

# Lincoln's food scene yields diamonds in the rough

**FOOD** from page 16

little twist." Farahbod adds that each table at Billy's is a corner table, making your meal seem very private and romantic. So guys, pull out your tie and treat your girlfriends to a nice evening without having to use a coupon for a change.

## King's, 923 South St.

Every town has its classic 1950s greasy spoon. Ours is located at Ninth and South streets. It has a jukebox, vinyl booths and some great slogans on the wall: "We don't sleep in your bed, so don't sleep in our booths!" and "No profanity except for the cook!" How can you beat those?

Jim Dombrowski, King's general manager, said the goal is to serve quality all-American food.

"It's fun and a little unique," Dombrowski said. "We just try to put out great service and keep our customers coming back."

The burgers are, well, burgers, but you can order one with fries, a brownie and drink and get it in a little cardboard Corvette for \$2.99. And King's has some of the thickest, most filling shakes and malts you'll ever drink. Or eat.

## Misty's, 6235 Havelock Ave.

Without a doubt, there is no place that stands for Nebraska better than Misty's. The restaurant staff cares about two things: football and beef.

Assistant manager Brenda Danaher said the best thing about Misty's is the pep rally held each Friday night before home Husker games.

"The Husker memorabilia in the restaurant has been collected throughout the years," Danaher said, "and then the cheerleaders and the band come, and it really gets the crowd going."

Misty's is known around the country for its steaks and known across the state for its seasoning (required for grilling). The city doesn't seem to talk Misty's up as much as it deserves, but on a football Saturday, Misty's is where people from all over the country come to eat a good meal.

## George's Red Pepper Grill, 1317 N. 10th St.

Little did I know that when I tried a 25-cent tacos from a big guy at Knickerbockers, I would be tasting food from the place with the coolest menu in town. Gator Balls, jambalaya, gumbo and fried frog legs are just a few of the highlights.

George's Red Pepper Grill is a

brightly painted hole-in-the-wall just north of campus that you must have heard about by now.

This is the kind of place that every college student should go to, and I hope it will get a reputation big enough that even suburban families and little old ladies will eat there.

Yes, the menu is wild, but if you can't handle the spicy stuff just yet, stop by on Sundays for the good ol' 25-cent tacos.

## Thai House, 610 N. 27th St.

Before I moved to Lincoln, I didn't know the difference between Vietnamese food and Filipino food. I now know that I dislike the former, enjoy the latter and love what I found in between.

Thai food is a lot like Chinese but much more fun. Chinese food has been Americanized and adopted as part of our pop culture.

Thai is still exotic and out-of-the-ordinary. Everybody knows about sweet and sour pork and Mongolian beef, but what about chicken mint with hot chili or ginger shrimp? Now to say Thai and Chinese are in the same family is one thing, but they are definitely two different styles of cooking.

The Thai House is the best of all the Asian restaurants in Lincoln. It's located on a part of 27th Street that you probably don't hang around a lot, and its exterior is quite unassuming. But inside, the decor is simple yet elegant, and the food is top-notch.

Once you go Thai, Chinese will take a back seat quickly. Just one spring roll, and you'll see what I mean.

## Hi-Way Diner, 2105 Nebraska Highway 2

If you ever want to feel like you're in a movie, then the Hi-Way Diner is the place to be. It has the weirdest clientele, employees, decorations and quirks of anywhere I've been in the state.

Stop in some night at about 10 p.m. You'll find a bunch of high schoolers singing songs, playing cards and smoking, and pockets of college students studying with headphones on. Then there are the people just passing through town who stop because it's open 24 hours. Add in a few drunks and loners, and you've got the set for an independent film.

You'll look around and see an old Rexall Drug sign, a big camel and the Oscar Mayer Weinermobile. The best part of the diner was a part that closed earlier this year. There was a huge room in the back where they sold used appliances. Yes, at the restaurant. It's just a very odd place. A good odd, but nevertheless odd.

The menu probably hasn't been changed since 1964, except for the prices, of course. It includes home-style dishes such as the hot beef sandwich, oddities such as liver and onions and the classic apple pie covered with Saran Wrap. Breakfast is the diner's specialty, and I'd stick to it if I were you.

But there are two things to remember: Tip the workers, because they deserve it, and look around while you're there. I can't think of a better place in Lincoln to people-

watch.

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Before I set out on this mission, the only food I ate was from Amigo's and Papa John's. Don't get me wrong - they still serve the food of the heavens, and I eat from both weekly. But I got out of my comfort zone and had some fun.

And even though Lincoln has only about 300 restaurants, a number that pales to any real city, I still had

fun trying the different types of food this town has to offer.

So why not try it yourself? Don't necessarily start checking places off in the phone book as I did. But instead of going to the regular old Italian buffet like usual, drive an extra five minutes and eat at El Restaurante y Pupuseria El Salvador.

Don't walk to the pizza place downtown; instead, check out the Tasty Inn on 48th Street. Once you start trying new places, you won't be able to go back.



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2 roommates, M/F. Must be clean and responsible. \$275/month, includes utilities, washer and dryer. Call 475-9474.

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