is interesting. One is the Cement Mixer, a drink involving Baily's, lemon juice and a few other choice ingredients. I'm not too sure how this works, but apparently the drink curdles in your mouth as you drink it. While vomiting is not guaranteed, it is a likely prospect.

The other was the wonderfully named Irish Car Bomb, which involves placing a shot glass full of Jameson and Baily's inside half a

glass of Guinness. To illustrate, the man drank two of them while I was there. I stuck with coffee, which was about as heroic, given what the coffee tasted like.

Overall, the bar is one of the best hangout spots around. Business doesn't pick up until around 10 p.m. and until then, things stay pretty quiet. Prices are decent, the pool tables are in good repair and the lighting is dim and moody. You can't expect it to get better than that.

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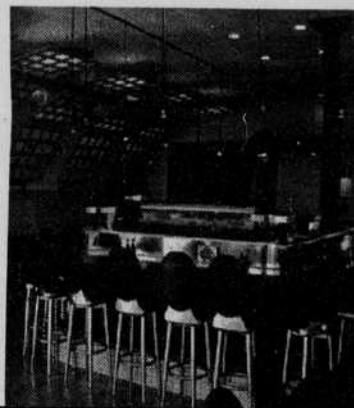
Sushi on the conveyor

Variety of sushi, sashimi, and chef specials starting at \$1.50

- Lunch special:
- Tempura
- Udon
- Yakisoba
- Katsu
- Variety of sea food salad
- To go available
- and more
- Box
- Teriyaki

Lunch Mon-Fri 11:30 - 2:30
Dinner Mon-Sat 5:00-10:00
Sunday Closed

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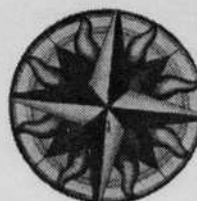


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A lecture by

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Thursday, November 4, 2004
8:00 p.m. 182 Lillis Hall

This lecture is free and open to the public, and will be followed by a book signing and sale. For information, or for disability accommodations, please call (541) 346-3934.

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