

Because You Can't Be Sober All The Time

The Drunk Times

How I spent my Summer Vacation!



Inside you'll find

The Story of My Life: Burgers, Drunks and Comics

RETURNING HOME

I don't know why I went to the site that fateful Tuesday, but when I went to the comic book store website I knew it was time to go back, if for no other reason but for the imminent release of GI Joe vs. Transformers.

I have always been a fan of comic books (geek) and of comic shops as well. Hell I have even brought a girlfriend into a store in the city just so I could pick up the newest issue of Sandman (it's a comic, duh). Of course during that trip I thought she was going to leave me for one of the many other comic geeks who swarmed around the arcade game she was playing, luckily she went home with me. After that I hadn't been to one in years, it was finally time to get back on the dork horse and ride.

I was leaving work early that Wednesday anyway to go to the movies (hell T3 was coming out that day) and since a store was right across from it I stopped in. It was everything I imagined and so much more. The store I was in had just a straight wall filed with comics, with guys sitting there reading magazines like they were reading porn at a newsstand. I knew what I wanted from the comic racks so I moved quickly and picked up my mags so I could explore the rest of the store. The rest of the store was the real treat for me, they had everything a geek like me could want, old Star Wars figures, Transformers, books based on the Matrix, philosophy books that the Matrix was based on, videogames, Japanimation DVD's, comic posters and a huge selection of comics and books by my favorite writer (Neil Gaiman). I was lost, drunk from my darkish love of all things Sci-fi and comic and the best part was that there were even girls in there, though they were only there to by the DVD's and to check out the selection of Hello Kitty gear. It was perfect.



This may not sound like fun, but to me, revisiting an institution such as this after too many long years was heaven. In fact I went the next week as well but after that I had them reserve comics for me. I mean it was great browsing a few times but I cant trust myself in there, I would buy so much crap in a comic store that I would end up a partner at Zigzags.

CHECKERS WILL PAY!

Where is the rule stated, that a fast food place must force their tastes on us. To be clearer on this issue, why can't I get a plain hamburger? I don't like cheese, I hate mayo and I detest mustard. Let me share a story about one such place that won't let me have it my way.

I guess it happened last year. Pat and I were starving on our way back from Vintage Vinyl, in Jersey (btw if you like music you must go here). We decided to hit Checkers instead of a crap hole like Mickey D's. For those of you who don't know of Checkers, it is a lower priced yet superior in food quality, fast food restaurant. I mean this place is so good I am getting pumped to stuff my face with the fatty awesomeness that they have to offer. The only problem is that they put cheese and mayo on everything, so I order my burgers plain.

They have another problem in this place, it takes for ever to get your food so we just sit there after pulling the car around and wait patiently for our food. It then comes out and I am ready to scarf some food down when I ask pat to wait while we check. See when you eat like I do you become used to the little inconveniences so I am able to hold off from eating through the wrapper. Of course what do I see when I open up the wrapper but a burger covered in cheese and mayo, horrified I have pat go around so that they can fix this situation. We wait another few minutes and presto my burgers come out again. Again we check out the burgers and tada, cheese and mayo. This time we are frustrated as we go back and ask to have the sandwiches fixed, they apologize profusely and say that it will not happen again. I believe them.

We get the burgers a few minutes later and this time I fail to check out the cheese and mayo situation, instead I rip open the wrapper and I get ready to tear into my burger. Thankfully I looked before I ate because I saw that same burger dripping in cheese and mayo, pat asked again if I wanted to have my order fixed. But now infuriated, I declined and we drove off. They wouldn't get off that easy though. As we left and I was unable to control my anger, I believe I spouted off some not so nice words and I definitely chucked my burgers and soda at their building. I also vowed to myself and to Pat that I would never be going to checkers again...So far so good.

I hate mustard, mayo and cheese and that is why I need to make special orders.

AA, HEY IT WORKED FOR ME

The one thing that I would never say to anyone, not even if they needed it, not even if they were my worst enemy, is that you should go to AA. Trust me, besides death or serious bodily harm, sitting through one of these meetings is the worst thing that could ever happen to you. I should know I have been to a million of them.

I spent more than half of my weekends from ages 11 to 16 at AA meetings, my sisters' father, my sister and me. I can't think of a worse way to spend a family Saturday and Sunday oh and the occasional Friday. I understand that you have to; as the people in the program put it, "Work your program", but I bet a bunch of kids that the Jets would cover the three point spread against the dolphins and well I don't have a drinking problem (yet). But there we were every week in some church basement or unoccupied hospital conference room smelling the lovely smells of hobo, coffee and cigarettes, me and my sister working his program.

Walking into a meeting you get a nice array of the lower rung of society. Sad sack boozers, wife beaters, crack heads, low life's, degenerates and all around scum, mixed in with like one person who was a functioning alcoholic who never says anything and gets a drink after but is only doing this so his or her spouse won't leave. The meeting then starts with a prayer, of course, even though they are supposed to be about sober I really think this is a way for churches to get recruits for flagging attendance. Then they do a list of meetings and anniversaries coming up (Jack has 7 minutes at Holy Family, Ted the hobo celebrates 9 days at St. Vincent's hospital). Next up is a speaker who tells an uplifting story that starts with his alcohol and drug addiction then the conflict sums up about any or all of the following death/OD/spousal abuse/show up to work wasted and lose job, and in conclusion it ends with him giving up to God and accepting he or she needs to change and boom for the past 15 minutes (the length of the story) they have been clean and sober. After this is a smoke break (evidently we can't smoke too much in the meeting we need some fresh air too) we come back and do everything in reverse. We go, speaker, meetings and anniversaries, then the serenity prayer (no it doesn't go serenity now).

After we are done with the meeting you go home and stay sober, all I can think about is, where can I get a drink? I mean these stories in the beginning sound so good that I want to try and the middle part is so awful I want to drink to forget and the last part is about God and well Jesus' blood is wine so we should get some.

I NEED A BURGER...QUICK!!!



Let's face facts here we all eat fast food. We can lie about that fact or we can accept it and make the right choices. Not the healthy choice but where do I get the best food. That's where I step in to help with my continuing series on rating food joints with this month's entry, fast food burger joints. Enjoy!

(Again this will be alphabetical so as I don't show any favoritism)

A&W:

Burgers: Ah, the A&W burger. Looks quite plain but with toppings this is true a great burger. From what I hear the thing to get is their bacon cheeseburger which is supposed to be phenomenal, personally you can't go wrong with a good ole bacon, lettuce and tomato burger.

Fries: You know I never had the fries; they have beer battered onion rings. Score!

Signature Item: Hello, it's the Root Beer float and it is a must have if you visit any A&W. To not have it would be like not having s'mores while camping.

ETB*: About 40 minutes, thankfully there is never one far away from where I am going, don't you find yourself out of the same situation when you go.

Price: This is going to set you back a few bucks but I mean if you get the float and the onion rings you will be so happy.

Ranking (Not an Average): **4/8**

Final Analysis: Quality all around, but it just comes short of the elite, still it is better then your run of the mill BK's or Mickey D's any day.

Burger King:

Burgers: Tasty but without the toppings a bit dry with a burnt taste, still with the toppings they are good.

Fries: After like a million changes and a bad attempt of using Mr. Potato Head as a marketing ploy, their fries have surprisingly gotten better. But when you are at Burger King you have to go for the Onion Rings.

Signature item: It's got to be the Whopper in all its forms (Jr., Single, Double, Chicken). It's doused in mayo but if you switch it out for BBQ you have quite a fine sandwich there. I recommend the double for those who love heart attacks, like me.

ETB: Around 45 minutes to an hour, so only eat here if you are home, close to y or if you like playing chicken with your bowels.

Price: It's not the cheapest fast food join but it won't break the bank

I NEED A BURGER...QUICK!!!

Ranking: 6/8

Final Analysis: It's about a mid range place with some quality food, if you were stuck between this a bagel store and a deli it may be the best decision you ever had to go here.

Fat Burger:

Burgers: Large and tasty, this place makes me want to go to Vegas more than the gambling, prostitutes and free drinks. I still dream they will have one in NY soon

Fries: A tasty sensation that makes my blood pressure rise just thinking of them.

Signature Item: It's got to be the Fatburger. This monstrosity comes with everything, pickles, relish, cheese, bacon, lettuce, and tomato...my god this thing is a monster. If that isn't enough for you they also have a double, I think my heart just stopped.

ETB: eat without fear my friends this will keep in your system for well over an hour.

Price: This place isn't cheap, but it is worth every penny. It almost like there should be a Le, or chez in front of it due to the quality and price.

Ranking: 1/8

Final Analysis: If it were only on the East Coast I would be a million pounds so if you see one, even if you are not hungry, stop in and get a Fatburger.

Fuddruckers:

Burgers: Umm in a word, absolutely awesome, oh wait that's two. You can order your burger to your liking (rare, well etc. or toppings) and these huge behemoths really satisfy your hunger.

Fries: Yum, skin on fries and onion rings. You should really order both they are definitely worth it.

Signature Item: Duh it's the FUDD burger, which is half pound of pure eating joy. The fact that they have so many sides is a plus but even a basic burger is big, juicy and tasty.

ETB: This one is tricky; it may last 30 minutes it may last a few hours so tread lightly

Price: At around \$6 dollars for a burger it can get pricey, but it is so good.

Ranking: 2/8

Final Analysis: Probably too expensive for fast food but if you are near one and you don't go you are doing yourself and injustice. Well unless a Fatburger is close by.

I NEED A BURGER...QUICK!!!

McDonalds:

Burgers: You need the chopped onions and pickles and tomato and lettuce and about a million other things to mask this gray meats rancid taste.

Fries: Highly over rated as THE best fires. Don't get me wrong they are really good but not the best. **Signature Item:** It's got to be the Big Mac. For the meat they are using this is a really good sandwich, again it needs all the extras to get it there though. No sauce and it is just crap.

ETB: 20 minutes if you are lucky. This is the reason that there are drivethru's. Eat this at home or get ready to do some laundry.

Price: By far the cheapest place to eat. That is a plus.

Ranking: 7/8

Final Analysis: It's cheap which helps but it makes you wish they would charge more so that they could improve the food. The fries may be good but they need to overhaul their burgers before I give Mickey D's a higher score.

Roy Rodgers:

Burgers: Not the greatest burger on the list but way better than the average fast food faire. The fixings bar, mmh I love fixings, helps it out tremendously.

Fries: They have your boring regular fries or you can buck up the extra 50 cents and get the curly fries. Again, why these aren't in every fast food joint is beyond me.

Signature Item: I would have to say it is their roast beef sandwich, I know my grandparents used to love getting them and they are pretty good. As a signature item though, pretty boring.

ETB: This is a quickly, we used to get this on our way to hunter. We had many races to get back to the house, which was around a half hour away.

Price: In New York you see them mostly on rest stops, and that is expensive. If you find one in a city expect at least a 50 cent price drop but it is still a bit high for fast food.

Ranking: 3/8

Final Analysis: This is a surprisingly good place to eat and with a price only slightly higher than a BK, it doesn't hurt to go here and skip many of the others burger joints out there.

Wendy's:

Burgers: Square, Juicy, delicious and thank god you can get them without mayo (well I hate mayo)

Fries: Now here is a meaty fry, which I like but the flavor just isn't as good as many of the other places out there.

Signature Item: I didn't now what would be there signature item. I mean is it the frosty, chili, anything from the 99cent menu so I just decided to go with my

I NEED A BURGER...QUICK!!!

favorite meal from here. The classic triple, with a side of chicken nuggets all biggie sized. I once got this meal while I was...let's say feeling good, and not only did I scarf this all down I even ate a whole bag of movie theater size skittles after that. This meal is not for the faint of heart but it is damn tasty.

ETB: It's like the food forms a web around your stomach that won't let anything out. Ok maybe that's just with me but I regularly go hours after eating this before I need to do that nasty deed.

Price: This is not cheap, that meal above costs around 8 bucks, luckily they have the 99-cent menu so it works for those on a budget as well.

Ranking: 5/8

Final Analysis: Of the top three most popular places (Mickey D's and BK the top two) this is the best; unfortunately their meals are also the most expensive. Yet again though, thank god for the 99-cent menu.

White Castle:

Burgers: Square, a little too strong on the onion and overall an abomination of the burger.

Fries: Well they have onion rings and onion chips, both are salty and delicious. Signature Item: I guess it's their burgers by the sack, and they sack so I want to ask a question. Has anyone tried the just plain horrific sounding, clam strips? If you have please email me at whipsmart21@hotmail.com, and let me know how awful they were.

ETB: Well your trip to the bathroom is relatively quick. You will hit a bathroom before an hour but the real problem is the next day as you waste it on the bowl.

Price: Cheap, they started out in the 1920's as a nickel a burger. I think they managed a way to make these little bundles of x-lax even cheaper now, I think its like a dollar for a million of them.

Ranking: 8/8

Final Analysis: If you are in the need for a cheap colon cleaner then this is the place for you. If you don't then just walk on by, your stomach and ass will thank you for it.

* Estimated time till Bowl Movement

