

Shake Shack's satisfaction isn't concrete

by Camille Baer

I'm a fan of underdogs, and Shake Shack is the ultimate underdog. Starting as a small food cart in New York, it took only three years before Shake Shack launched its delicious enterprise of classic American style fast food all over the world.

Shake Shack now dominates in over 12 cities, just in terms of America. Even with their booming business, Shake Shack still manages to use only the best organic ingredients and grass-fed beef to serve customers.

To start off, this place knows how to make an incredible burger. Shake Shack has truly accepted the great motto of: "less is more". This food speaks for itself. Shake Shack's burgers don't have much to them, but the bun, the patties, the lettuce, pickles, cheese, and their special sauce all blends together perfectly in one mouth-watering bite.

While the trek to the "shack" might be a little inconvenient, it all feels worth it when you try their cheesy fries. Crinkle cut is the way to go, keeping them 'old style' classy, seasoned with salt and layered with their exceptional Cheddar and American cheese sauce.

These fries withhold this certain special power that once you eat one, you'll end up scarfing down the rest (if you're like me, probably within seconds).

Shake Shack has also brilliantly paired up with other food places, such as Glazed and Infused and Bang



Shake Shack offers incredible burgers and decadent cheese fries | Minturn

Bang Pie, to create the best possible culinary creations.

Used in their frozen custard concretes are chunks of doughnuts, pies and other delicious "accessories" like truffle chocolate and caramel, to enhance their already amazing custard.

If you're having trouble envisioning what a concrete is, here's the Shake Shack's description of the fan favorite, "Shark Attack": chocolate custard, fudge sauce, chocolate truffle cookie dough and Vosges black salt caramel chocolate, topped with chocolate sprinkles. I'm sorry, but if that doesn't sound good to you, you might just be crazy.

The overall ambiance of Shake Shack has a very hipster, up-beat

vibe; as you enter and approach the line to order your food, you join the overly-eager customers gazing up at the menu written on the wall. You can opt for a communal style dining experience, or remain more secluded in a separate booth to enjoy your food, but either way I can promise you this: you will enjoy it immensely.

The high ceilings and dark lighting keep the place bubbling with murmur, probably talking about how good the food is.

The perfectly sized portions will fill you up nicely and keep you satisfied.

But enough talking about Shake Shack. Go try it for yourself, so you can finally understand what real, good, American fast food tastes like.

by Bella Geroulis

With all the hype surrounding the opening of Shake Shack, the newest burger joint in Chicago has many reasons to disappoint. From the dried out fries to the starchy milkshakes, there's nothing that this place has to offer.

The franchise, who now has opened 12 locations in 12 different cities, prides itself on having all natural beef and ingredients.

While that might be a step up from its competitors, what it's really all about is the taste, which is up there to the dog snacks that Shake Shack offers.

The menu offers a variety of food, everything from burgers to hot dogs, cheese fries to their very own concrete mixers. The food is alright, if you're desperate and it's after hours. This place is like going to Navy Pier; it sounds like a good idea but you don't have to do that to yourself.

The burgers come with a second

patty of grease and the cheese is comparable to rubber.

And what kind of burger joint thinks it could become a mecca for foodies without proper consideration for its carry-out? To put it simply, the food doesn't travel well. The thrill that is opening up a fresh meal in the comfort of your own home is lost and all you get is the disappointment of a sad, limp excuse for food.

With its stale fries and cold meat, it's a guarantee way to disappoint your taste buds.

With places like Five Guys around, there's no way for such a new franchise to come close to the fresh cut fries and handmade patties.

Shake Shack is fine in terms of newer establishments, but in a city as food centered as Chicago, there's no way this place will last

The environment is cool, and the location is prime, but overall, the food is subpar. It's a sad excuse for the fine American food that we deserve. The only thing I would recommend is the dog treats, but animal instincts would probably tell you to stay away too.



Shack Shake offers terribly limp burgers and stale french fries | Burton

Day trip destinations for stay-at-homers

by Emma Willcocks

Instead of sitting around all day, jealously watching your friends post pictures from their vacations to Colorado and Mexico on Instagram, grab another friend and go on a one day excursion. There are so many random things to do within a couple hours of Chicago, and it's sure to pass the time much more enjoyably.

One idea is to drive to Amish Country in Northern Indiana. It is a group of seven Amish communities and is only a two and a half hour drive from Winnetka. The trip is well worth it to visit Das Dutchman Essenhaus, Indiana's largest

restaurant, seating 1,100 people, and serving 31 different types of pies. While there, you can go wandering through flea markets and visit the RV Hall of Fame!

Chances are, you've heard of Rockford. It's about an hour and a half west of the North Shore, and is usually a place that people hate going to and love leaving. However, there are some interesting things to do there. First off, there's the Anderson Japanese Gardens, which are pretty cool. It's 12-acres and you can walk around, look at sculptures, and, depending on what day you go, perform Tai Chi (similar to yoga) or Bunjikan (a

form of martial arts). Also, on March 28, it's the Rockford Public Library Saturday Spectacular: Pizza and Pasta Stories. You can go and listen to your favorite stories, songs, and poems about Italian food and do fake pizza crafts. While it may not beat tanning in Mexico it's something you can do to pass the time on a cloudy afternoon.

Another more adventurous option is visiting Galena. It's three hours west of Chicago, at the corner of the Illinois- Wisconsin- Iowa border. Though it's far away, it's a historic town with lots of forest reserves around it. This is a great place to go hiking, kayaking,

canoeing, or fishing. There is also the popular Shenandoah Riding Center, if you want to go for a horse ride through the area. In the downtown area, there are lots of boutique shops, antique stores, and there's even an old fashioned ice cream parlor.

Another option is to go to the outlet malls in the area. There's a Pleasant Prairie outlet, close to the Illinois border in Wisconsin, or Gurnee Mills. They are both great options if you want to stock up on clothing for summer without spending too much.

Finally, you can go on a Wisconsin cheese tour. Driving

north towards Milwaukee, it's hard to miss all the different cheese stores that you pass on the side of the road. Usually, the cheese is made on site, so you can take tours and taste samples of the different types of freshly made cheeses. Google "Wisconsin cheese stores" for a list of stores, phone numbers, addresses, and hours. Just call ahead to make sure they're open on the day you're planning to go.

While none of these options can compare to skiing in Colorado or swimming in Florida, they might make your spring break a bit more exciting than sitting around at home watching everyone update their Snapchat stories.

Christmas has come early for hip-hop heads

by Max Borushek

For hip-hop heads across the nation, Christmas has come in March.

2015 has already been off to a great start for fans of rap music, with releases such as Joey Bada\$\$'s highly anticipated debut album, "B4. DA.\$\$", in January, Lupe Fiasco's "Tetsuo and Youth," Big Sean's "Dark Sky Paradise," and Drake's "If You're Reading This It's Too Late" just to name a few.

However, March is shaping up to be one of the best months for hip-hop in quite some time with its four major releases. Kendrick Lamar has already released his extremely hyped follow-up to 2012's "good kid, m.A.A.d city" with the release of "To Pimp a Butterfly." Action Bronson will be releasing his debut album "Mr. Wonderful" on Mar 23. Also, according to iTunes, Earl Sweatshirt will be releasing his sophomore album "I Don't Like S**t, I Don't

Go Outside" on the same day as "Mr. Wonderful." And finally, Death Grips is releasing its new album "The Powers That B" on March 31.

Easily the most anticipated album out of the four is "To Pimp a Butterfly." Kendrick Lamar changed the game with his 2012 sophomore album "good kid, m.A.A.d city," which is widely regarded as one of the best rap albums of all time.

However, Kendrick has taken a different approach with his third studio album. "To Pimp a Butterfly" doesn't sport any bangers or club hits like "Backseat Freestyle" or "m.A.A.d city," instead opting for a more vulnerable tone. Many of the beats on TPAB are jazzier and overall the album is nothing like "Section.80" (his debut album) or GKMC. Tracks like "u" and "The Blacker The Berry" show some very emotional storytelling from one of the best storytellers in rap.

The album was supposed to

be released on Mar 23, but it was surprisingly released on Mar 15 and is now available for listening.

For fans of less mainstream rappers, Mar 23 cannot come soon enough. Action Bronson and Earl Sweatshirt are two rapidly rising stars of rap. If "Mr. Wonderful" is anything like Bronson's previous mixtapes (and from some of the singles he has released from the album, it should be), fans can expect a lot of fun songs with plenty of references to high-class dining, classic cars, and sports.

"I Don't Like S**t, I Don't Go Outside" has gotten little to no promotion, so the release date of Mar 23 is surprising, to say the least. The sophomore album from Earl is looking to continue the success of his debut album "Doris." "Doris" received praise from both critics and fans.

Rounding out this excellent month for hip-hop is "The Powers That B" from Death Grips. This

double disc album from the experimental rap duo is set to release on Mar 31. The first disc has already been released for free, but the full album (two discs) is coming out soon. On this album, fans can expect the same chaotic nature that has become a signature of the duo.

Hip-hop fans have plenty to be thankful for this month. New

Kendrick, Action Bronson, Earl, and Death Grips could satiate hip-hop heads for a few months, but the fact that all four are coming out in March just adds to a fantastic start for 2015. Add to that new Kanye, A\$AP Rocky, Jay Rock, Chance the Rapper and plenty more. On the docket, 2015 could truly be one of the best years for hip-hop.

Corrections and Clarifications

In the article "Twenty-one years later, Safe Rides continues to serve," published Mar. 13, it's important to note that Safe Rides is not a school sponsored program, but is coordinated by the Boy Scouts of America in conjunction with the Kenilworth Union Church.

In the article "Trevians fall just short of Highland Park," published Mar. 13, the photo mistakenly identifies senior David Hammes. It is actually New Trier alum Steven Cook.