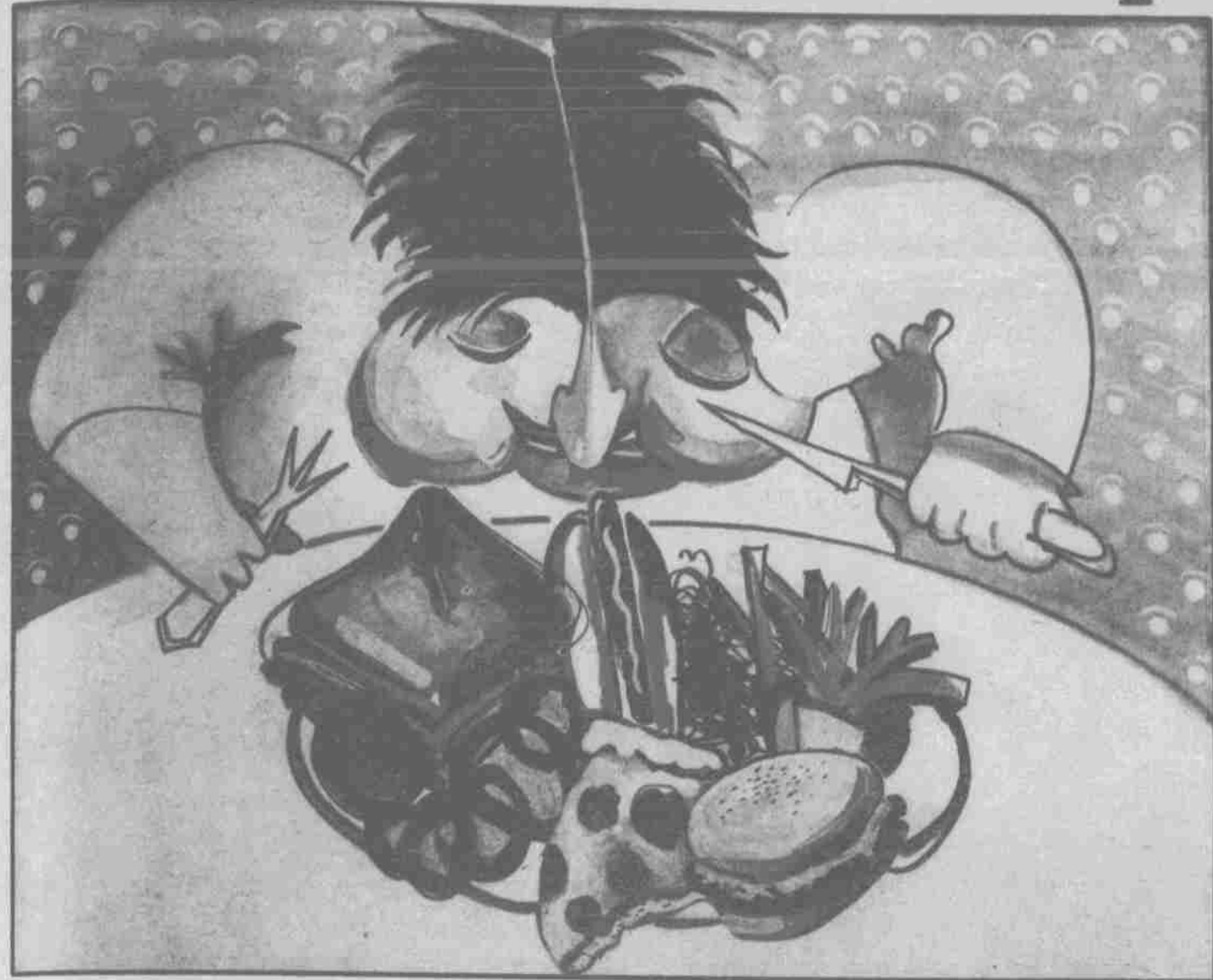


Poor student chows cheap



Art by David Shultz/Daily Nebraskan

By Bill Allen
Arts and Entertainment Editor

I'm not the regular dining reviewer. As a matter of fact, those guys won't go into the places where I eat.

Being the archetypical poor college student, I know the places in Lincoln where a person can get a good, filling meal for a reasonable price. I also know where you can go if you only have a few dollars and can only afford to eat once a day, if that often.

REVIEW D-I-N-I-N-G

Of course, I'm a little too good at food bargain hunting, which explains why I'm also trying to lose weight, but that's another story.

Anyway here's a top 10 list of cheap eats, or how to survive on a student's budget in Lincoln. The list is not in any particular order. They're all good.

1. First of all, the best bargains by far are prepared in your apartment or home. Since enrolling in college I've lived in a fraternity, the residence halls and my own apartment, so I know the best place to eat is at home with food bought from the grocery store. I've eaten for a whole week on \$10 worth of groceries (beer not included). You can make a tuna casserole for about \$2 to \$3 that will last for several meals. Eggs, or a pound of hamburger go a long way.

Just thought I'd throw that in there. I doubt it will make the restaurant owners happy.

However, you can't usually cook in the residence halls and sometimes the food might not appeal to those of us who walk on two legs.

2. Valentino's buffet is a great bargain. For under \$5 you get pizza, pasta, a salad bar and good service. It's all you can eat and it fills you up. The buffet is served 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday and Sunday. Val's is especially popular with the on-campus crowd because meals aren't always served on Sundays.

3. Dinsdales, 1228 P St., offers a fine all-you-can-eat luncheon buffet for \$3.99. It includes baked potatoes . . . really.

4. I'm skipping fast food for the most part. I'm just trying to offer some reasonable opportunities for those times when you get tired of eating fast food six times a week. It took me three years to get tired of it, so be patient with yourself. Still, I will include all fast food in number 4.

5. Rocky Roccoco's offers coupons in our humble publication. Currently still good from this summer are their "buy one get one free coupon," and the "any slice for 99 cents coupon." The pizza is filling, and with the coupons it goes from reasonable to cheap. I'm a big eater and am easily filled by two slices.

6. For the fancier pants among you, let me suggest the Ming Palace lun-

cheon menu. The Palace, 1309 L St., offers complete lunches including the entree, an egg roll, soup and hot tea for as little as \$2.95. My favorite is the pepper steak for \$3.45. It's tasty, filling and doesn't weigh you down. They also have a fine dinner menu, but while its prices are reasonable for Chinese food in Lincoln, I can't really call it a bargain.

7. If you like hot dogs, I recommend W.C. Franks' Tuesday night special, 1320 Q St. For \$2.60 you get all the footlongs you can eat, a bag of chips and a small drink. Plus you can get any topping you want on all those footlongs you can eat. This paper did a story on this special last year. Our photographer, Mark Davis, ate 10 footlongs. But he threw up.

8. Spaghetti Works, 228 N. 12th St., is a great place to get filled up for a few dollars. They have meals starting for as little as \$3.69, and you can keep getting refills on all sauces. Also, the atmosphere and food are excellent. It's a great place to take a date if you are on a tight budget.

9. For an inexpensive place to eat, try Schusters' IGA Deli at 27th and Holdrege streets. For \$1.69 you can get a three-piece chicken dinner, with fries, a salad and roll. For under \$2, it's unbeatable. They also have other daily specials for less money.

10. Taco Inn, 1245 R St., maybe should have been included in fast food, which means it would be in number 4 above, but I decided to add it here anyway. People make jokes about the place, but it is obviously popular on

campus and it is a bargain. Two tacos, a bean enchilada and a large Coke (my usual order) costs only \$2.99.

If you know of an exceptional bargain that didn't make my list, let me know. I'm always looking for a cheap place to eat and a reason to stay out of the kitchen. I hope this list will give you some bargain hunting ideas, and many of the places also offer top quality appetite pleasers.

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