

A taste of the middle east

by Colette Rethage
Collegian Staff

Oasis restaurant had its debut on Perry Square downtown on September 7 of this year. It is one of the most unique and beautifully decorated restaurants I have ever been to.

Owned and operated by M. Maher Rahabi, the Oasis is a great place to try because its menu consists mostly of mid-eastern foods. There are a wide variety of appetizers, soups, salads, sandwiches, platters, entrees, desserts, and beverages to choose from.

Appetizers include such things as Hummos, which are mashed chickpeas with Tahini (sesame seed base) sauce, flavored with lemon juice and garlic, and topped with olive oil, and Yabak, which is grape meat, rice, and spices, cooked in lemon juice and garlic. Or, maybe you like soup as an appetizer. The soup selections include Makhluta, a split lentil soup with seasoned ground beef and onions.

If you are a salad kind of person, you can choose from things such as Tabbooleh (a Lebanese style salad) which is parsley, tomato, cracked wheat, lemon juice, and olive oil, or you can go for the more conventional chicken, steak, or shrimp salad.

The sandwich selections include gyros, hamburgers, chicken, and pita melts along with such items as the Sujuk sandwich, which is slices of Armenian seasoned sausage with tomato and pickles in a grilled

sub, and the Falafel sandwich, which is a fried patty of ground chickpeas, herbs, and spices with diced tomatoes, lettuce and Tahini sauce with fresh mint rolled in pita bread.

The lunch platters include samples of the appetizers and salads. There is a vegetarian platter. The entrees include lamb, chicken, and beef kebobs served with rice, steak, lamb chops, shrimp, salmon and items such as mucjlooba, which is layers of eggplant, sirloin tips and rice topped with ground beef and roasted pine nuts, served with cucumber yogurt mint sauce. All entrees are served with salad and pita bread.

Some of the beverages include imported mango juice, Turkish coffee, espresso, and cappuccino.

The dessert menu boasts such sweets as Mabrunna, which is roasted pistachio nuts rolled into a sweet, twisted, shredded dough and baked, and Cheese Halawa, which is ricotta cheese stuffed into a cheese dough topped with ground pistachio nuts and syrup.

Eating at the Oasis was the first experience I had with middle-eastern foods. For an appetizer my friend Sarah and I tried the Fried Kibbch, which was cracked wheat and meat dough, stuffed with ground meat and onions served with cucumber sauce. It wasn't what we expected, but we liked it. I tried the Toshka sandwich for my main meal. It was seasoned ground meat topped with Basket Cheese, a thicker type of mozzarella cheese, all in a pita. It tasted like a really good

hamburger. My friend Sarah got the chicken-kebob sandwich, which was char-broiled marinated chicken cubes with grilled tomato and onion rolled in pita bread. She loved it!

The owner let us sample a new drink he was trying called Sparkling Rose. It was perhaps the weirdest drink we ever tried, but we liked it. It was pink and smelled sweet, but it tasted exactly how roses smell. That is the only way we can describe it.

For dessert we tried the Cheese Halawa, which was excellent, and the Maamool, which is baked soft dough filled with dates. It was very good, but very sweet.

Although small, the restaurant itself was beautifully decorated. The coloring is mostly teal green, and there is decorative unique artwork on the walls. Sarah particularly liked the camel tapestry, while I loved the crystal chandeliers.

This restaurant would be perfect for a first date, because there are lots of things about the restaurant to talk about. It is also great for those bored with the same old foods over and over again. Also, the prices are very reasonable. Dinner for two came to about fifteen dollars. So, if you're in the mood for something different, try the Oasis restaurant on Perry Square downtown. You won't be disappointed.

The Oasis is located on Perry Square in Downtown Erie.

A 'Burgh thing

by Eddie Edwards
Collegian Staff

Well, the semester is near its end and all you "Pittsburghers" will be looking for somewhere to hang out when you're at home. Well, if you're stuck for a place, just drive right down to the Boardwalk. The Boardwalk is located on Smallman Street in the Strip District. The exciting complex consists of Busters Crab, Donzi's night club and the Boardwalk.

Busters Crab is a very casual restaurant that specializes in seafood. The prices are very reasonable and the food is excellent. All of their fish and other seafood are brought in fresh daily.

Donzi's is also located in the Boardwalk complex. It is one of Pittsburgh's most popular night clubs. They feature top-forty music with a yuppy crowd. Drinks are served to you by waitresses who are dressed in

sailor uniforms to coordinate with the Boardwalk theme. Also, the decor of Donzi's is that of a ship/aquarium with a modern tone. It all fits together very nicely for a complete Boardwalk look.

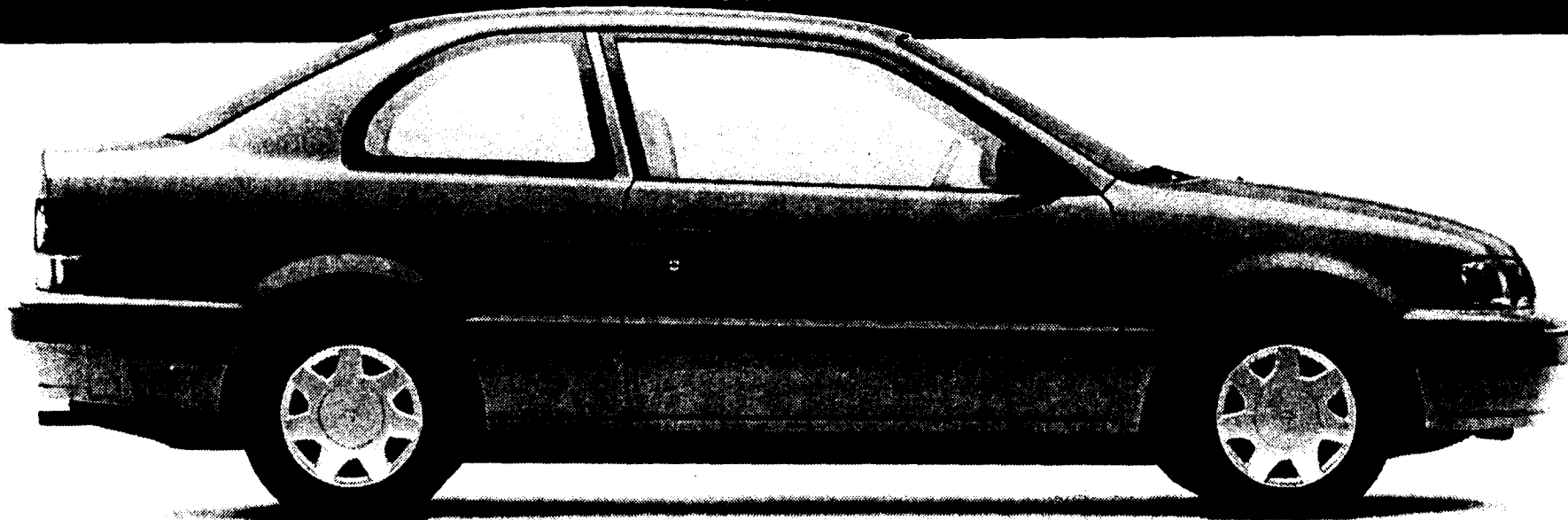
The final part of the complex is the Boardwalk bar. This bar is located inside and outside and is built on real wooden planks. They also play top-forty music. On nice summer nights boats can pull up to the complex, and its passengers may enter the club. This is an excellent touch for all of you boat goers.

Tom Barres, one of the owners of the complex, has done an excellent job in trying to liven up the Pittsburgh bar scene. He also promotes Pittsburgh's beautiful rivers by having his complex located on the riverside.

So if you're in doubt about what to do over X-mas break, just go right down to the Boardwalk.

Applications are being accepted for the Opinion editor position for the Spring '96 semester. They are due in the Collegian office on Monday, December 11. Thank you.

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