

Buffet to feed late-night crowd

Grace Mattie
Staff Reporter

Move over, Pancake City, because soon students can walk downtown to get their late-night pancake fix.

Manhattan Buffet will open March 1 next to TP's Office, a bar, on the Square, and will serve a breakfast buffet between 12 and 4 a.m., owner Phil Biston said.

"I think that's the type of food people want at that time, especially when they're out," Biston said.

Biston, who rents out apartments in Kirksville through Heritage House Realty, said he decided to buy the building that was formerly Manhattan Restaurant when he bought the apartments above the building.

"I was always hoping to buy a restaurant," said Biston, who has not had any previous experience in the food business.

Biston said the former owners sold the building in 1999

when they retired after 57 years of service. He said he bought the building through his realty company last July. Biston said progress is so far so good.

Biston said he expects a younger crowd because of the business' late hours.

"I just don't think anyone over 40 is up past midnight," Biston said.

The buffet will feature pancakes, biscuits and gravy, eggs and hash browns for \$7 per person, including a drink and tax. Tips will not be necessary either because it is a buffet, he said.

TP's Office owner T.P. Faller said he does not think Manhattan Buffet will cut into Pancake City's business.

"Pancake City already has its own established crowd," Faller said.

Yet Faller said he thinks the restaurant will be a success, and he said he supports Biston in his business goals. He said he has known Biston for about five years,

since he met him at Gardner-Collier Jewelry.

"He's a stand-up, straight guy," Faller said. "He's just a good guy."

Faller said he also thinks the restaurant will benefit his bar.

"Anything you open in the Square benefits everyone one way or another," Faller said.

Biston also said he thinks the restaurant will be successful because of the targeted crowd.

"I've been hearing that it'll do pretty well, talking to college students," Biston said.

Biston said, however, that at the same time, he was skeptical to open the restaurant with all of the other restaurants coming to town, including Ruby Tuesday, Red Rooster and Hog Wild BBQ.

Biston said he named his new restaurant Manhattan Buffet to honor the name of the restaurant as it was before, Manhattan Restaurant. Because it is a familiar name, he would not think of changing it, he said.



Chris Waller/Index

The Manhattan Buffet, located on the Square, will offer a breakfast buffet between 12 and 4 a.m. Owner Phil Biston said he expects the restaurant's late hours to draw a younger crowd.

In terms of the idea of the restaurant, Biston said it was purely original.

"It was just one of those things that I thought up myself, and I have done all the work myself," Biston said.

Biston said he will be hiring for at least the next couple of weeks, as many people have

already expressed an interest in employment there.

"I'm just looking for people who are energetic and will work those late hours," Biston said. "It will be a fun place to work."

Biston said he has lived in Kirksville since 1989, and he is excited to contribute more to the city.

"I think it will be good for Kirksville because it's right in town, and that way people don't have to drive when they shouldn't be," Biston said.

At the restaurant's Web site, www.manhattanbuffet.com, potential customers can suggest menu items and also see pictures of its progress, Biston said.

Controversial flick will hit Downtown Cinema 8 soon

Erin Mitchell
Staff Reporter

Moviegoers wondering about the absence of "Brokeback Mountain" at the Downtown Cinema 8 no longer need to wonder.

Despite the rumors that the film had been banned from Kirksville, Jim Fitzpatrick, owner of Cinema 8, said the film will be released Feb. 3.

"We don't ban anything," Fitzpatrick said. "We try to get our hands on everything we can. I keep hearing people say that Kirksville won't play it because they don't like gays, but we brought 'Rent' into town."

"Brokeback Mountain" is about two men who work as ranch hands in the early 1960s, fall in love with each other and struggle with their feelings for the next 20 years while trying to live separate, normal lives with wives and children.

Ashley Stearns, a member of the field publicity team at Focus Features, said the film is a platform release that opened in the country's largest cities first.

"Certain films succeed through word of mouth," Stearns said.

She said "Brokeback Mountain" is similar to the movie "Million Dollar Baby" in that a film company slowly will release more and more copies as word of mouth spreads and the desire to see the film increases. As a result of the competition in the market, the movie would have been more likely to fail if Focus Features had released too many copies too soon, Stearns said.

Fitzpatrick said that generally Kirksville will not get a movie until about 2,200 copies have been released. "Brokeback Mountain" originally only released five copies. This number of releases has increased slowly, and currently about 1,196 copies are out.

He said it can cost the film company anywhere from \$2,100 to \$2,800 just to make a copy of the film. If the film company does not think it will generate

enough revenue, it will not be released here, Fitzpatrick said.

If a movie is not released when it first comes out, it usually would be available in video stores soon after, and the theater ceases playing them after that, Fitzpatrick said. However, films that are nominated for awards usually will play in theaters for a longer period of time before they are released on video, and Kirksville is more likely to receive a copy, he said.

Fitzpatrick said he works with B&B, a booking agency that works with the film companies to bring movies to Kirksville and other surrounding areas.

Movie listings can depend on the population and demographics of the town. Stearns said many factors determine where a film is released.

"That is just the way the industry

works," Fitzpatrick said. "There are certain kinds of movies that will do business in some towns more than others."

Fitzpatrick said a group of students came to the theater one day to complain that Cinema 8 didn't show enough movies with black actors in them. After the complaint, Fitzpatrick said he spoke to B&B in an effort to bring more diverse films to town. When the movies came to town, they did not generate much business and confirmed the film company's decision not to show certain films in the town because of demographics.

The only category of films that Cinema 8 does not show is NC-17 movies, Fitzpatrick said. When the pornography industry started using the X rating, the film industry introduced the NC-17 rating to differentiate between mainstream movies and pornography. However, when the first NC-17 movie was released, it was mildly pornographic, and the theater stopped showing any film that fell in this category, Fitzpatrick said.

"I have been in this business for over 25 years, and I have come to find that the mov-

ies the critics like are generally not movies that the public likes," Fitzpatrick said. "Some of these movies are real sleepers."

Some Truman students who saw "Brokeback Mountain" in other cities, however, seemed to concur with the critics.

"I thought that it was a truly amazing film," sophomore Meg Terranova said. "By the end of the movie, it seemed irrelevant whether or not the characters were gay because all you felt was their heartbreak."

Fitzpatrick said movies with controversial subjects such as "Brokeback Mountain" receive more attention because the film industry is trying to make that type of movie more acceptable in the public's eye.

"Brokeback Mountain" also won four Golden Globe awards.

"Limited release movies just don't draw very big business unless they get acclaim from the Academy or the Golden Globes," Fitzpatrick said. "We use this whole Golden Globes and Academy Awards to try to get some of these movies that don't do any business to get some business."

"There are certain kinds of movies that will do business in some towns more than others."

Jim Fitzpatrick
Owner of Downtown Cinema 8

Mainstreet Market

January 30th - February 3rd

Breakfast Special

Blueberry Pancakes with 3 Slices of Bacon
\$2.25

This Weeks Big City Eats Selections:

Mission District Chicken Burrito Bowl- \$5.29
Memphis Pulled Pork and Bean BBQ Wrap- \$2.59

Classic Line			
Monday		Thursday	
Carved Porkloin	\$2.75/\$4.05	Carved Roast Turkey	\$2.75/\$4.05
Beef Tips w/noodles	\$2.75/\$4.05	Chicken Parmesan w/pasta	\$3.05/\$4.35
Chipolte Lime Portobello	\$2.75/\$4.05	Sesame Tofu	\$2.75/\$4.05
Tuesday		Friday	
Carved Beef	\$2.75/\$4.05	Sizzling Salad Display	\$2.75/\$4.05
Chicken Lo Mein	\$2.75/\$4.05	Fettuccini Alfredo	\$2.50/\$3.75
Grilled Rubeen Sandwich	\$2.75/\$4.05	Breaded Fish Sandwich	\$2.75/\$4.05
Vegetable Rice Chimichanga	\$2.75/\$4.05	Carved Baked Ham	\$2.75/\$4.05
Wednesday		Blimpie Special	
Cilantro Chicken Breast	\$2.75/\$4.05	12" Blimpie Best Sandwich Combo	
Beef & Broccoli Stir Fry	\$3.05/\$4.35	\$5.99	
Vegetable Lasagna	\$2.75/\$4.05		

Tierra Del Sol Special - Taco Salad w/ 20 oz Soda
\$3.50

Jazzman's Special - Supreme Hot Chocolate
\$1.49

Freshens Special - Lg. Smoothie
\$4.09

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