



KETCHUP Guide To

The college life is such a fast-paced life...who can keep up? If you're not running to class, you're running to a meeting. If you're not running to a meeting, you're running to the library to study. If you're not running to

the library to study, you're flat running out of energy. When is

there ever enough time to eat? If you're like us, you'll find yourself relying on the fast-food establishments of Bryan-College Station to "keep you running."

This week we've taken a fast look at some of the fast-food establishments around town. Just for the record, we've defined a fast-food restaurant as:

having a drive-thru window (usually), serving self-service food (you order, pay and pick up food at a counter), having somewhat of a standardized menu with a few house specialties included, and having a recognizable logo (with the exception of the local fast-food restaurants that aren't part of a big chain).

Arby's ... Known for roast beef sandwiches, it also has turkey, ham, submarine and club sandwiches. Prices range from \$1.59 to \$1.99 for sandwiches and extras such as potato cakes or french fries cost between 59 cents and 75 cents. The menu has been expanded to include a Bac'n Cheddar Deluxe and a chicken sandwich. The horsey sauce really adds flavor to a roast beef sandwich. Located on Southwest Parkway, it's convenient for those who live in that part of College Station or for those who have transportation of some sort.

Church's Chicken ... This is really just like any other fried chicken establishment. It has the usual entrees for chicken dishes. Two locations: 507 N. Texas Ave. and 3207 Texas Ave.

Cow Hop ... For a full meal at a great price, Cow Hop is the answer. You can eat a meal for \$2. And the management takes checks.

This restaurant is down to earth and personable, from the homey decor to the friendly method of calling for "ready orders." And you listen to rock 'n roll while you eat.

The hamburgers (a.k.a. cow pies in this restaurant) are a specialty; decorate them with cheese, sour cream, jalapeno peppers, mushroom, bacon or alfalfa sprouts. And the extras don't stop there. Build a salad on your burger with unlimited amounts of lettuce, onions, tomatoes and toppings. Burgers made with chicken fried steak and barbecue, nachos, chicken breast, chef salad and 8 oz. t-bone are other choices.

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Renovations this summer included adding some tables and benches to this barn-like restaurant. The Northgate location makes it popular and convenient for University employees and dorm residents.

Be prepared to rub shoulders with your colleagues as you order — quickly — and move through the line as if you're in a cattle chute.

Dairy Queen ... This old family favorite just isn't what it used to be. It now costs a small fortune just to enjoy the food here. The burgers still are served in refreshingly good taste, but these days you're definitely charged for what you get. A double beef burger, order of fries and a large drink is around \$5.00.

Danver's ... This establishment offers a little bit of everything for everybody, and it all tastes good. Danver's specialty is its soup and salad bar, with two kinds of soup and a variety of salad fixin's, so how can you miss? Order a baked potato and fix it up at the salad bar; sour cream, butter, bacon bits, mushrooms... The bacon cheeseburger is also a treat (\$2.07), and the hot ham and cheese sandwich shouldn't be missed. Danver's is located at 201 Dominik.

Der Wienerschnitzel ... Located almost in downtown Bryan (501 Texas Avenue), this fast-food restaurant — specializing in all sorts of hot dogs — is somewhat out of a college student's usual daily travels.

Farmer's Market ... With a menu and decor more like a de-

licatessen than a fast-food restaurant, Farmer's Market offers a welcome change from hamburgers. Sandwiches range from Poor Boys (\$1.65) to Reubens to Salami and can be ordered in submarine sizes (for a little more money). Lasagna is the most expensive item on the menu at \$2.99.

Bakery items are this restaurant's special attraction. Kolaches, cookies, brownies and other goodies are

Farmer's Market Sandwich Shop is at Northgate, Farmer's Market Bar-B-Cue is at 810 S. Main and Farmers Market Bakery & Delicatessen is at 8700 Texas Avenue.

The Gourmet Court ... The food section at Post Oak Mall provides a taste of just about everything from pizza to chinese food to chicken fried steak.

Giovanni's specializes in pizza sold by the slice, although whole pizzas are sold. A slice of cheese pizza costs \$1.09, while slices of pepperoni or other types of pizza cost \$1.24. Whole pizzas range from \$4.60 to \$11.10.

Potatoes, etc... serves stuffed baked potatoes. You can get a potato filled with sirloin tips or seafood newberg for \$2.99 or a more traditional spud with butter and sesame seeds for a mere \$1.99.

The Wagon Wheel serves Texas style barbecue sandwiches or Sausage-on-a-Stick for \$2.25 and barbecue plates for \$4.95.

Salad Bartique has what the name implies — a salad bar. But homemade soups and deserts also are sold. It costs a little more to eat here, but it's not regular fast food either.

Corn Dog 7 has a limited menu with corn dogs ranging in cost from 89 cents for a regular to \$1.19 for a jumbo and french fries for 79 cents.

Chick-fil-A isn't "just another place to get chicken," it's one of the best places to get chicken. The Chick-fil-A sandwich (\$1.69) is yummy, the Chick-fil-A nuggets (one dozen for \$1.89) are a new take-out specialty and just as good. The french fries are hot and crispy. Chick-fil-A's slogan, "Taste it. You'll like it for good," seems to be most appropriate. We "like it good."

At Emilio's Sandwich City the menu not only includes sandwiches, but spaghetti (\$1.89), lasagna (\$2.99) and stuffed grape leaves. Desert includes baklava and cheese cake. Emilio's also has a limited selection of imported beers.

Sesame Hut provides a taste of the Orient by serving egg rolls for 80 cents and dinners such as seafood combo and chicken teriyaki for \$3.25.

The Great Hot Dog Experience is just that. The menu lists almost every hot dog imaginable. The price range is from 55 cents for a hot dog jr. to \$1.45 for polish sausage complete with sauerkraut. The menu also has chili cheese dogs.

Pepe's Mexican Food has the usual selection of burritos, tacos and fast mexican food. About \$3 can fill you up. Pepe's are located all over the Bryan/College Station area and are known as the place to be after the bars close.

Ken Martin's Chicken Fried Steak adds a touch of class by serving side orders of fried mushrooms to complement the chicken fried steak dinner (\$3.29). Chimichangas also are sold for \$3.29.

Orange Julius, famous for its orange drink, has expanded to strawberry, pinata colada and flavor-of-the-month banana. Food items include old fashioned hamburgers for 99 cents.

Swenson's for ice cream or shakes. One dip cones are 85 cents and shakes are \$2.25 or half-shakes are \$1.65.

Grandy's ... It's a brand-new chicken restaurant near Post Oak Mall. Try it and tell us what it's like.

The Grapevine ... This restaurant really isn't fast food, but

you do order and pay at a counter. But your food is delivered to your table. Located at 201 Live Oak, behind La Quinta Motel, this restaurant also has a drive-thru and service is quick.

But all similarities to a fast-food restaurant end there. Specialties include delicatessen-style sandwiches on a variety of breads, cheese plates, huge salads, domestic and imported wines and the best Sangria you'll find in this town. In the evening you can order steaks.

The Grapevine is a great, relaxing place to eat for moderate prices.

Hamburgers by Gourmet ... Its drive-thru window barely put it into the fast-food classification. This restaurant serves large burgers ranging from the typical burger with lettuce, tomatoes, pickles and cheese to combinations of hickory sauce, onions, avocado and other exotics. Gourmet is also a little more expensive than the usual fast-food eatery but in general serves larger portions. People behind the counter are friendlier than most. Located in the Woodstone Shopping Center.

Jack-in-the-Box ... When they blew up the clown, you knew "the box" was never going to be the same. That Friday-night-high-school-hangout place where you munched on greasy, flimsy fries and kangaroo meat burgers has been transformed. Jack-in-the-Box is not quite a restaurant, but it's no longer just a fast food joint.

Yes, the food still comes fast — but both the surroundings and the food are dressed up.

The days of talking through the mouth of a plastic clown when ordering at the drive-thru window are over, and the hard orange plastic seats have been replaced by something a bit more subdued and a bit softer.

The Dinner in the Box, costing about \$4 for chicken strips and a drink, comes with artificial home fries, garlic bread and a dinner salad. Of course the dressing comes in a plastic pouch — like ketchup — and the garlic bread does not possess the crispness of a fine French loaf, but it all is surprisingly good. Although the clown is gone, the old standbys remain unchanged.

The tacos still possess magic charm. Their tanta just-spicy-enough sauce combination bean-meat never fails to warm a l. Their crisp yet soft-in-spot is unequaled in the fast world.

Kentucky Fried Chicken Home of Col. Sander's or recipe, this is an average chicken restaurant with moderate prices. You can choose between original style and corn entrees are really good. Two locations: 333 Texas Avenue and 110 Dor Dr.

Long John Silver's ... Fast and chicken of the sea. Probably fishy from the wharf entryway to the harpoon fish net decor with little variations from one Long John Silver another. Fish dishes include breaded oysters, filet fish shrimp. Also, a favorite breaded chicken served plain in a burger.

Long John's now garnish their meals, a practice unseen only in traditional taurants. Entrees include slaw, corn on the cob and french fries. Prices range from \$1.99 for family deals. Specialties include 25¢ refill drinks. Two locations, easily accessible...1808 S. Texas Ave. and 3224 Texas Ave.

McDonald's ... For convenience and speed, McDonald's usually wins the race. With three locations — across the street Zachry (on University Drive), Southwest Parkway and at East Mall — this locally owned fast-food franchise reaches a large market.

For some of the best french fries around, go to McDonald's. The hamburgers are available and limited as to what toppings are on them, but Chicken McNuggets are great. For a change from the usual offered along Northgate University Drive, the Filet Fish is a good choice — it's like fish, tarter sauce and cheese.

Depending on how hungry you are, it's possible to eat \$3. More if you're a pig.