



FAST FOOD FAVORITES

UNHEALTHY BUT DELICIOUS, WE REVIEW OUR AREA OPTIONS

Fast Food Wars: A Newbie to American Chains Takes a Bite

By Andrew Babine
Staff Writer

There's one thing about fast food that everyone can agree on: It's not healthy. Doctors, athletes, and customers of fast food chains alike can all agree its full of unhealthy fats, calories, and feelings of guilt after being consumed. But, they can also agree that it tastes good. So can I.

I have my favorites and my personal opinions about what's the best, as all Americans do, so to get a more unbiased view, I decided to bring someone in who didn't have much of an opinion.

Ana Barona is a junior at Triton High School who is an exchange student from Spain spending the school year in the U.S. She has not eaten a lot of fast food in her time, with Spain not even having Wendy's, so she was a perfect candidate to help me judge the food. She and I began our fast food journey together on the streets of Haverhill.

First stop, Wendy's. Upon arrival, the atmosphere was lacking to say the least. There was an awkward seating arrangement, weird smells, and an upset old woman at the counter. It's fast food though, not a five-star restaurant.

The crown jewels of Wendy's are their regular and spicy nuggets, which taste the most "real" of the fake meat chicken nugget variety. The chicken was white on the inside and was covered with a crunchy, well seasoned, golden brown breading. It was warm and tasted not that far off from chicken breast one would prepare at home. The spices that coated that breading radiated off into our noses, giving us an idea of the taste before it even enters your mouth. Barona said she "had never had chicken nuggets like these before".

However, the blandness of the rest of the meal soon set in, with the fries tasting like almost nothing but salt and the burger leaving much to be desired. The Wendy's "Frosty," is essentially just soft serve ice cream. The same thing you could find on an ice cream cone at the beach on a warm summer day pumped out of a machine into the swirl, minus the fun of the swirl, in a strange semi-liquid form. Wendy's really soars when it comes to price. What we got at Wendy's was half the cost of what we got at McDonald's. A cheeseburger, chicken nuggets, fries, and a frosty from Wendy's totaled just over \$4, while the same thing cost around \$10 at McDonald's.

McDonald's was our second stop. The interior was very plastic, but organized in a more open design that made the idea of sitting down more inviting. We ordered

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Chicken Sandwich Review: A Search for Tender & Crispy

By MarkAnthony Glickman & Meaghan Riccio
Staff Writers

In an effort to put an end to the war on chicken sandwiches with a review on the four most popular chicken fast food chicken sandwiches around to see, the *Triton Voice* decided to find out which chicken sandwich reigns supreme.

These two reporters went to Popeye's, Chick-fil-a, Wendy's, and McDonald's to try each original chicken sandwich. There was a wide variety of chicken from very flavorful and crispy like Chick-fil-a and Popeye's to more bland and moist chicken like Wendy's and McDonald's. We reviewed the taste of the chicken, the buns, how the sandwich goes all together and the customer service. The sandwiches were graded on an A+ to F scale, so it is an easy way for people to understand the grade given for the chicken sandwiches.

Easily the most convenient place to get a chicken sandwich has to be McDonald's with three restaurants in the towns around Triton. They also had the lowest prices of all of the restaurants with the McChicken costing \$1.39, but you are definitely paying for what you get. The bun wasn't toasted or glazed with butter to give it special sweetness. The chicken looked depressing: it was a very light colored brown, thin, and moist, making it overall a poor quality chicken sandwich.

The next closest chicken sandwich came from Wendy's with there Home-style chicken sandwich, which when compared to McDonald's is definitely an upgrade. The restaurant itself was definitely the most run-down out of the four we visited. There was trash overflowing, worn down counter tops, messy tables, and dirty windows. Yet the bun was toasted and buttered but the

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Hamburger Review: Testing the Taste of the Local Scene

By Matt O'Neil
Staff Writer

One of the most popular foods in American would have to be the hamburger, so the Triton Voice set out to find which burger really is the best around the Triton area.

The way that I tested exactly which burger around is the best is that I went to three popular burger establishments: Lexi's in Newburyport, Five Guys in Seabrook, and The Goat in Portsmouth. I tried the same exact order with a side of fries at each restaurant and went in with a completely unbiased opinion.

PRICE: For a regular hamburger at Five Guys it costs \$6.99, at Lexi's it costs \$4.75, and at The Goat it costs \$12.84. At The Goat fries come with the burger already but you also have the choice of getting tumbleweeds, tater tots, baked beans, Coleslaw, Pasta Salad or Potato Salad. Fries at Lexi's and Five Guys come separately though. Fries at Five Guys range anywhere from \$3.09 to \$5.17 depending on the size you get. At Lexi's a side of plain fries costs \$1.95.

BACKGROUNDS: The Goat is a western-themed restaurant and bar, they have about 20 burgers on the menu, plus you can build your own from a vast assortment of toppings and sauces. Specialty burgers that I did not try myself include some truly unique toppings, like mac and cheese or maple sriracha.

In 1986, the four brothers Murrell opened a takeaway burger joint in Arlington, Virginia. The restaurant immediately took off and for the next fifteen years they strategically opened more locations. The clearest competitors to Five Guys are Shake Shack, Smashburger, Habit Burger, and Fat Burger.

The burger at Lexi's was still good even though I have had a lot better burgers there in the past. I would probably

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Truck of the Future Tesla Stuns with Debut of Cybertruck

By Jack Niska, Staff Writer

The first time I saw the Tesla Cybertruck, I thought it looked like it came right out of a sci-fi movie. CEO of Tesla, Mr. Elon Musk's first attempt at a truck caught lots of attention, both good and bad.

Some say the 2019 vehicle looks more like a metal piece of art than a truck. But it's a truck that can pull a Ford F-150 with ease, and then beat a Porsche 911 in a drag race. Did Musk create the truck of the future?

On November 21st, Musk presented his newest invention to the world. The Cybertruck. With sustainability being the main goal of this innovative pickup, it can do a lot more than moving furniture. Its top-end model can go 0-60 in 2.9 seconds and has a top speed of 130 mph, being displayed in a drag race with a Porsche 911 where the Truck defeats the sports car with ease. Along with a range of 500 miles between



The Cybertruck with its impressive light bar spanning the entire front of the truck (tesla.com/cybertruck).

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The Legacy of Mr. West A Review of Kanye's Greatest Hits

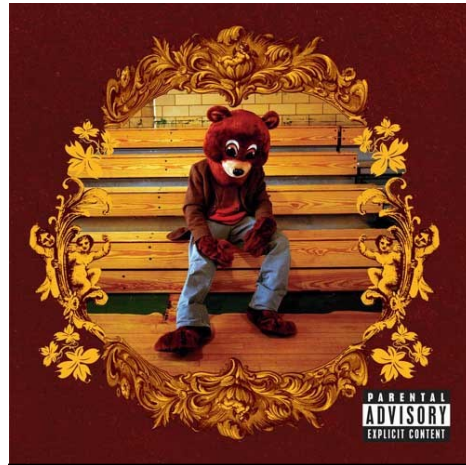
By Zachary Johnson, Staff Writer

Kanye West can never go long without being in the news. Most recently, for receiving a \$68 million tax return in October and crediting it to his becoming a born-again Christian, as well as for purchasing a nearly \$15 million, 6,700-acre ranch in Wyoming.

But, as this February marks the 16th year since West's first album, *College Dropout*, so *Triton Voice* decided to reflect on the famous rapper and producer's discography. Below is Kanye West's discovery, ranked worst to best, excluding collaboration projects.

9. JESUS IS KING

Kicking off the list, Kanye released *JESUS IS KING* very recently on October 25, 2019. The album was quite a shock to Kanye's fans everywhere, as it was his second completely clean album but it was also a gospel album all about his faith and love for Jesus Christ. The album leads with



Second-ranked on our list is Kanye's *College Dropout* (**Roc-a-Fella image**)

roaring opening track "Every Hour" which features Sunday Service Choir.

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Highlights on the album include “Follow God,” “Selah,” and “On God.” The album is very cohesive, for better or worse. The reason this album is so low on the list is due to the lack of variety in themes, features, and genre. This album? A solid 6.2/10.

8. 808s & Heartbreak

808s & Heartbreak was released on December 2, 2008. Kanye’s other completely clean album, this project features smash hit “Heartless.” Aside from that... there’s not much here. Certainly, “Coldest Winter” features some of Kanye’s most prestigious production and Robocop which was a decade-defining track. Not to mention, the auto-tune on this album has aged terribly. Honestly, this album can be a bit of a bore, but certainly a pleasant one at that. This album? A solid 7.1/10.

7. Graduation

Despite this album being debatably his most influential album, it certainly hasn’t aged well. *Graduation* was released September 11th, 2007 and was a smash hit, and some consider it to be Kanye’s most successful album. That being said though, there are only a couple strong tracks on this album, including the revolutionary “Stronger,” glamorous song “Flashing Lights,” and the frequently sampled “Good Morning.” Most of the samples on this album are hit or miss, some being terribly outdated and others being timeless. Where this album loses the most points is with the song “Drunk

and Hot Girls” where the Mos Def feature is left behind. This album? A light 7.5/10, just slightly above *808s and Heartbreak* for how ground-breaking its’ release was.

6. ye

Coming out the summer of 2018 (June 4th,) Kanye produced this whole album in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, which is the most economically imbalanced city in the United States, as well as the least populated state. ‘Ye’ wanted to be secluded when he wrote *ye*, so that he could most accurately display his bi-polar disorder. The album art itself features a quote of Kanye’s stating “I hate being bi-polar/it’s awesome”. Though fascinating, and at times sonically beautiful with songs like “All Mine,” “Lift Yourself,” and “Ghost Town.” If this album were a little longer, instead of a slim 7 songs, it would probably rank higher on the list. This album? 7.8.

5. Yeezus

Some have considered *Yeezus*, released New Years’ Day, 2013 to be Kanye’s worst album. However, over the years it has garnered somewhat of a cult following, some praising Kanye for his industrial sounding beats and his brash lyricism in bars like “Now you sittin’ courtside, wifey on the other side/Gotta keep ‘em separated, I call that apartheid” in the song “Blood on the Leaves” (which samples Nina Simone’s “Strange Fruit”) Other slaps on this album include songs like “I Am A God” and the bombastic anthem “Black Skinhead.” This album? A solid 8.4/10.

4. The Life of Pablo

When *The Life of Pablo* was released on February 15, 2016, the world stops. The

lyrics “I feel like me and Taylor might still have sex / Why? I made that b*tch famous” from the fourth track on the album, Famous. This lyric alone took the world by storm and started the infamous beef between pop/country starlet Taylor Swift and Kanye West. Jabs aside, TLOP remains one of Kanye’s strongest. Opening the album is “Ultralight Beam,” a beautiful number sung by a choir and Kanye, featuring artists such as Chance the Rapper, Kelly Price, and Kirk Franklin. This album has it all; pop, R&B, rap, electro, and even undertones of gospel and prayer music. This album? A strong 8.7/10.

3. Late Registration

Kanye’s sophomore album was released August 25, 2005. It was released a little over a year after *College Dropout*. With such an amazing premier album, it must be hard to top it. Though he might not have succeeded past its’ predecessor, the album certainly delivers some of Kanye’s funniest and most relatable lyrics. The grand slam of a single, “Gold Digger,” delivers the hilarious “From what I heard she got a baby by Busta / My best friend said she used to **** with Usher / I don't care what none of y'all say, I still love her.” Other highlights on the album include “Drive Slow,” “Crack Music,” and “We Major.” This album also births Kanye’s favorite sample, with the song “Wake up, Mr. West!” This album? A solid 8.9/10.

2. College Dropout

College Dropout was released February 20, 2004. Instead of composition, what makes *College Dropout* special is simply it’s replay value. The songs are shorter, catchier, and less specific, but still contain

some of Kanye's best production and bars. On this album Kanye raps about his come up from living in Chicago and working at the Gap, to becoming the pink polo wearing legend that we know and love. This project is also laden with skits criticizing American culture. Beyond that, the album genuinely doesn’t have a bad song. With hits like “Jesus Walks,” “All Falls Down,” and “Spaceship,” this album certainly earns it’s spot at number two. Not to mention, this album still holds up after nearly two decades. This album? A solid 9/10.

1. My Beautiful, Dark, Twisted Fantasy

Released November 22, 2010, *My Beautiful, Dark, Twisted Fantasy* was recognized as an immediate classic. With all the top-charting artists of the decade featured on at least one track, this album easily has Kanye’s best composure and overall beat-making. With some of Kanye’s longest songs, the album is pushing two hours, and not one minute is a bore. This album hooks you from the first track, and finishing it feels like watching your favorite TV show come to an end. MBDTF has some of Kanye’s most powerhouse hits, including “Power,” “Runaway,” and “Monster.” In terms of production value and composition, this is Kanye’s best album. Kanye himself told Zane Lowe of BBC in an interview, “I showed people that I understand how to make perfect. Dark Fantasy could be considered to be perfect.” An undeniable masterpiece, this album is without a doubt Kanye’s best, and easily earns a 10/10.

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our food on these large tablet computers, and our food was brought to us by a server. The modern layout that many fast food places attempt at nowadays was executed with much more precision at McDonald’s than Wendy’s. In recent years, many fast places have been redesigned with an intention for a more modern and formal look. McDonald’s fake fireplace and interesting circular seating arrangements succeeded at making the fast food experience feel more formal.

The food was also much more consistent at McDonald’s: nothing incredible, but thoroughly enjoyable. The star of the show was their cheeseburger, which was leagues above the cheeseburger from Wendy’s. Ana and I agreed that the burgers more varying taste and tender meat made it was far more interesting in the flavor department.

However, Wendy’s still beat McDonald’s at the chicken nugget game by a long shot. Also, the milkshake from McDonald’s was surprisingly delectable, an excellent milkshake by any standard, not just the fast food standard. The chocolate flavor was unique, likely due to McDonald’s mixing their chocolate and vanilla flavors together to make the chocolate flavor, and the difference is noticeable compared to their competitors. The chocolate and vanilla blend together to create a rich, creamy flavor, a flavor that is lacking in the bland store-bought chocolate ice cream flavor of its competitor milkshake from Burger King.

The fries from McDonald’s also tasted essentially like salt much like the fries from Wendy’s, but the way they fit so perfectly with the burger and milkshake from McDonald’s makes them a step above Wendy's fries. McDonald’s is not a symbol of Americana for nothing.

Lastly, we headed over to Burger King. Now, maybe this is just me, but Burger King has always seemed to be a step below McDonald’s and Wendy’s in terms of popularity and quality compared to its competitors. Perhaps it’s poor marketing, or poor quality, but there's no denying when looking at the number of sales that Burger King is not really on the same level of McDonald’s or Wendy’s, in the states at least. The average McDonald’s makes an average of 2.6 million a year, while the average Burger King makes less than half than that at 1.2 million per year. According to Barona, Burger King is very popular in Spain, more popular among the people she knows than McDonald’s actually.

But, there's just something missing about Burger King, and I was reminded of that mysterious it factor that Burger King lacks as soon as I walked in. The layout was fine, but seemed to be nearly identical, though less sophisticated, to the McDonald’s we had just been to.

We ordered our food with little trouble, though it did take about five minutes longer than the other two destinations, which is quite a long time in the world of fast food. Then the feast began. However, Ana and I soon regretted signing up for this said feast. The basic items; burgers, fries, chicken nuggets and milkshakes, were all lacking.

The burger was pretty much on par with Wendy’s, if not a little bit better, but only a little bit. The chicken nuggets were nauseating, lumps of white meat that smelled of chemicals. The fries were too thick and tasted like paper, also like nothing but a somewhat a worse version of nothing. The milkshake was just some pretty standard blended ice cream, low quality, but tasted mediocre overall. Although, it still had nothing on the McDonald’s milkshake.

As we left that day, with insanely high cholesterol and sodium levels, and more calories than our bodies knew what to do with, we both agreed on one thing. McDonald’s is king of the fast food wars.

However, McDonald’s prices hold it back from having a nearly perfect review. It is far too expensive for what it's intended to be. Fast food is intended to be cheap, unhealthy, to taste good and well, fast. McDonald’s only exceeds in three of those categories.



Junior exchange student Ana Barona samples a cheeseburger at McDonald’s (Babine photo).

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charges its AWD capability lets it go the extra mile. With a towing capacity of 14,000 lbs, it defeats its competitor, the top of the line 2020 Ford F-150. A demonstration on Youtube shows a Cybertruck pulling that same truck with ease in a tug-of-war battle. Every model features a payload of 3,500 pounds while the F-150 can only take up to 3,270 lbs. The single motor model starts at \$39,900 while the F-150 is about \$10,000 less at \$28,495.

The Cybertruck is a fantastic concept and will likely be the future as technology improves. It screams sustainability with a great range and can pull and carry more than other trucks in its class. The sleek interior sports six black leather seats across 2 rows, an video game-esque steering wheel, and Tesla’s signature tablet, front and center. The one thing America can’t seem to get over is its appearance, Musk should make some changes to the exterior before he launches the Cybertruck in 2021 and 2022. The question is whether drivers can see themselves in the truck or if it’s appearance is a deal-breaker.

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restaurant may have done so to hide the fact that the bun wasn’t fresh. It was crispier but low quality: rubbery on the inside and without flavor At \$4.69 it didn’t seem to be a good value.

The second farthest drive on our quest for the best chicken sandwich was at the North Shore Mall where there is a Chick-fil-a and its Original Chicken Sandwich. This was the best tasting bun of the night, fresh, toasted, and buttered. That bun went perfectly with a lightly battered chicken breast that was crispy, but didn’t have too much batter. The chicken was the highest quality of the night, tender and flavorful even after the batter. The customer service was very nice as is well known and they were quick with their service. The price of \$3.05 was definitely the best bang for your buck.

The farthest drive as to Popeye’s with it being a 45-minute drive from Megan Riccio’s house on Salisbury Beach. The bun was similar to Chick-fil-a, soft and buttery. The chicken had way more crisp to it and clearly was focused on the batter and not so much on the chicken. The batter may have been better, then Chick-fil-A, but the chicken itself was of lower quality. With the price of \$3.99, the sandwich closely resembles the price.

Coming in 4th place is the McDonald’s chicken sandwich with it’s bad service and low quality sandwich and an unclean restaurant getting a grade of C-overall. In 3rd place is the Wendy’s chicken sandwich where it was a definite upgrade from McDonald’s, but nothing special. Wendy’s gets an overall grade of a B-. In 2nd place is the Popeye’s Sandwich, It had very good fried batter and a good bun, but with the chicken needing improvement it couldn’t be number 1 and getting an overall grade of a B+. An in 1st place is Chick-Fil-A with the most complete sandwich with the bun, fried batter, and the highest quality chicken of the four sandwiches. An Chick-Fil-A gets an overall grade of an A.

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have to say it was the second best looking burger behind The Goat. The fries a pretty good, just slightly above average. The aftertaste was good and it smelled delicious.

RESULTS: I personally really liked the burger at The Goat, out of the three burgers I tried I would have to say it was my second favorite. It tasted great but I wish it could have been a little bit bigger. The burger almost looked better than it tasted. It looked absolutely delicious, the coolest part is that on the bun there is an actual picture of a goat toasted on the top. The aftertaste was good and it smelled pretty good. The worst part about my experience at The Goat were the Fries, I did not think they were that good at all

Out of the three burgers that I am surprised to say the least favorite burger I had out the bunch would be Lexi’s. I eat at Lexi’s quite often, so I’m pretty sure it just wasn’t the best burger they’ve ever made but it is what I have to judge them on in this case. All of the burgers were very close, I didn’t dislike any of them at all.

I would say my overall experience at Five Guys was really good, it would probably have to be my favorite out of all three places I went. When you first walk into Five Guys, you get the feel that it has fast food vibe to the restaurant. The burger came in a greasy brown bag with the burger wrapped in tin foil and the fries in a cup. If I had never eaten at Five Guys before I would honestly say my expectations would probably not be that high.

However, the taste of the burger was great, not the healthiest, but really good. The burger looked pretty messy, it still looked good it just looked greasy. The fries were also good, I would say I enjoyed the burger more though. The burger smelled okay but left a good aftertaste.

Correction: An article in our last edition’s newspaper contained a few errors: the Triton Middle School principal’s name is spelled Mr. Alan MacRae. Additionally, the middle school students have free time during lunch; it is not labeled “recess” by the school and the free time is kept within the confines of lunch period, which has allowed students to go outside for several years.