

## 518 West more than just downtown eatery

JONI SMITH  
Staff Writer

Most people love Italian food but get tired of Ragazzi's or Papa John's to fill their cravings. Here's the answer to those ruts. 518 West in downtown Raleigh is the place to go for a great dining experience.

This Italian cafe offers a captivating environment with food that will satisfy any appetite. The building that houses the restaurant is urban and chic, almost in the *avant garde, art nouveau* style of the early part of the twentieth century. Inside, the building is decorated with memorabilia from

Italy. The ceiling is painted to look like a clear blue sky, and the bar is adorned with two televisions and creatively designed barstools.

The food is first-class. The servers are very knowledgeable about all of their dishes and wines, offering the evening specials from the moment you arrive at your table. At the beginning of the meal, the server brings to the table a homemade loaf of bread with butter and olive oil. This warm delight is the perfect start to any meal.

In addition to the bread, appetizers such as foccacio with different dips, including

spinach and artichoke and sun-dried tomato, are a way to warm up your appetite.

A particularly exemplary dish is the lasagna, which is slightly different from other lasagnas. 518 West uses sausage in this meal instead of beef. The restaurant also uses a tomato sauce with the pasta that has a tangy taste.

Other dishes, like the chicken marsala, feature chicken with the pasta. Some feature vegetables with pasta. 518 West also has a wood-burning pizza oven for fresh pizzas with toppings other than pepperoni. A cappuccino bar adds a high-energy boost to the

decor.

Of course, there is the traditional spaghetti marinara or fettucini alfredo, but with so many other selections, don't start with the usual.

518 West features desserts such as cheesecake and cappuccino cake.

Located downtown beside 42nd Street Oyster Bar, this Italian cafe is in a great location. After eating at 518 West, you can walk to nearby shops to work off your Italian cuisine.

Prices at 518 West are not unreasonable; a couple can usually eat for not over \$25. Dress is casual, but you will often see people wearing suits

and dresses. Take heed, though, if you plan to drive to the restaurant and hope to find close parking. The restaurant has only a small lot behind it. If you arrive at peak times such as lunch time and dinner time, you may have trouble finding a place to park.

From Meredith, drive toward downtown on Hillsborough Street. Make a left turn onto Glenwood Avenue, and 518 West will be on the right side of the road. Turn right onto West Jones Street to get to the parking lot.

## Skeletons stay hidden in *Skulls*

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What would you do for \$20,000, a new car, pre-acceptance to the law school of your choice and full payment of your students loans? What wouldn't you do? Joshua Jackson, of *Dawson's Creek*, struggles with these issues and more in the recent Universal Pictures thriller *The Skulls*, directed by Rob Cohen.

Luke MacNamara, played by Jackson, is a quick-witted student at Yale and captain of the championship crew team, but he is a "townie." Without a family, he works in the school cafeteria to help pay for his tuition, yet the hourly wage isn't making much of a dent in what he owes already or could expect to pay for law school.

Enter *The Skulls*, one of the most secretive, elite and wealthy societies of male students at Yale. The *Skulls* purpose is to harvest these young men into what will eventually be the high society political class of the future. The society, run by the prominent judge Mandrake, seems to be the answer to all Macnamara's problems, if he is willing to accept the rules of the club and keep a part of life secret from his best friend and up and coming journalist Will (Hill Harper) and soon to be love interest, Chloe (Leslie Bibb from *Popular*).

Macnamara does accept and is "reborn" into the society. He

endures the sometimes painful but symbolic rituals as of membership, but also enters a new world as he enjoys all the kickbacks a society chaired by wealthy politicians could offer.

All seems to be going well as McNamara gets deeper and deeper into the organization, but the unexpected death of his friend will break him from his fog and he recognizes that there is reason *The Skulls* are so secretive and there is a high price to pay for his place among elites.

The movie has the potential to be a suspenseful thriller, but the so called "secrecy" of the club is so hard to believe when top figures like a US Senator and prominent judge orchestrate it all. Also, so many rumors circulated the campus about the society, it almost impossible that no one could succeed in uncovering the skeletons in this *Skull's* closet, including the cover-up of a

murder.

And how could these boys hide their affiliation with the group when each inductee is branded with the mark of a skull on the outside of his wrist. What do these young men's parents think when their boys drive in with a new \$40,000 sports car or when the jet off to weekends on a private estate?

As unconvincing as the secrecy of the society is, the movie still presents viewers with some intriguing questions. These societies do exist and have included many well known political figures in their membership. George Bush and George W. Bush have been rumored to be members of Yale's own real secret society, *Skull and Crossbones*. So, we must wonder if these real life organizations contain the type of corruption that belongs in a Hollywood film, or if it was all for the sake of the screen.

## DanceWorks 2000 showcases talent

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DanceWorks 2000, a showcase of student, faculty and guest choreography, premiered on Mar. 29 and 30 in Jones Auditorium. Admissions was free to members of the Meredith community.

"I really enjoyed this performance," said student Megan Harmeson. "And I think it is wonderful that Meredith gives us the opportunity to go to stuff like this without having to spend a lot of money."

Sophomore dance major Nancy Carter described DanceWorks 2000 as "a chance for all choreographers, experienced or not, to showcase their work."

Works by professors David Beadle and Dr. Sherry Shapiro,

students Missy Blackburn, Krystal Tyndall, Brianna Burrow, Virginia Hill and Jenny Bradley Lewis and guest choreographer Doug Verone were performed.

Lallie Harling thought, "It was an interesting recital, and the music was great, too. It was all very interpretive."

Since DanceWorks is not exclusively a Meredith Dance Theatre concert, volunteer dancers performed in most pieces. Some of the pieces were created in the Composition II class, and some of the pieces were created simply for the pleasure of the choreographer.

"I had always wanted to involve a jazz piece in a concert at Meredith. DanceWorks is more diverse than most MDT concerts and involves lots of different styles, so it gave me the opportunity to do it. I thought it was a great way to end my dance years at Meredith," said Blackburn, a senior.

"Basically, DanceWorks is an opportunity for us to share with the community what we do and love," said Carter. "We hope everyone enjoyed it."

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formed in Kresge Auditorium.

Junior Lisa Gilliam said that she really enjoyed the bands. "I thought Weekend Excursion was really good. I liked them so much that I bought the CD," she added.

There were not as many students in attendance as usual, but considering that Spring Fling had to be moved inside, MEA believed the attendance was good.

According to senior Kelly Tetterton, "Even though the rain could have been a potential disaster, it turned out to be a success, and everyone enjoyed it."

"We thought that it went really well. We were disappointed that it rained because we were really excited about having it outside, but we felt that it went well inside," said MEA Spring Fling Co-chairs

Hilary Allen and Wallis Kirby, juniors.

They explained that they would like to thank everyone who came out for Spring Fling and all of the members of MEA who helped.

"We were glad to be able to do this for the Meredith community; we were glad that we were able to bring in these great bands to Meredith," said Allen and Kirby.