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GATEWAY SHOPPING CENTER

Downtown eateries — from fast food to gourmet

To the inexperienced palate, Lincoln's myriad of restaurants presents a confusing and often complex series of eating options.

There are dozens of restaurants within walking distance of UNL. But a few gems stand out as the best choices for lunch.

A savory Philadelphia steak sandwich at the Chartreuse Caboose, 1321 O St., is a favorite of Lincoln lunchers. Any weekday around noon a small horde of the city's business women and men and students line up for one of the best sandwich buys in town. The line usually moves along briskly, and you can watch the cooks fry the chopped steak while you wait. The basic steak

Maxwell's make good eating for a quick breakfast. For lunch, the \$1.50 ham and cheese croissant is an equally fast and inexpensive lunch. Maxwell's bakes a "quiche-of-the-day" that has never disappointed me. The plain cheese quiche costs \$1.65. Quiche with added meat of vegetables usually costs \$1.85.

Closer to home, the Colonial Room on the main floor in the Nebraska Union offers an overwhelming salad, sandwich and soup bar, all you can eat for \$3.95. After changing its food format to become a serve yourself buffet, the professors and administrators who loyally patronized the Colonial Room before, were joined by students and the rest of the hungry masses.



sandwich, with onions and a French roll, costs \$2.70. Add cheese, peppers and mushrooms at an extra 29 cents each. And, for a mere 65 cents, the Chartreuse Caboose sells an incredibly large portion of "tuxedo taters."

About a block away from the Caboose, at 112 N. 14th St., George's Greek Gyros creates a gyro worthy of the gods at a very reasonable price. The sandwich consists of spicy slices of hot mutton, onions, tomatoes and a heap of seasoned sour cream sauce piled on top of a fresh piece of pita bread. The sandwich alone costs \$2.35. The plate, which includes a larger sandwich, two tasty black olives, two or three fried potato slices and a hunk of mind-boggling feta cheese, costs \$2.80. The atmosphere is homey and I've never encountered a long wait at George's.

If you're ever walking the streets at night you may catch a whiff of baking bread and doughnuts. That would be Maxwell's French Bakery. The pastry chef at Maxwell's may well have put more weight on the thighs of Lincoln's hungry gourmets than all six McDonald's in town.

The croissants, roll s and bread at

Quickly dispensing Lincoln's dining gems, I'd like to fill in with some fast food places.

Taco Inn, 1245 R St., offers very close, very fast, low-cost generic Mexican food.

Tommy's at 1229 R St. is a combination video palace-fast food joint. Some people claim the sandwiches at Tommy's are good. These same people play video games there.

The Runza Drive-Inn, located in the Gunny's complex at 13th and Q streets, has good hamburgers and fine runzas at affordable prices.

If you are new in town and you get a Big Mac attack, the nearest McDonald's is on 14th and O streets.

The list goes on and on. The downtown economy depends a great deal on the exchange of money for food. You could eat at two or three different places a week all semester and not hit them all. There are very few eateries in Lincoln that serve inedible gut-bombs, so it is safe to be adventurous. money for food. You could eat at two or three different places a week all semester and not hit them all. There are very few eateries in Lincoln that serve inedible gut-bombs, so it is safe to be adventurous.

If you have any entertainment-related questions, or ideas for stories, feel free to write or call Chris Welsch, or Jeff Goodwin, who shares this column, at 34 Nebraska Union, 472-2588.



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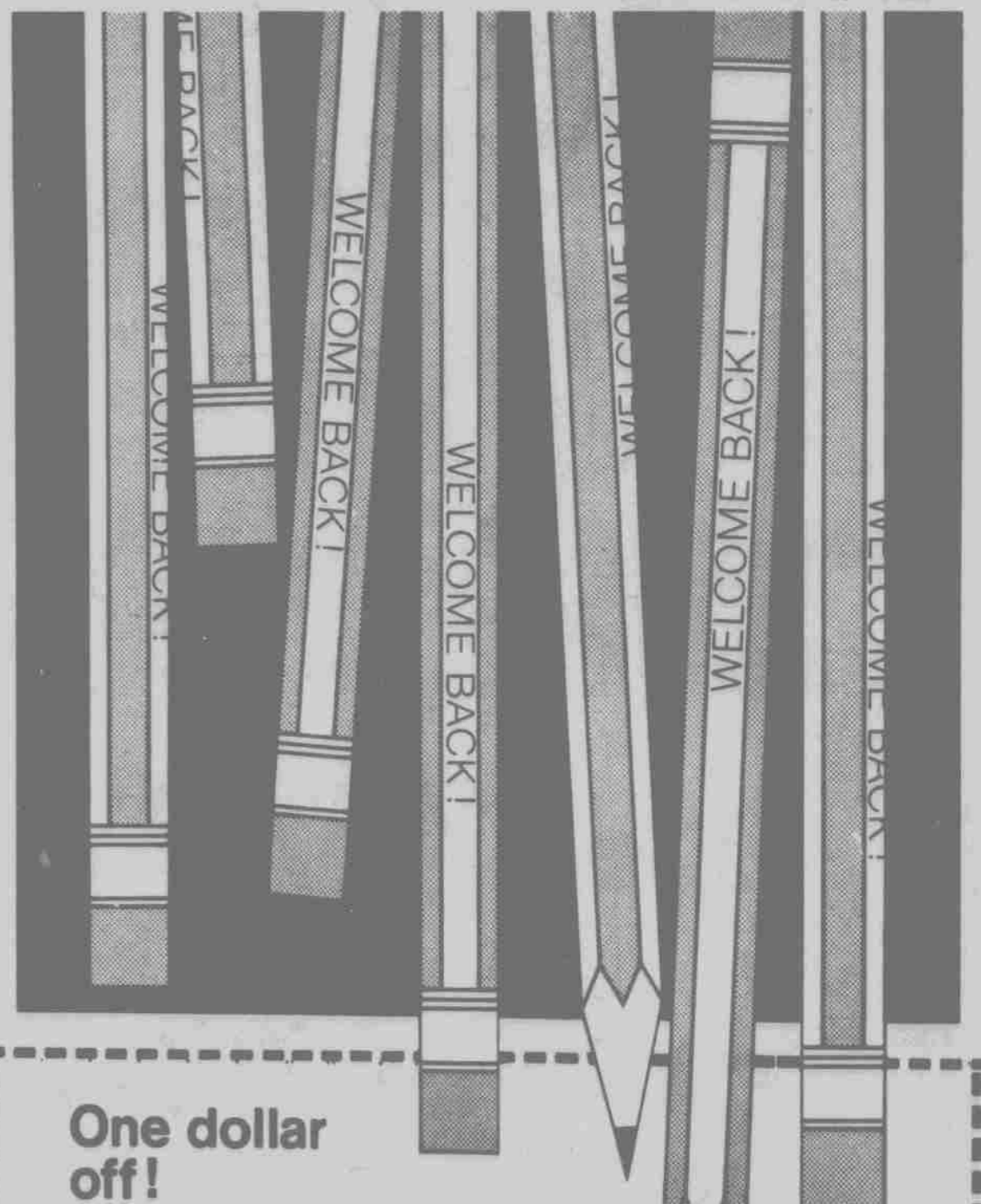
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