

Buzzard Billy's latest restaurant in Lincoln's Cajun invasion

By J.J. Harder

Staff writer

First there was George's. Then came Kerry O'Ryan's. Now we've got Buzzard Billy's. Lincoln's recent Cajun craze makes me wonder is Harry Connick, Jr. is coming to town or if we're just really hungry for some jambalaya. While I'd prefer to listen to the famous crooner at the Lied Center, the burgeoning bayou barrage isn't too bad.

Buzzard Billy's, the newest of the restaurants, brings some Creole competition to O'Ryan's in the Haymarket. From my first impression, I think it will not only defeat O'Ryan's, BB will steal from neighboring Ruby Tuesday's wallet and become a Lincoln

favorite.

BB is in a chain of four, with other locations in La Crosse, Wisconsin, Des Moines, and Waco, Texas. It's not exactly a wish list of places to live, but Lincoln fits well enough with the others. BB has cuisine similar to George's in a Hi-Way Diner atmosphere staffed with an Econ 212 class. Although BB exceeds the unofficial maximum for frat brothers waiting tables, the experience still manages to turn out well.

Hard wood floors and tables with Dukes of Hazzard cards under the glass make for an interesting bar feel. Various commercial food and beer signs from throughout the past century line the walls. Armadillos hang from the ceiling fans and classic rock emanates from the speakers. Once you're seated, you'll be given ten-inch water glasses and a probably friendly welcome.

The menu is eclectic by Lincoln standards, but not with the aforementioned trend. Gator Fingers (no, not actually alligator digits) can compete with George's Gator Balls and beat O'Ryan's frog legs for best Southern appetizer in town. Yes, they taste like chicken, but probably more like shrimp. The fried batter eliminates that fishy aftertaste. But be on the lookout for gristle. They were good, but the portion is very small.

BB's entrees run the gamut, from pasta to burgers to traditional Cajun food. Don't get a burger; not because they aren't good, but because you shouldn't be eating a plain old Nebraska hamburger if you're in a Cajun restaurant. The pasta is aesthetically the best of the entrees, but the owners insisted on turning "Alfredo" into "Alfredeaux" to be witty Louisiana-style.

Poboys are probably your best

bet if you don't like spice. They are hoagies covered with Philly steak or chicken. The poboys aren't very big, but the meat is very flavorful, just shy of spicy.

If you're ready to eat some real Southern cuisine (which you should be) go for the jambalaya. It's the best thing on the menu and probably what has brought BB's to a worldwide chain of four. The rice is succulent and the chicken and sausage is fresh and tender. BB's blackened chicken simply crushes Kerry O'Ryan's. BB's version makes O'Ryan's taste like it was left in the bottom of the grill for an hour. The crawfish etoufee is somewhat tasty, but took second to the chicken.

The hushpuppies may not impress you, so beware nightmares of Long John Silver's and your childhood. The gumbo is also a little sub par. The sauce is too thick and lessens the flavor of the Andouille.

REVIEW

BUZZARD BILLY'S

WHERE: 8th St., between P and Q streets

WHAT: Cajun, Creole meals for \$7 to 15

BOTTOM LINE: Swooping into second for Cajun

Buzzard Billy's can't surpass the menu of George's Red Pepper Grille, but I think you'll prefer the laid back surroundings and high ceilings to George's sauna of a restaurant. And as for Kerry O'Ryan's, we probably won't miss it. It once was the best Cajun place in the Haymarket. But a buzzard may have just swooped in to take over.

Don't drive home this summer just to see a doctor - you may be eligible to use the University Health Center!

You are eligible to use the University Health Center at reduced rates if you elect to pay the Health Center fee and you: 1) are taking three or fewer credit hours; or 2) were registered for the Spring 2000 semester and are registered for the Fall 2000 semester; or 3) were a May 2000 graduate. All enrolled students are eligible to use the Health Center. Rates are higher if you do not pay the Health Center fee.

If you are enrolled for four or more summer credits in any session (except Pre-Session), you are automatically billed for the student Health Center fee.

Do you need help determining the best health care option for you? Please call our Business Office at (402) 472-7435 for assistance.

Summer Hours:
7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Mon. - Fri.
10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Sat. & holiday
Call 472-5000 for appointments

UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTER
15th & U Streets

FREE BIOLAGE
WITH ANY COLOR OR PERM

Get a **FREE 8 oz. Biolage Detangling Solution** with any Color or Perm Service when you come in by July 15, 2000. Good only with coupon.

474-4244
Call for an appointment.

Great Location
• 5 Blocks South of UNL Campus
• Plenty of Street Parking
• Free Parking with Park n' Shop next door in the Carriage Park Garage

Students, under direct supervision of licensed instructors, perform all services.

Haircuts \$5.25 to \$5.75

College of Hair Design
11TH & M ST. • BARBERING • COSMETOLOGY • 474-4244

AVOID THE RISK

Make a Safe and Simple Investment for your Future.

Name Brand Condoms 5 for \$1

Planned Parenthood® of Lincoln
2246 "O" Street Clinic • 441.3300
3705 South Street Clinic • 441.3333
Education & Administration • 441.3332
www.plannedparenthood.org • www.teenwire.com

It's hard to tell someone you can't breathe when you can't talk.

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION
1.800.LUNG.USA • WWW.LUNGUSA.ORG
WWW.CHRISTMASSEALS.ORG

Your headquarters for all your camping needs from backpacks and compasses to cooking stoves and hiking boots.

\$10 OFF any purchase at Moose's Tooth of \$30 or more.
With Coupon. Expires 8-5-00

HIKING - CLIMBING - TRAVEL - BACKPACKING - CAMPING

The Moose's Tooth outdoor company
27th & Vine
475-HIKE