

YUMMY NORTHWEST

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WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

Hey, no joke! It's fast food month at **Yummy Northwest**.

You were too busy to do your taxes until now. You are too busy to do them now, in fact, but nothing stops April 15 from arriving.

Naturally you have plenty of time to read **Yummy**, so maybe we can help.

When you're short on time, fast food comes to mind when you get hungry. Yes, you can find recipes that are quick and easy, but let's go crazy this month and eat out. Quickly, of course.

All around the Northwest are locally-owned eateries that seem to have always been here. I grew up in Seattle, so that's where **Yummy** will take you this month.

If I didn't mention a place you like, please write and tell me. We might need to revisit this topic next year.



Dick's Drive-In

Dick's Drive-In has been around, like, forever – 50 years to be exact. My first memories are of the one in Wallingford. I took great delight in eating in my dad's car and watching the pigeons dance on the hood. I have also spent many wondrous moments ago over how the talented employees can add up any bill total in their heads; I never double-checked their math, but it always seemed right.

Every native Seattleite I know who has moved away from the area says the first



When did we all get so busy?

Fast food is here because we need it when we're in a hurry. Many places deliver it to our doors because we don't even have time to drive anywhere.

But fast food can become an unnoticed part of our lives, crowding out the pleasures of real eating.

In 1986, an Italian man decided that the new McDonald's in Rome was an insult to traditional Italian cuisine. He began the Slow Food movement to promote regional food use. The official name of this group is the "International Movement for the Defense of and the Right to Pleasure."

A lot can be said on this subject. There are two Web sites to look at if you want to know more.

www.slowfood.com
www.slowfoodusa.org

thing to do when re-entering the city is go to Dick's.

They only do hamburgers, fries and milkshakes. If you want anything fancy, you'd better back out of that parking space pronto so someone else can get in line.

If there's not a Dick's Drive-In in your neighborhood, I suggest you move.

Located in Wallingford, Capitol Hill, Holman Road, Lake City and lower Queen Anne. For exact addresses and more cool info about this totally groovy place, check out their Web site.

<http://www.ddir.com/index.html>



Spud Fish and Chips

You gotta have fish'n chips if you live around Puget Sound. I think even vegetarians must secretly indulge once in a while.

My introduction was to the Alki Spud's. It was a fine Sunday when my mom and I hit the Alki Beach and she would tell me the story of how Seattle was first settled where we stood.

It doesn't take much to imagine those settlers enjoying the local seafood. I'm sure they brought potatoes with them (one homesick gal brought dandelion seeds to plant; gee, thanks). Spud's takes these same simple ingredients (though not the dandelions) and makes them delightful eating.

You can find Spud Fish and Chips:

in Kirkland (425) 823-0607
in West Seattle (206) 938-0606
near Green Lake (206) 524-0565



Ivar's

Several generations of Seattleites have grown up with Ivar Haglund's motto: Keep clam. This has proven good advice during various earthquakes, after which it is soothing to seek out Ivar's clam chowder. Ivar is gone now, but his food establishments live on in several locations, which you can find by checking out the Web site. <http://www.ivars.net/>



Pagliacci Pizza

Freshly baked pizza delivered to you. If you're craving delicious fast food, pick up the phone and tell them you're working on taxes and can't leave the house. These guys have earned many accolades, among them a "Good Neighbor Award" for their support of the local community, and being "one of eight pizzerias named 'Best in America'" by Bon Appetit magazine. Tell them you refuse to call one of those boring national chains, preferring to support local businesses, and they might throw in a complimentary breadstick. <http://www.pagliacci.com>



Rickshaw Restaurant

This restaurant near Northgate might not have the best food in the city, but when I lived nearby and called for delivery, they were eager and friendly...and they really packed a lot into those cardboard take-out boxes.

This place has been around since the 70s and is one of the last holdouts of the suburban version of exotic Oriental fare. If you can't make it to the International District, the Rickshaw rocks.

322 N. 105th, Seattle
(206) 789-0120



Think about it

Fast food is a controversial subject these days. Does it make you fat? Does it destroy the environment? Does it skew a nation's morality?

In his book, "Fast Food Nation," Eric Schlosser describes with intelligence the dark side of the national fast food industry.

This book covers everything going on behind the scenes, from where French fries come from to what happens to those working behind the counter to how local communities are affected by the influx of national eateries.

This book is a must-read as far as I'm concerned. You don't have to give up fast food, just know enough make wise choices.

For example, "shopping local" takes on a new meaning when it comes to fast food places. Many of the national chains are locally operated and the franchise operators consider themselves responsible members of the local community.

You have to decide for yourself if the place where you zip through to eat is a responsible employer. Do they treat their employees with respect? Do they use locally grown products? (Most national chains have a central processing plant.)

As always, buyer beware.



Taco Del Mar

Fish is brain food; fish tacos are, well, different...but delicious. This is a relative newcomer to the local fast food scene but with Seattle origins. Two local boys enjoyed what they ate in Baja California and decided to bring some ideas home.

To find your "inner baja" (as the founding Schmidt brothers like to call it), check the Web site for the location nearest you. www.tacodelmar.com.



IceCreamSource.com

I found this on a last-minute Web search for local fast food, so I haven't tried it yet. If you try it, let me know. The idea of ice cream being delivered to your door is one whose time has surely come. Be sure to order Seattle Sorbet, one of the "micro dairy" vendors used by this company. <http://shopping.netsuite.com/s.nl/c.ACCT112241/sc.2/category.13/f>



About YUMMY NORTHWEST

Each monthly issue highlights an edible delight available in the Pacific Northwest.

Contact the editor

Comments, corrections, topic ideas and submissions are all most welcome.
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