

September 1, 2006

### **Restaurant welcome**

New Spice chef **Marvin Woods**, his pastry chef **Cynthia Long**, Aria's **Gerry Klaskala**, Rathbun's **Kevin Rathbun**, Mitra's **Gerardo Ramos** and Shaun's **Shaun Doty** presided over a sold-out restaurant as they combined whisks Tuesday night. The star wattage in the kitchen created a one-of-a-kind, five-course meal to benefit Project Open Hand and to welcome Woods to Atlanta. And while we wish we could report some ego-ignited dish from the kitchen, the culinary all-stars were disgustingly pleasant with each other (they even donned bandannas in an affectionate salute to Turner South personality Woods' trademark headgear).

Downstairs, we ran into Buckhead Beef Co. co-founders and veteran charitable fund-raisers **Howard and Lynne Halpern**, who graced us with a business card touting their new venture, Halperns', the couple's new steak and seafood company. We also joked with **Lynne Halpern** about the T-shirt we most covet. The garments, spotted around town this summer, announced the formation of the couple's Jewish Theatre of the South Lynne and Howard Halpern Drama Camp. The front simply reads: "A Little Drama Never Hurt Anyone." Unless you're one of the two people who have yet to work on a fund-raiser with Lynne Halpern, chances are excellent that you just took a header into your bowl of Post Toasties... .