

# Mr. Mike's Viking Restaurant

By JOHN DASH

One of the West Side's great boasts, surely, is Mr. Mike's Viking Restaurant, an oasis tucked into the industrial landscape of Mt. Read Boulevard and Lexington Avenue, a noontime refuge for those working at Rochester Products, Eastman Kodak and elsewhere, and an evening enclave of generous potables, fine food and popular music.

We sampled last week from the Viking's lunch menu, a moderately priced carte of sandwiches, cold plates and platters. Our order included a robust bean soup, shrimp cocktail, the specialist de mison: the Tony sandwich (an agreeable concoction of grilled salami and mozzarella cheese), London broil and a delightfully buttery cheese cake.

Prices on the day menu range from 85 cents for a grilled

American cheese sandwich to \$3.75 for sirloin steak, potatoes and salad.

The Viking's decor is designed for leisurely dining. A vast wall of mirrors reflects the warm tones of carpet and table cloths under subdued lighting. And though it was clear last week that the servers were conscious of the limited time its patrons had for lunch, there was no evidence of bustle, but rather a well-choreographed pattern of providing drinks, foods and checks at the precise times they were needed.

Dieters will be pleased to note the menu also carries items specially prepared for the calorie conscious, and folks looking for low-priced, heartier meals will find a different special each day priced at \$2.35.

It is evident that thought is given to detail at the restaurant. Fresh water is present on the

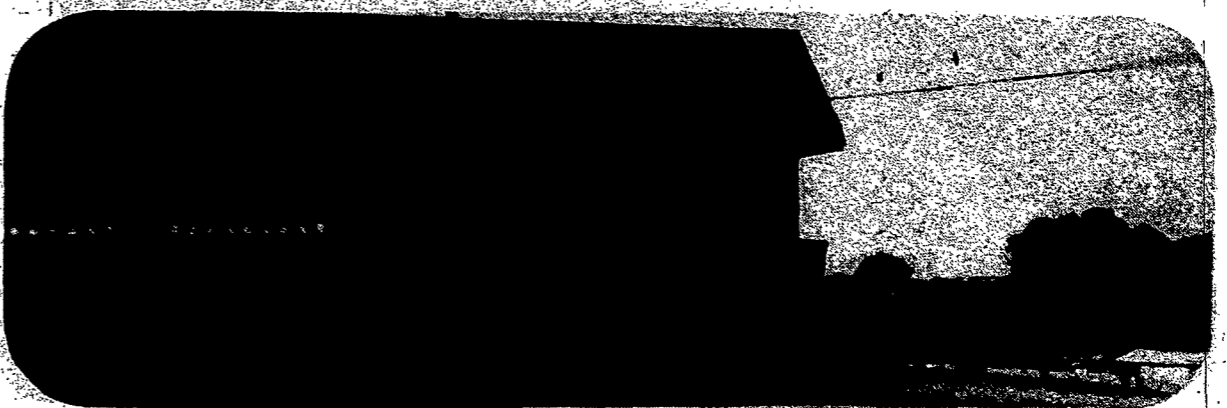


table: the moment one is seated, salad greens are dry and crisp, "garden fresh" as my guest noted; and the dressings are generous. I even found a lump of Roquefort cheese the size of the top of my thumb.

The bean soup, apparently Thursday's soup du jour, was splendidly porked and hearty, and the London broil was served exactly to my specifications.

That Tony sandwich, men-

tioned earlier, was a surprise. The simple combination of salami and mozzarella, nicely grilled, made for an unusual and tasty luncheon item.

Since I am a cheese cake aficionado, I closed the meal with that offering. The restaurant bills it as New York style, constructs it with a bit more egg, and includes butter in the recipe. The light, yet very creamy result is lathered with strawberries and is a splendid conclusion to a most

enjoyable lunch.

Other items which promise to bear sampling at a later date include the Viking's Knickerbocker sandwich and its open-faced Reuben.

Evenings at Viking feature the musical confections of Judey Dailey at the piano bar, Monday through Thursday. The Joe Miltsch Trio entertains patrons with popular music on Friday and Saturday.

## At Home With the Movies

**SCREAM, BLACULA, SCREAM** [1973]  
Wednesday, Aug. 28

When his charred bones, which were all that remained of him after the first Blacula film, are given the special voodoo treatment by an aspiring black necromancer, Blacula (William Marshall) rises from the dust to put the bite on all manner of brothers and sisters in Los Angeles.

But the mysterious Mr. B has bitten off more than he can chew when he encounters sexy Pam Grier. As the gal with "more natural power than anyone around," Ms. Grier is more than a match for the black Drac, who tries to force her into returning him through a voodoo ceremony to a more convenient state but

instead winds up on the wrong end of a voodoo pin-sticking spree.

The goin's-on are full of campy B-grade horror action, with fanged ghouls almost literally coming out of the woodwork at the eerie mansion where much of the action, including a gory climax, takes place.

A-III

**RED SKY AT MORNING** [1971]  
Wednesday, Aug. 28

Sailors take warning, or so the old sea-saw goes. Here, however, it should be changed to viewers take warning — unless, that is, they go for a mindless and raunchy portrait of an adolescent boy coming of age in wartime

New Mexico during WW II.

The callow kid is Richard Thomas, whose acting range is limited herein to three big gulps and gollies a minute. In between, he's trying to make friends with a Chicano punk (Dezi Arnaz, Jr.) who wants to beat him up, or putting the make on a plump school mate (Katherine Burns) who does some precocious groping of her own. And in between that, the boy's Naval-officer father (Richard Crenna) is killed at sea and his boozy mother (Claire Bloom) needs help fending off amorous "uncles." To round things out, this will probably be TV's all-time winner for blipped profanities — those teenagers, you see, are trying out a set of brand new cuss words.

A-III

**THE SECRET WORLD** [1969]  
Thursday, Aug. 29

A treehouse-centered world of an eleven-year-old boy is the secret world of the title, but is not the central interest of this French film.

Into Francois' secret world comes the beautiful mistress of his uncle. And it is the random consideration of the relationships between the uncle, his son, his wife, and his mistress — and the mistress' non-explicit, ambiguous relationship with Francois — that finally constitutes the film.

Since there are slight sexual overtones to the Francois-mistress relationship, we are surprised to discover in the end that what we have been watching

is a modified mother-son relationship, sought by Francois after he has lost his real mother in a car accident.

A-III

Editor's Note: The Catholic film office provides the following ratings: A-I, morally unobjectionable for general patronage; A-II, morally unobjectionable for adults and adolescents; A-III, morally unobjectionable for adults, with reservations (A rating for films, not morally offensive in themselves, but which require caution and some analysis and explanation as a protection to the uninformed against wrong interpretations and false conclusions); B, morally objectionable in part for all; C, condemned.

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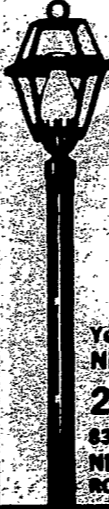
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