

Jimmy John's atmosphere reminiscent of King's Drive-In

BY J.J. HARDER

For all of you culinary callow freshmen, I'd like to take a moment to tell you about an all-time classic restaurant in Lincoln. It was called King's Drive-In, a '50s diner that told it like it was. They served burgers and fries in cardboard T-birds and the coldest shakes in town. And that was about it. Signs on the wall read: "No profanity except for the cook!" and "We don't eat in your bed, so don't sleep in our booths!" It was a greasy spoon that was straightforward, honest and good. Unfortunately King's has shut down in the past year, but another eatery with the same bluntness and in-your-face quality has

arrived. Jimmy John's doesn't have a jukebox and a Rock 'n' Roll theme, but it has the same attitude as King's did. First of all, the signs on the wall remind me of King's: "If you think you have a reservation, you're in the wrong place," and "Not good looking, just good cooking." My favorite is "The customer is usually right." But there's more to the attitude than just funny signs. JJ's (not a self-serving name mention for me) only serves sandwiches, chips, pop, pickles and cookies. But 'only' might be an understatement, because these subs are surely the best in town, if not the best I've ever had at a chain. The

menu isn't loaded with flashy fad dishes to get attention. They have 15 subs and their number right on the menu. JJ's started in 1983 in Charleston, Ill., to, as their menu professes, "aid students' G.P.A. and general dating ability." It now has 128 franchises across the country, stretching from Utah to Pennsylvania. Jimmy John's isn't just a new deli in town - it is the quintessential college sub shop. The staff at JJ's won't dally around either. After I placed my order, by the time I thought to request the sub sans mayo, it was already done (Coincidentally, they put enough Hellmann's on the sandwich just so it's not over-

loaded). They'll take your order quickly and get you on your way. This comes in handy if you're late for class and there's a line of eight people in front of you. And a big line is not possible at Jimmy John's, it's probable. Why? Because the sandwiches do everything that the others in town can't seem to do right. Subway's bread is so puffy it's the whole sandwich, while JJ's serves bread that is smaller and a bit harder, but just as fresh. Blimpie's is too skimpy on the meat, but JJ's piles on the protein (see the Gargantuan sandwich). Doozy's lettuce seems to fall out, but JJ's sub stays intact. M&N Sandwich Shop ... well,

we all know there are a lot of problems with M&N. I've always been a good Nebraskan and ordered a burger whenever possible, but JJ's actually makes me hungry for a sub. Now is where I would state that I will never go to Subway again, but ironically Subway and Jimmy John's share the same space at the corner of 14th & O. And I don't mean they're on the same block; I'm saying you can walk right from one to the other through an open wall (and since JJ's only serves Coke, you can refill on Pepsi in Subway). So I may go to Subway again, but only to get to JJ's. One final word of warning - the neon sign in the window proclaims "Free

Restaurant Review

Jimmy John's

Where: 101 N. 14th

What: Classic sandwich shop

Meal: \$3-8

★★★★ of 4 stars

Smells." If you're not ready to eat, don't go in to let your nose check it out. Between the straightforward attitude and the great food, you'll be ordering right way.

Dull plot marks end of Highlander movies

BY GEORGE GREEN

Hopefully, "Highlander: End Game" will be just that, the end of the game. The film is the fourth edition of the boring Highlander saga. It begins with Connor MacLeod (Christopher Lambert, the star of the previous Highlander movies) locked away in a place called the Sanctuary. Within this fortress, which looks way too much like a miniature model, Connor attempts to avoid the rampant killings that have plagued his life by entering a coma-like trance where he sleeps continuously and is fed by machines. I don't have the time or the desire to fully explain the convoluted fantasy scheme behind the Highlander saga. But it basically involves immortal men and women (Highlanders) who try to cut each others' heads off in order to increase their own power in a big, bloody and boring battle game. This movie has all of the attributes of a bad action film: an overly complicated plot, bad acting and pitiful action sequences. Not to mention that the film looks as if it cost about \$10 to make. From the beginning to the not-so-fantastic end, the film takes a variety of confusing and annoying twists. The film's sci-fi genre does nothing to relieve the viewer's puzzlement. Poorly edited and created

flashback sequences further the viewer's confusion. These sequences whisk viewers back and forth between present-day New York City and past events in Connor's life and the life of his relative, Duncan MacLeod (Adrian Paul, the star of the Highlander television series). Instead of introducing characters and elaborating on their lives, these sequences confuse viewers to the point of frustration. Quasi-religious symbols and absurd supporting characters randomly pop up during the scenes and distract instead of explain. The flashback sequences also display the movie's poor costumes and landscapes. The backdrops and costumes were so bad that I laughed out loud at them a couple times. (I also laughed at the quality of acting and myself for paying to go to this poor excuse for a movie.) Suddenly, after some random, bloody killings, Jacob Kell (Bruce Payne) releases Connor from the Sanctuary. Evidently, (it took me a while to piece this together.) Kell has a grudge with Connor because he killed his surrogate father who happened to be a priest (how



Melanie Falk/ON

classy). Kell wants revenge, so he murders the people whom Connor loves and simultaneously tries to acquire more power by killing other immortals. Paul and Lambert deliver lines in the movie's bland drama scenes, which could easily get actors a nomination for the worst-actor-of-the-year award. Payne is not as terrible as Lambert and Paul but is definitely not worth writing home about. However, the pathetic acting would be forgivable if the action scenes were good. The only reason people go to see these types of movies is to view some blood and gore. Tragically, for all of us who paid to see this garbage, the action scenes sucked. The martial-arts moves were reminiscent of Ninja Turtles days, and the blood looked like ketchup straight from the McDonald's counter. And I really hated how all the villains had retro 80s haircuts and

multiple piercings. How can a guy take a villain seriously if he or she looks like Cyndi Lauper? One last message: Don't go see this movie! And if you really want to see it, a cheaper and equally entertaining alternative would be to watch a cow sleep.

MOVIE REVIEW

Highlander: End Game

Director: Douglas Aarniokoski

Stars: Adrian Paul, Christopher Lambert

Rating: R (violence, strong sexuality)

★ of 4 stars

Band's new label helps increase album sales

BONE from page 7

(1997's) 'Barrel Chested,' which was a loud album," Best said. "We got so sick of playing in front of those loud amps every night that we felt we needed a break." The mix of acoustic and electric on "Everything You Thought ..." shows Slobberbone's versatility and showcases Best's song writing skills. The songs on the album will hook the listener with simple rock riffs, but don't let that simplicity fool you. Best's literary, articulate lyrics often take several listens to decipher, but the payoff is worth the extra effort. "Everything You Thought ..." is Slobberbone's first CD on its new label, New West Records - which bought the band's old label, Doolittle Records. Doolittle signed Slobberbone about a year after the band released its first album, "Crow Pot Pie." Slobberbone's second album, "Barrel Chested," helped Doolittle land a distributing deal with Mercury Records. Despite the rapid growth of Doolittle, Best said New West feels more like a real record label. "Doolittle did a lot real fast, but it always seemed a bit unorganized," Best said. "I think it was just a case of growing too fast." Best said he would go into a record store wondering if the store would even stock the band's CDs. "Doolittle always has great distribution deals," Best said,

"Doolittle did a lot real fast, but it always seemed a bit unorganized. I think it was just a case of growing too 'ast'."

Brent Best
Slobberbone singer/guitarist

"but we never knew who was doing the distributing. With New West, I can always find the album on the shelves." Best said an even better feeling is to see that the record is sold out. "Yeah, it's cool to just see the card and know people have been buying the albums," Best said. He said the band's hard work on the road is starting to pay off. He hopes Slobberbone's fourth trip to Lincoln is the magical one. Despite sparse crowds on past trips, Best said the band still enjoys playing at Duffy's. "Andy (Fairbairn) has been great to us," Best said. Fairbairn books bands at Duffy's. Fairbairn hopes local band 13 County, who will open the show, will help draw some extra fans to Duffy's tonight. Everything you thought was right about music today can be heard in Slobberbone, and even if the crowd is smaller than Best would like, Slobberbone will still be impressive.

You can call him frank: Record not for virgin ears

BY JAMES DUNN

Joe Rogan began his career in the world of martial arts. The New Jersey native was a four-time Massachusetts state Champion for Tae Kwon Do. In 1987 he became the U.S. open lightweight champion in all classes. A bunch of his buddies at the gym where he trained noticed that not only was he a top-notch kickboxer, but he was also funny as hell. At the urging of his pals Joe signed up for an open slot at an open-mic night in a Boston comedy club. From there his love for stand up stuck, and he began performing frequently in the Boston area.

MUSIC REVIEW

Joe Rogan

Title: I'm Gonna Be Dead Someday

Label: Warner Bros. Records

★★★★ of 4 stars

His interests turned to acting, and he secured a spot on the NBC series News Radio which featured ex-Kids in the Hall legend Dave Foley. Rogan played the dumb electrician Joe whom he described as a dumbed-down version of himself. Enough of the history. Let's talk about Joe Rogan's first full-length stand up comedy recording "I'm Gonna Be Dead Someday." In the classic tradition of Lenny Bruce, George Carlin and Carrot Top (just kidding), Rogan gets his points across by cutting away the lard that surrounds most people's thoughts. He says whatever he wants whenever he wants about whomever he wants. That's why this record rocks. However, at times he may seem a bit small-minded and vulgar for the sake of being vulgar. His flow on the mic and timing (although not even close to the great Bea Arthur) are what make him funny. This record is truly not for virgin ears. I'm sure a lot of people won't get past the first track, which is a short sketch about two men working out. I really can't get into it right now, but it's pretty dirty (tee hee). Buy this album, and put it on instead of watching the TV. If it's too offensive for you, give it to one of your friends who's not such a wimp.

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