

Chowdown returns:

Rice Factory serves dishes Punjabi style

E.P. Curean

Maybe it had something to do with the Beatles. Perhaps returning British colonial soldiers found India's spices just the tonic their sorely tested palates needed. And some praise must go to the Federal Government for an enlightened immigration policy allowing Indian doctors, engineers bus drivers and COOKS into Canada.

And lest anyone think Indian food is strictly for those with asbestos lined mouths, *The Indian Rice Factory* at 414 Dupont Street, 3 blocks west of the Dupont subway stop, will prove them wrong.

The cooking at this restaurant tends toward the Punjabi, although the charming and helpful *maitresse d'* has been known to hitch up her sari and prepare some dishes using coconut and cinnamon and other ingredients more commonly used in south Indian

cooking.

For starters, Samosa would be a good idea. This \$1.25 appetizer is a curried turnover stuffed with either minced beef or vegetables. Pakoras, at \$1.75, are deep-fried vegetable fritters. A more unusual appetizer is Dahi Bhalla, ground bean dumplings soaked in yogurt, also \$1.75

The aptly named, for students and other hard up types, "Poor House Specials" each cost \$4.75. There's beef, chicken or vegetable rotis. Each is a freshly baked flat bread onto which meat or vegetables is ladled. Also at \$4.75 is Poori Bhaji, two deep fried breads onto which are ladled seasoned vegetables.

A couple of old favorites, Chicken curry and Beef curry also appear on the Rice Factory's menu, although at \$5.75 each they appear a bit out of the range of strapped students.

Cheaper, and more appealing, are the Rice Factory's desserts.



They range from Laddoo to Gulab-Jamun to rice pudding to fancy cakes. The fancy cakes you can buy at Beckers; the rice puddings you can't. Each costs 80¢.

A cold dish of rice pudding doesn't sound too appetizing, unless its been prepared with a mixture of grated coconut, raisins, and someone's deft touch with the cinnamon shaker.

Unfortunately the Rice Factory does not yet have a liquor licence, so tea (naturally) is the strongest

drink on the menu. It costs \$1.00 and coffee costs 75¢.

The sweetest drinks on the menu are Lassi, a sweetened beverage made with yogurt, and a Mango shake, for \$1.25 and \$1.75 respectively.

The Indian Rice Factory has just moved into its present Dupont Street location and the night *Excalibur* visited patrons were few. That ought to change fast, so don't be put off.

The restaurant is open 7 days a week until 11.00 p.m.

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