

# Pizza Race II

## Just when the pizza delivery guys thought it was safe to slow down

By **Molly Pepper**  
Staff Writer

We wanted the "Second Annual At Ease Pizza Race" to be as much like the first as possible, so despite cries from staff members of "extra cheese this time" and "call someone different" we called the same contestants as last year: Domino's, Pizza Hut and Double Dave's.

Because we weren't as rich as we were last year due to state budget cuts, we ordered the smallest pepperoni pizzas each place would deliver.

Dawn Butz, an unfortunate Battalion staff writer who was in her wrong place at our right time, made the call to Pizza Hut on the Night News phone. At Ease co-editor Tricia Parker called Domino's on the City Desk phone and I called Double Dave's from the At Ease phone.

We all started dialing at exactly 1 p.m.; Dawn and I hung up at the same time but Tricia had to make two calls because I accidentally gave her the wrong number for campus delivery.

Then the waiting started. Staff members who had nothing to do were still hanging around, waiting for a free lunch. The suspense of who would arrive first was just too much for me so I started taking bets on which one it would be.

Karl Pallmeyer, greatly loved columnist, Loren Steffy, Opin-

ion Page editor and Danny Labry, clerk, all bet two pieces that Domino's would be here first and Double Dave's would be here last.

Dawn Butz had the guts to go against popular opinion and bet three pieces that Double Dave's would be here first.

As soon as she said it, Robbin Crum, the Domino's delivery person walked into the newsroom. She arrived 21 minutes and 20 seconds after Tricia started dialing the phone to call her (remember, Tricia was the one who had to make two calls).

Robbin, who drives a Pinto and doesn't break the speed limit, had come all the way from the Domino's on Texas Avenue next to Fajita Ritas. She said most of the job is "just trying to stay out of other people's way."

"Yesterday I just about got run over three times," she said, foil-filled box in hand.

In fact, delivering pizza can be so hazardous that Robbin says the company will pay for its employees to take defensive driving.

Almost exactly five minutes after Robbin arrived, Robert Taylor, the Pizza Hut delivery person came in.

When told he had just come in second in the "Second Annual At Ease Pizza Race" he said casually, no doubt to hide his shame, "That's just the way it goes."

Robert used to work for Domino's but switched to Pizza Hut when he moved to Bryan.

Robert, who drives a company truck to deliver pizzas, said he breaks the speed limit every chance he gets and parks illegally all the time.

"In fact," he says, "I might be getting a ticket even as we speak."

So Tricia handed him a check and he ran out the door.

Double Dave's finally arrived 36 minutes and 35 seconds after the initial phone call. The delivery person was Robert Brooks and when told he came in third in the "Second Annual At Ease Pizza Race" he asked, "Do I get a prize?"

When we told him that third place was also last place he said "I wasn't aware that I was competing or I would have been here a lot quicker."

Robert doesn't break the speed limit or park illegally when delivering pizzas because he rides a bike. (How about pedestrians, Robert?)

He's been delivering pizzas since September but only a month for Double Dave's — he used to work for Pizza Hut.

The race was over, but people in the newsroom were still eating and talking pizza so I decided to prolong the fun for a while with a taste test.

A diverse panel of unbiased judges known to have a wide

variety of musical, cultural and culinary tastes was assembled to decide which pizza was best.

The panel consisted of our resident radical columnist and pizza authority, Karl Pallmeyer; the slightly more conservative but still radical Opinion Page editor, Loren Steffy, the head of this operation and the person writing the checks — At Ease co-editor Tricia Parker and of course myself, an aspiring actress and brain surgeon currently serving as a lowly staff writer.

Rating the pizzas on a scale of one to three with one being the best, the votes came in unanimous: Double Dave's was number one, Domino's was number two and Pizza Hut was number 16.

I asked the panel for some comments to help clarify their decisions in the minds of our readers.

Commenting on a slice of Double Dave's pizza, Karl said "The crust is nice and chewy, the cheese is a fine blend of mozzarella and American, the pepperonis are nice and warm. It's one of life's finest pizzas."

"It has a marvelous bouquet," Loren said of his Double Dave's slice.

Karl added later, "It has a quality worth waiting for."

"Pizza Hut's looks like they pulled theirs out of the freezer and heated it up," said Danny. "But Double Dave's will serve no pizza before its time."