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PERFECT on offers a delicious change of pace

BEN PILLOW Assistant Features Editor

The Gamecock

Fans of Greek and Italian food can get the best of both worlds for a reasonable price at Parthenon Restaurant and Pizza, located at 734 Harden St. in Five Points.

The restaurant, which specializes in Greek dishes and sandwiches but also delves into parmesan and pasta dinners, offers a welcome change from the average American cheeseburger and fries joint with its comfortable, laid-back atmosphere and variety of foods to choose from.

While you may not be able to pronounce every item on the menu (i.e. souvlaki, spanakopita, pastitsio and mousaka), a brief description comes with each listing to aid the Greek-ignorant customer, and for the stubborn there is always the chee

give the Parthenon a very homey and genuine atmosphere, enhanced further by my waiter's telling accent and tendency to add "yes" or "no" to the end of every sentence ("Everyzing is OK, yes").

The amount of food you get for the price is another reason for patronage. I have yet to finish a meel at Parthenon, and on this day a friend and I order a salad, one dinner, one sandwich, two drinks and a dessert for under \$14.

Listed right alongside with well-known Greek food like gyros and shiskebobs are Italian favorites including lasagna, ravioli and pasta with meathalls. For the multicultural, there is even Greek pizza available in three different sizes.

Different orders come with different side dishes, but nothing is set in stone at Parthenon. My burger deluxe for \$4.50. Comfortable, dark green booths and dim light filling her gyro with lamb, it is stuffed with rice.

Whether it is because Parthenon is in the South or not, seafood is also offered on the menu, including fried shrimp and fried scallops. And, while your stomach may not make it to dessert, it should not be forgotten. Baklava, rice pudding and cheesecake are all offered for under \$2.

While my age restricts me from giving a firsthand account of the beer and wine lists, there are six wines and 13 beers to choose from, including, of course, Greek beer.

With soft, Greek music playing in the background, relatively quick and friendly service, a calm, unhurried atmosphere and excellent foreign food in a college student's price range, Parthenon makes for a very enjoyable change from the Marriott food services.

Reiser says 'Bye' to love, hello to success

College Press Service

Things couldn't possibly get much better for Paul Reiser

The actor-comedian costars on "Mad About You," one of the nation's most popular television series. His recent book, "Couplehood," a humorous look at married life, spent weeks on the bestseller list. And now there's "Bye, Bye, Love," a highly anticipated comedy that teams him with Matthew Modine and Randy Quaid as three divorced best friends dealing as best they can with joint child custody, the single life and fathering.

In "Love," Reiser plays Donny, a decent guy who pends time with his buddies Dave (Modine) and Vic Quaid), pines for his ex- wife, has a rough time with his 14-year-old daughter and finds himself attracted to Susan (Amy Brenneman), Dave's ex.

"It was a really sweet role, and I certainly related to what this guy is going through. I myself am not di-vorced, but I've certainly had relationships that didn't work out. Who hasn't?" wonders a tired but friendly Reiser as he sits for an interview at the Four Seasons Hotel in Beverly Hills.

"I spent a lot of time in college staring at the window at this girl and then saw another guy's head walk by. I know what that's like," he said.

The New York City-born and -bred Reiser, who attended college at SUNY Binghamton, has high hopes for how "Love" will be received.

"Indications are that it will do well, but that's something that you can't gauge or put your heart into. You can only say This is a good script, has people I like, and it's a movie I'd like to see.' Is it going to be a \$100 million movie? Who knows? I'd certainly be thrilled if it was, and I'd hope not to be too disappointed if it's not."

For some reason, many people think "Love" marks



Twentieth Century Fox Paul Reiser stars in "Bye Bye, Love."

Reiser's film debut. Though it may be his highest-profile project and while it is his first movie since becoming a major TV star, he'd already appeared in "Diner," "Beverly Hills Cop I & II," "Aliens" and "Crazy Peo-

Not surprisingly, Reiser doesn't see "Love" as a tran-sition film from the TV screen to the movie screen.

"I don't view it like that, no," acknowledges the actor, who has also starred in the sitcom "My Two Dads" and just hosted the Grammy Awards. "I did movies before I ever did TV, and I've done films all along while Fve been doing TV. There are plenty of bad TV shows and plenty of bad movies. I think finding a good project is the priority. I'm thrilled that 'Mad About You' is fun to make, that it's good and that we're putting something good priority. I'm thrilled that Mad About

You' is fun to make, that it's good and that we're putting something good out there. Id rather do no movie than do a bad movie, just to say, 'Hey everybody, I'm in a big movie!"

Speaking of "Mad About You," the show recently marked its 70th episode, and the ratings have continued to climb. Audiences seem to relate to Paul and Jamie Buchman, played by Reiser and Helen Hunt, a very New York married couple leading a very New York married life, one full of love, laughs and little frustrations.

"Now that we're a top-10 show and we have a big audience, I want to take the audience on a ride," Reiser reveals. "I want to go a little deeper into the relationship. I want to shake it up a little bit and bring up more of the real things that happen to real people, and I want to make the show even funnier. We're in our third year, and we're contracted for five. So we'll definitely do five and perhaps more if we're still having fun and can keep up the quality."

So, for this actor, stand-up comedian, author, TV show producer and real-life husband, things are going pretty well, indeed.

Reiser smiles. "I don't think I had this image in my mind that anything was going to happen overnight, or that I particularly wanted it to happen," he said. "Some people want to be discovered quickly, and I think that's dangerous because you don't have the goods to deliver. The longer you can wait, the longer you can hone your craft and find out what you really want to do.

And based on where he is now and what he's learning from it, what's the next step for Reiser?

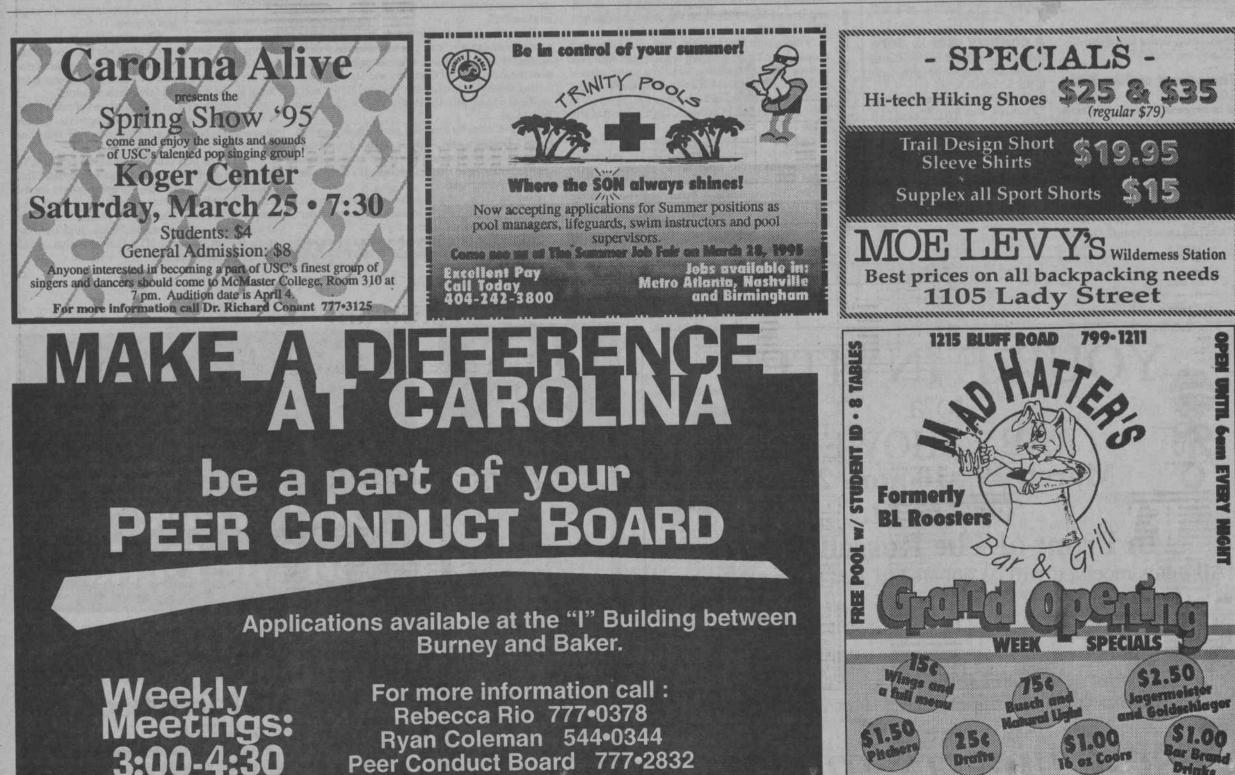
"I don't know," he admits. "Good question. Certainly, doing a few more years of 'Mad About You' is a priority. I don't have any real career plan."



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