

For upwardly mobile Mexican: Julio's

By Charles Lieurance
Senior Editor

The results of Lincoln's attempts to rejuvenate its downtown area in the image of other redeveloped yuppie-friendly cities like Denver and Minneapolis are obvious to most everyone by now.

Dining Review

Although the redevelopment is in its first stages, the new Victorian marquee on the Stuart Theater, the revamped building facades around 12th and O streets, and the towering cranes that hover above the Lied Center construction site, are reminders that the city is changing from an often deserted downtown to an expensive neon-lit haven for the upwardly mobile.

And now Julio's adds to that environment.

Although Lincoln has no shortage of fine Americanized Mexican restaurants, Julio's is a welcome addition to the downtown area.

The portions are more than generous — huge mounds of nachos smothered in cheese, beans and beef, and regular

meals that would stuff even a person who thinks ethnic food is for sissies.

The food is a respectable mixture of American bland palatability, and the exotic flair and presentation any ethnic food must have to give the illusion, often erroneous, that you are eating something you couldn't possibly prepare at home.

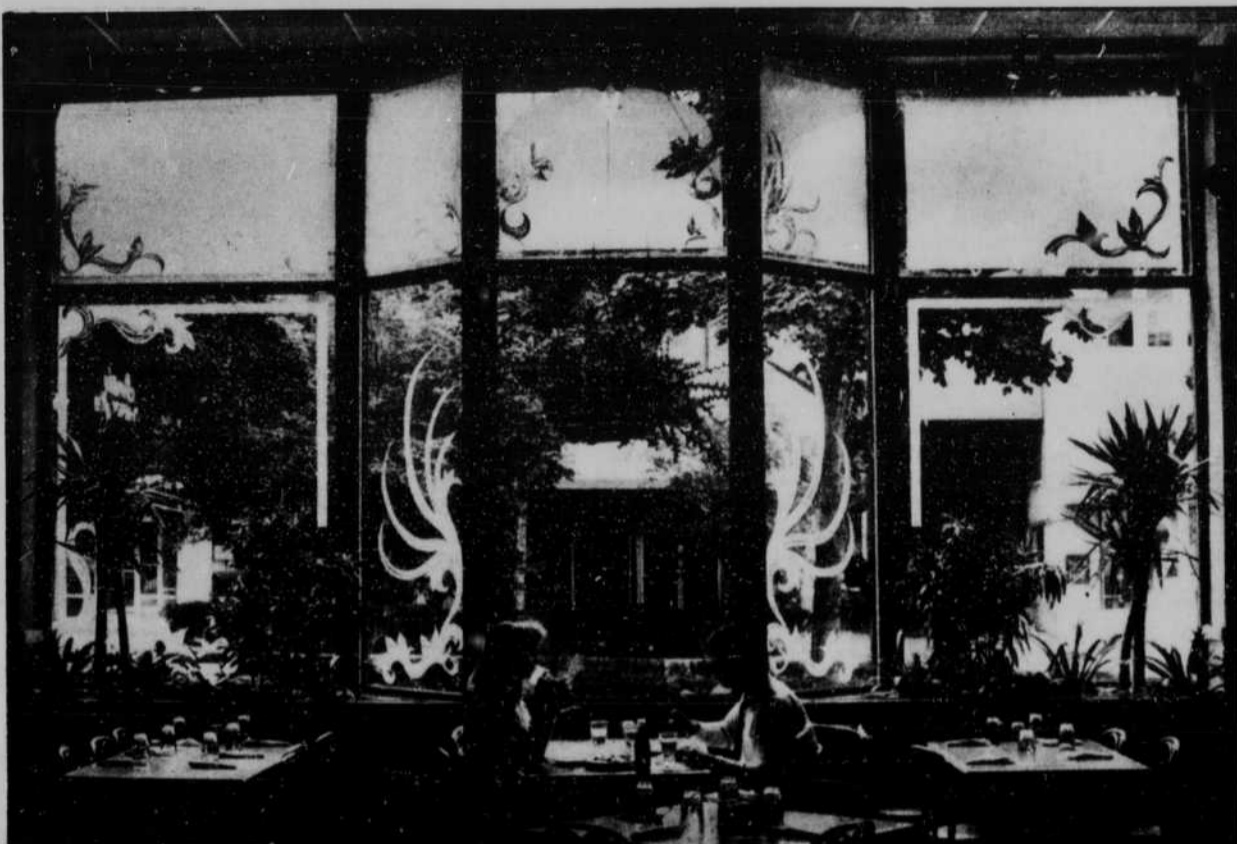
Of course the prices are upscale, but within reason. The really gigantic portions, though, make up for what comes out of your wallet. Lunches are the most affordable; daily specials cost between \$4 and \$6.

Items like Meatloaf Monterrey can make lunch an unpredictable experience: good all-American meatloaf in a spicy gravy with Spanish condiments. The evening menu goes up in price by about a dollar.

The standard Mexican fare — chimichangas, burritos and the like — are prepared beautifully, with flaky shells, subtly spiced sauces and interesting soups and vegetables.

What is going to be most popular about Julio's, though, is the atmosphere; the intimate neon glow and informal victorian chic of the place are the shape of things to come in Lincoln dining.

See JULIO'S on 16



Julio's

Doug Carroll/Daily Nebraskan

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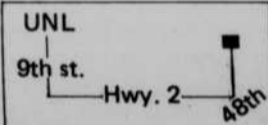
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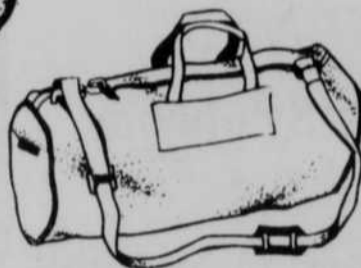


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