



Ron Alberison and Troy Phipps/Daily Nebraskan

Flakey Jakes puts diners in control

By Ad Hudler
Night News Editor

You're the boss at Flakey Jakes. Lincoln's newest burger bonanza puts the power in your hands. You decide what you want on your hamburger — how much or how little. Overdone? Medium rare? You decide. Do you seek extra cheese? Again, your decision.

Jake's "Medicine Shop" — complete with a big screen television. You'll feel like you're cruising the Lucky Lady, only there's no cologne or baby sitters in the bathrooms. Flakey Jakes makes a very weak drink. We had to ask the bartender if he served us virgin margaritas instead of the 99-cent margaritas (special for the night) that we ordered. Jakes decor cannot be described. It must be experienced. Neon signs. Plastic Pizza Hut-type checkered table clothes. Director's chairs. And salt and pepper shakers made from original Kerr canning jars.

In one word? Electric. Jake definitely has an identity crisis. It apparently wants to convey a down-home, old-fashioned looking restaurant. Instead, the atmosphere confuses the diner. I couldn't grasp the connection between the Spanish architecture and the empty beer cartons — used for decor — lying beside the front door. Officials at Flakey Jakes consider the restaurant a "middle of the road" place that caters to a varied crowd, Tatum said.

And expect to see a large crowd when you go. The lines look long, but don't despair. Folks at Jakes are friendly and fast. You'll be seated and eating in no time. If things slow down, you can

watch the two bakers, dressed like Pillsbury Dough Boys, in the kitchen. **ALL SUMMED UP:** Jakes has good but relatively expensive food. Expect to spend about \$8 for two people, but expect some good food. Flakey Jakes is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

REVIEW DINING

No doubt about it, you're in charge at Flakey Jakes, home of "America's best burger," as the menus and advertisements boast. Opened earlier this month at 6100 O St., west of the Gateway Shopping Mall, Jakes offers the Lincoln diner something different: expensive fast food. John Tatum, area supervisor for Flakey Jakes, says customers pay for the freshness when they fork over \$4 or \$5 for a modest meal at this Seattle-based chain restaurant.

The diner must ask: "Is this freshness worth my precious, sweat-stained bucks?" This diner says yes. Check Flakey Jakes out. It's worth the 15-minute drive out to Gateway, and it's worth the money, at least for your first visit.

Cooks at Jakes prepare everything fresh. They make their hamburger buns on-the-spot — extremely soft and lightly grilled with butter just before they're served to you.

Jakes even grinds and patties its own hamburger.

Looking for more? Then grab your burger and head over the the condiments bar, complete with all the fixings. Tomatoes onions, lettuce, a great, tangy blue cheese sauce, . . . The list is endless. Your burger just can't hold everything Jakes offers.

Be sure to check out the three runny, nacho-type cheeses that await your steaming beef patty.

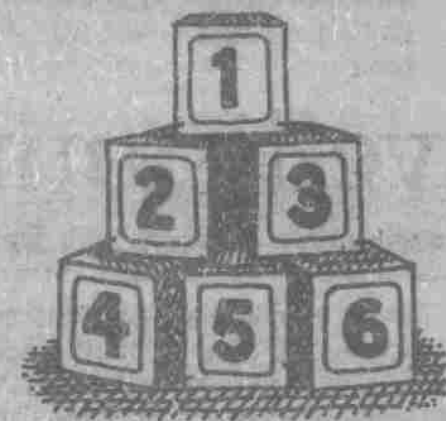
Tatum said a burger from Flakey Jakes is "America's best-built burger because you build it yourself."

The best-built, maybe, but does Jakes have the tastiest patty in the country? Possibly. It's easy for a company like Flakey Jakes to make such a claim, because who can honestly say they've eaten at every burger bar in the country? Nonetheless, Jakes burgers are good. Very good.

Flakey Jakes offers a little bit of everything. Their 1/4-pound burger (\$3.49) is delicious. It's not greasy or overly heavy. Jakes also features steak dinners, hotdogs, baked potatoes and a fantastic chicken sandwich (\$3.45) that is made from honest-to-goodness real chicken, not a mystery meat patty you generally get at other fast food places.

Flakey Jakes is built like no other restaurant in town. It's big and confusing — so confusing that they have to give you a map of the place when you walk inside. Jakes sells its burgers at one bar, its milkshakes, cookies and delicious, moist brownies at another.

And if you're looking for some alcoholic refreshment, you'll find it at



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April 14 3:00 pm

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Kimball Hall 11th & R University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Purchase Kimball Box Office (Mon-Fri, 11am-5pm) tickets at: Room 113 Westbrock Music Bldg., 11th & R 472-3375
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Bevel, Life of Johnson (1773)

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ASHOPHILIA

Bouhaus
Shadow of Light

England's most revered cult band performs "Bela Lugosi's Dead" and more. Filmed in London. 45 min

Tues. & Wed. 10:45 a.m.
Thurs. 7:45 p.m.

Careers

Camille Lavington of Lavington, Ltd. talks about matching your style to the company you work for. 15 min

Tues. & Wed. 11:00 a.m.
Thurs. 8:00 p.m.

Adult Cartoons

The Birth of TV Toons

A special surprise package of cartoons from the early years of television. 30 min

Tues. & Wed. 11:30 a.m.
Thurs. 8:30 p.m.

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1961 (Part I)

Kennedy elected. Taylor/Burton romance. Russian in space. Kennedy meets Khrushchev. 30 min

Tues. & Wed. 12:00 p.m.
Thurs. 9:00 p.m.

Host Meg Griffin delivers the best in new music videos. Includes #1 club video, top ten countdown, special guests and more. 60 min

GROOVES

Tues. & Wed. 1:00 p.m.
Thurs. 10:00 p.m.

JUMP START AND VARIASE

"Jump Start" from Tim Roper at Univ. of Texas, Austin and from Points Park College, Pa. "Variase". 30 min

Tues. & Wed. 1:30 p.m.
Thurs. 10:30 p.m.

REAL TO

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A former soldier's experience as a participant in the U.S. open air atom bomb test. 30 min

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TODAY'S CHEVROLET