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# Beer, sandwich and naked Zappa at Lovin' Cup in Henrietta

KAREN MILTNER • STAFF WRITER • JANUARY 22, 2009

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Dang, it's been a long, long time since I've been able to afford a beer on this beat.

So you can imagine how utterly, pleasantly cathartic it was to order a nice cold one, sip it with a hot sandwich and chips *and* stay on budget. More or less. I did add a side to quell that nagging inner voice of my mom's telling me to eat some veggies, and that set me over 75 cents.

But considering all this *and* live music were part of the deal, well then, dear readers, we're talking bona fide, tasty, foot-tapping, thirst-quenching bang for the buck.

Lovin' Cup is part coffee house, part cafe, part nightclub with a slightly earlier bedtime for its 50-50 boomer-student customer base that should remind East End culture vultures of the café at Little Theatre with a deliberate overlay of hippydom décor.

Take, for example, that photo of a naked Frank Zappa on the can, identifying the men's room.

Or the curiously complex, stream-of-consciousness wine rack/sculpture that sets the mood as you're ordering wine or beer at the bar.

And I had to blink twice when I came upon two strange beer-filled vessels.

"Is that a beer bong?" I ask the guy whose feet rested on the coffee table, next to said tower of draft suds with ice-filled inner tube for temperature control.

"No, this isn't Amsterdam. Unfortunately," he says. "I think they call it a beer tube."

Yes, that's the politically correct name, co-owner Erik Ward tells me. Incidentally, his brother Chris made the wine rack and many of the tables

The rest of Lovin' Cup is equally artsy and inviting, with regular tables, bar tables, booths and couches for slouches. The menu, a trivia quiz of pop song titles, offers a slightly higher pedigree of pub grub, with appetizer wraps, hot and cold sandwiches, salads, pizzas and some daily burger and sandwich specials.

There is a terrific selection of draft and bottled beers, a good array of wines, sodas and juices, and, of course, black buzz in whatever form you want it: latte, cappuccino or straight up.

It was the first time in Rochester that I noticed grilled cheese sandwiches getting their own section, so I ordered Robot Rock, which is much more harmonious than the metallic Daft Punk tune it's named for. A dill spear and lots of chips came with it, and I added a crunchy bowl of marinated vegetables that was neither too vinegary nor oily but just right. Then I washed it down with a Kölsch made by Rohrbach Brewing Co. and let it digest while listening to the jazz trio version of The White Hots.

Lovin, indeed.

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### Karen Miltner

Karen Miltner has been the staff food writer for the Democrat and Chronicle since 2000. She lives in Irondequoit.



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**What I ate:** "Robot Rock" grilled cheese sandwich (prosciutto, goat cheese, escarole and fig) with potato chips and pickle for \$5.99, side of marinated veggies for \$1.25, draft beer for \$3.50.

**Other good deals:** Wraps are \$6.29, pizzas \$7.99 to \$8.99.

### LOVIN' CUP

**Address:** 300 Park Point Drive, Suite 101, Henrietta.

**Phone:** (585) 292-9940.

**Web:** [www.lovincup.com](#).

**Hours:** 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday, 10 a.m. to midnight Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday.

**Accessibility:** Fully wheelchair accessible.

**Good to know:** Breakfast available until 11 a.m. There is some form of live entertainment nearly every night, from trivia games and open mike to musical acts Wednesday through Saturday. Check the Web site for complete schedule.

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