

The Times

TEEN TIMES

Columbia Cafe is an eatery to relish

By Carolyn Murphy
Captain Shreve junior

As the rich aroma of coffee drifts past my nose and lulling guitar music fills my ears, I open my eyes to an urban world of splendor that is Columbia Café.

Located in the historic Highland neighborhood, Columbia Café is a cosmopolitan eatery mixed with an art deco atmosphere. With its hardwood floors, cozy "church-pew" benches for seating and colored canopies hanging from the ceiling, customers always can be assured a feeling of relaxation accompanied with gourmet fare.

My dinner date and I chose the eatery on a Thursday evening with a fairly busy crowd. Waits for a table can vary up to an hour or a short two minutes. Any night can be the restaurant's busiest; it just depends upon the crowd.

Our first course was a light pan-seared duck breast with bok choy and a raspberry reduction sauce that was tangy, but with a fine kick. It was just enough to keep me wanting more and on the edge of my seat for our entrée.

While waiting for the next dish, I

noticed local celebrity, famed children's author/illustrator Bill Joyce. I couldn't help realize why Columbia Café was so appealing. Anyone can go there and just be himself. Whether

you are a nationally recognized author and illustrator or just a regular high school kid from Captain Shreve, everyone's equal.

After snapping myself out of my star-struck daze, I quickly noshed on my and my date's dinner — the 4-ounce filet for him and the

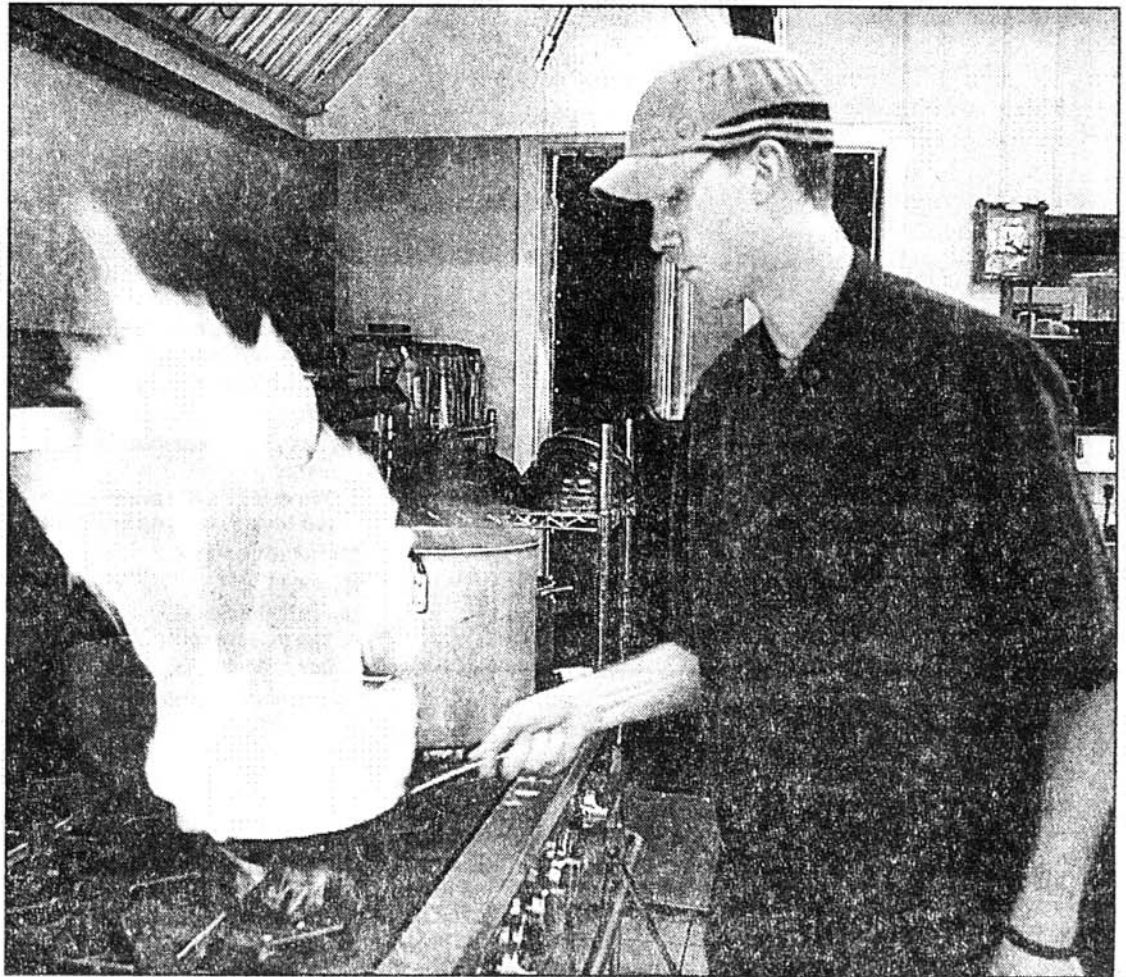
soft shell crab salad for me. I just couldn't help myself. Both were light and different. Each dish had something to offer that was unique in its own way.

Finally, it was time for dessert. I splurged on the Chocolate Marquis, Columbia's most popular dish, and his choice was the raspberry cheesecake.

The restaurant has found its niche in Shreveport. It's a superb eatery that offers something for everyone to enjoy and relish. I'll certainly be going back and feel it would be a perfect destination for a homecoming date. Maybe I'll see you there.

Entree prices range: \$11.95 to \$26.95.

Check, please!



Justin McDonell, sous chef at Columbia Cafe, prepares a meal on a recent Friday night.

Chesley Roberts/C.E. Byrd

Grade:
A+