

# Wicker Basket restaurant opens; to serve University community

by Gina DiBlasio

The Wicker Basket, YSU's new public restaurant, "is what this University has needed for a long time" according to various students, faculty, administrators and staff who appeared at the restaurant's opening in Kilcawley Center yesterday.

Phil Hirsch, director of Kilcawley, commented, "We wanted to provide a place where the University community could come and dine in a pleasant atmosphere with good food at reasonable prices." Hirsch has been working on the total remodeling of the old section of Kilcawley for two and a half years.

The Wicker Basket offers a varied menu as well as an attractive decor and serves from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. five days a week. The \$1.95 buffet luncheon which is featured, includes a bowl of soup, an entree, a potato, a vegetable and a visit to the salad bar. For \$1.25, someone can order only the salad bar which

includes various trimmings or a third option is to select from the limited menu which offers various sandwich plates, all under \$2.00. Dessert and beverages are extra.

Square wooden tables with wicker and wood chairs rest upon the vivid blue and brown carpeting. Smaller tables for two line the rear of the restaurant and silver and glass light fixtures illuminate the room. "A buffet table, which

should arrive any day, will be placed in the center of the room," Hirsch said.

"We've worked on the total design structure, and we're sort of proud of that," said Kerry Forbes, YSU interior designer. "We coordinated everything from the menu covers to the waitresses uniforms to the napkins." Forbes said that he has been involved

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with the project for a year and a half and that the project has run very smoothly.

"We were fortunate to have a lot of interaction and cooperation from the students and staff and we're fortunate to do what we did considering the small budget we had to operate on," he added. Forbes, noted that he and his staff still have some finishing touches to complete which will be taken care of within the next two weeks.

Hirsch said that Tom Kirk, from the firm of Damon, Worley, Kady, and Kirk, was the architect hired by YSU to design the

entire remodeling project and that Bill Haines, a YSU architect who worked with Hirsch in the whole remodeling project, "has been invaluable."

Hirsch noted that reactions to the new restaurant have been favorable thus far, and several interviewees who attended the opening of The Wicker Basket seemed to reflect this.

"This place adds class to campus," said Gerald Parks, junior, business.

"If the food matches the decor, then it's great!" said Tony Ignazio, housing, who had not yet eaten lunch.

"I really like the interior, and the food's not bad," said Tom Jones, chairman for Major Events, adding, "It beats the hell out of Hardees."