

RESTAURANT REVIEW



The Ellicott Mills Brewing company brews their own beers, which customers can taste by ordering the sampler. - Courtesy photo

Beer soup brightens meal in Ellicott City

By Emily Campbell
Examiner Staff Writer

Hearing good rumors about a restaurant doesn't mean you'll have a good visit.

Such was my experience with the Ellicott Mills Brewing Company.

After hearing a couple of good things about the restaurant/bar from friends and colleagues, I decided to give it a try.

After a brief struggle over where we were going to sit — the upstairs dining room didn't have the lobster special, but the downstairs had noisy bar patrons — we decided on the upstairs and were seated immediately.

The crusty bread that came before our appetizer was soft and warm, served with softened butter. Our beer sample rack gave us just a taste of the home-brewed beers the Company has to offer. By far, the best was the Dunkel, a dark German beer with a caramel malt aroma. In the words of my date, it "tastes just like a candy bar."

But our coconut shrimp seemed as if the cook just decided to throw some shrimp on a plate without any type of garnish and dump some teriyaki sauce in a plastic cup. Although the presentation wasn't impressive, the shrimp were sweet, crunchy and fresh. However, the sweet-and-sour sauce was overly sweet when compared with the shredded coconut.

The soup of the day was a beer-and-cheese soup, which was by far the best food we ate all night. The steaming-hot soup was salty and cheesy. It was filled with shredded crab meat and mixed vegetables. We devoured the entire bowl, using some of the bread to sop up the leftover juice.

Our house salads came with juicy cucumber slices, cherry tomatoes and red cabbage, but they were so small we ate them in about four bites.

I ordered the blackened Black Angus, which was a 10-ounce cut of New York strip steak. It was pan-seared with Cajun spices and topped with a pepper cream sauce. The medium-rare steak — which I had ordered medium-well — was overly spiced, making for an extremely salty piece of meat. The combination of the hot Cajun spices and the slightly bitter pepper sauce was unpleasant. I ended up scraping most of the sauce off of the meat.

We left without the inspiration to try dessert.

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STANDING ROOM ONLY

» **Chevelle** performs with Finger Eleven and Strata at Rams Head Live, at 20 Market Place in Baltimore. Show starts at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$25. For more information, call 410-244-1131.

LISTENING POSTS

✓ **Yo Majesty, Rosetta Stoned and Ed Bones**
The Ottober, 2549 N. Howard St., Baltimore; 8 p.m.; \$8; 410-662-0069

Open Mic Night featuring Trash Camp
The Sidebar, 218 E. Lexington St., Baltimore; 8 p.m.; Free; 410-659-4130

New Orleans Social Club
The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St., Baltimore; 8 p.m.; \$25; 410-625-2000

Monday Night Jazz
The Melting Pot, 418 York Road, Towson; 10:30 p.m.; Free; 410-821-6358

DJ B-Eazy
Red Maple, 930 N. Charles St., Baltimore; 6 p.m.; Free; 410-547-0149

98 Rock's Noise in the Basement
Fletcher's, 701 S. Bond St., Baltimore; 8 p.m.; \$5; 410-558-1889

Kajun Kelley
O'Brien's Oyster Bar, 113 Main St., Annapolis; 9:30 p.m.; Free; 410-268-6288



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SOUNDS » FALL OUT BOY



The Fall Out Boys tour is back on track with a show at 6 tonight at Merriweather Post Pavilion. - Courtesy photo

It's all about the music

Fall Out Boy shrugs off tabloid fodder and just concentrates on the music

By Nancy Dunham
Examiner Correspondent

Fear not, fans of Fall Out Boy. The personal issues that delayed the band's tour were resolved and the band will play as slated.

"We wanted to put on the best possible show we could and knew that this extra couple of weeks would give us the time to put ourselves in the right place ..." bass player Pete Wentz said.

The Honda Civic Tour brings top artists to concert venues at moderate ticket prices. There's no doubt that "Infinity on High," Fall Out Boy's latest offering, has kept the already-popular band in high demand. It debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Top 200 album chart. But many critics spend more

IF YOU GO

Fall Out Boy with +44, The Academy Is ..., Paul Wall and Cobra Starship

» **Venue:** Merriweather Post Pavilion, 10475 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia

» **Time:** 6 tonight

» **Tickets:** \$35, general admission only; ticketmaster.com; 401-547-SEAT

ink on gossip about Wentz than on the band's music. That leaves the members metaphorically shaking their heads.

"I always admired musicians when they didn't talk that much about themselves but they talked about the music," said lead singer Patrick Stump, speaking of Motown legends. "If I had suspected getting publicity would [hinge on tabloid fodder] I would have ... led a more interesting life."

Don't let Stump fool you. His background as a drum-

mer, his commitment to perfecting his singing, and his poignant writing makes him plenty interesting. Stump, who writes the music to Wentz's lyrics, dismisses singular praise for the album, which many note has a haunting, nocturnal vibe.

"People go through an awkward stage and when they get older, they then finally get to a point of acceptance," Stump said. "Bands go through that. Some things we do are decidedly not hip but they are decidedly us. We are fine with that."

Such self-acceptance keeps the band covering Michael Jackson's song "Beat It." They also named one of their songs "Thriller" as a way to pay homage to the King of Pop. Definitely not cool in some circles.

"Thriller" legitimized pop as an art form. It's easy to get snooty about it, but that is a nearly perfect album," Stump said. "Playing 'Beat It' is one of my favorite parts of the night. The history of it, knowing that everyone in the auditorium knows that song. It's amazing."

DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT

FILM

The Charles Theatre presents "Censored Film Series: Female Trouble" — 7 p.m.
Charles Theatre, 1711 N. Charles St., Baltimore; \$6 to \$8; 410-727-3456

EXHIBIT

In a New Light: Finding New Ways to Illuminate History — 6 p.m.
Carroll Mansion, 800 E. Lombard St., Baltimore; \$100 to \$500; 410-605-2964

Landscapes and Nature: A View from Maryland — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
James Backus Gallery, 175 W. Ostend St., Baltimore; Free; 410-767-6555

BOOK TALK

'THE WAY THE CROW FLIES'

Book discussion group: "The Way the Crow Flies" by Ann-Marie MacDonald — 1 p.m.
Bel Air Library, 100 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Bel Air; Free; 410-638-3151