

The Pizza Shoppe Collective

FOOD fit for a QUEEN

Shelby **Stefanski**

I'm going crazy. This can't be that hard, but there are so many options. Twenty-eight different toppings. If I choose two toppings, there are 660 different combinations. As I realize I have to choose, beads of sweat appear on my forehead. Cheese? No. Pineapple? No. Why did this have to be so hard? Here I am, sitting at my new favorite pizza place, The Pizza Shoppe Collective, trying to decide what my taste buds are craving. Dill pickle and bacon it is.

The Pizza Shoppe Collective is located in Benson at 61 St. and Maple. When I first pulled around to the parking, I saw all of the artwork drawn upon the walls surrounding the small restaurant. It reminded me of a scene from a book, so vibrant and colorful. I felt instantly welcomed by the area. I entered through the back door, expecting to see the same vibrant artwork on the inside of the restaurant. But, to my disappointment, the room fell short of my expectations. Although it was a bit dull, something caught my eye: a wall full of flyers to the left of me.

According to The Pizza Shoppe Collective's

website, its mission is to "provide a unified vehicle of expression to artists and a positive atmosphere of performance within the community." It hosts national and local concerts, gallery shows, theater performances and many other activities three to four times a week. The Pizza Shoppe Collective is part of a website, www.kindair.org, where bands from the Omaha area can upload their music for the people to hear and are picked to play at the restaurant.

The atmosphere is laid back and very casual, no fancy attire required. There are no waiters standing around to escort customers to tables. All I saw were empty wooden booths with silverware sitting on paper napkins, waiting to be used.

I sat down at a booth and read the menu. It seemed to be on the pricey side, but it was worth every penny. As I looked around at all of the 20-year-olds with their food, I saw that the sandwiches were a hearty size and the salads were meal-sized. The price I paid was worth what I ordered.

The menu consists of pizza, salads and oven-toasted sandwiches. One sandwich, the

classic corned beef and kraut, costs \$5.79. Oven-baked pastas, including plates like spaghetti and meatballs, cost \$6.59. They also have appetizers such as mozzarella sticks and desserts, which include Oreo Brownies, and my personal favorite, root beer floats.

If pizza is the way to go, pick out what size you want: Prince (6 slices), Queen (8 slices), or King (12 slices). Then pick from the list of many toppings.

With the prince dill pickle and bacon pizza, I also ordered a salad. When the waiter asked if I would want to try the pink stuff, I was immediately confused. He smiled and said it was their house dressing. Who calls dressing "stuff", and why is it pink?

Within 15 seconds my salad was placed before me. When it was put in front of me, I almost fell over laughing. The dressing was light pink. I was not expecting that. I enjoy anything spicy, so when I took my first bite and tasted the garlic, I was truly satisfied with my choice of dressing. It was similar to a creamy ranch dressing with a garlic kick. If you like a little spice, I recommend the "pink stuff."

After someone kindly took my empty salad bowl, the order of cheese bread came out. I have one word of caution when it comes to the cheese bread, let it cool down a minute before consuming. I burnt the top of my mouth so badly that it took five glasses of iced tea to cool it down, but that didn't stop me from taking another bite. The cheese oozed off the bread into my mouth. The burn was worth it.

Finally, the moment I had been waiting for had arrived. The pizza was here. I smiled as the Kansas City styled pizza was placed before me. I have

always been a big fan of golden cracker-like crust. The cheese was bubbling off the dough. As I took a bite, the cheese literally slid right off the pizza. For those who prefer not to be messy, a fork and knife are provided. I finished all six slices in less than 10 minutes.

The Pizza Shoppe Collective has opened my eyes to a whole new world when it comes to pizza. The food was spectacular and made-to-order. The servers all had smiles on their faces; it's easy to tell they enjoy their work. Everyone will have something to enjoy. Overall, The Pizza Shoppe Collective amazed me. I give them a prince pizza: six out of six slices.



Photos by Shelby **Stefanski**



A Prince-Sized Dill Pickle and Bacon Pizza

INCREDIBLE Improv

Liz **Prosser**

What do Sunday coffee, a candy cane train and a hot air balloon stranded over the ocean all have in common? Normally, absolutely nothing. But on the first and third Tuesday of every month, Nate Schoenfeld, Tim Schoenfeld and Steve Hydeen get together and perform their improvisation act at The Pizza Shoppe Collective. They call themselves "88improv" after Interstate 88, on which they traveled during a journey to Chicago to see other improv acts.

Their act is complete improvisation. There is no rehearsal, no warm up and no idea what is going to happen in the next hour or so when they go on stage to perform, just the hope that they will make a few people laugh.

The audience writes down different scenarios that Nate, Tim and Steve will put their own comedic twist on. One sheet might say "job interview" and another might say "two lovers on the moon discover they are brother and sister through Google." The skits last anywhere

from two minutes to five minutes, depending on how long they can squeeze laughs out of the audience. They manage to keep the audience laughing constantly, cracking jokes at the expense of Iowa and using the occasional flatulence humor.

During the performance at the Collective, the three acted out a scene in which Nate woke up in a bear's cave after spooning with Steve. Tim, who added giddy background mu-



88improv members (from left to right) Steve Hydeen, Nate Schoenfeld, and Tim Schoenfeld. Photo Courtesy of 88improv.

sic on the mic and ended the show with a rap about Boys Town, completed the scene. They continued until all of the audi-

While taking theater classes at Northwestern College together, the three friends first discovered their passion for improv comedy. "I really like the storytelling aspect of improv and the whole idea that I don't have to memorize anything," Steve said. None of them ever do stand-up comedy.

One of their favorite moments in comedy was a skit they did pretending to be on a pirate ship. Tim made Steve walk the plank and said the only way to live was to give him one word that started with "Arr!" and ended with "Arr!" Steve responded with "Rooster!" "I was surprised it actually worked. It was a pure moment of improv; it was great," Steve said.

Catch 88improv's performances on Tuesday, Nov. 5 and Nov. 19 at The Pizza Shoppe Collective, located on 6056 Maple St. in Benson. Go to pscollective.com to view various other musical acts, theatrical pieces and lectures taking place at The Collective in the next month.

Recipe...


BBQ Chicken Pizza

You need

- * Premade Pizza crust (Pillsbury)
- * BBQ sauce
- * Chicken breast
- * Cilantro
- * Gouda cheese

Steps

- 1 - Preheat oven to 350°
- 2 - Spread BBQ sauce on pizza crust
- 3 - Sprinkle chicken
- 4 - Sprinkle cilantro
- 5 - Sprinkle gouda cheese
- 6 - Put the pizza in the oven for 20 minutes and until golden crust.





Calling All Little Monsters

The Real Story Behind an International Superstar

Molly **Rakoczy**

She is more than just a singer. She is a dancer. A performer. A fashionista. An international icon.

She is Lady Gaga. But just who is she? Where did she come from? What does her name mean?

And why doesn't she wear pants? Stefani "Lady Gaga" Germanotta was born March 28, 1986 in New York City. Gaga wrote her first ballad at age 13 and began singing and playing at open-mic nights one year later, according to the Internet Movie Database.

To showcase and improve her talent, Gaga performed in plays and musicals at her Sacred Heart high school in New York City. While she occasionally felt like an outcast in high school, a friend said in an interview with "New York Magazine" that Gaga was "always popular" and that she doesn't "remember her experiencing any social problems or awkwardness."

After graduation, Gaga attended New York University but dropped out when she thought she had surpassed her classmates. "Once you learn how to think about art, you can teach yourself," she told "New York Magazine."

Her father agreed to let her take a year off school to pursue her music. She moved into an apartment and performed at various clubs and lounges for the next year. A week before her birthday, Gaga performed a lounge in Manhattan called The Cutting Edge with fellow singer-songwriter Wendy Starland, who was starstruck by Gaga's performance.

Starland called her producer, Rob Fusari, and told him about Gaga's stage presence. "Stefani's confidence filled the room," Starland told "New York Magazine." Fusari agreed to be Gaga's producer.

Despite Gaga's initial objections, Fusari was determined to make Gaga into a dance artist. Fusari pushed Gaga, who liked to wear leggings and sweatshirts, to embrace her future as a star. Her clothes had to change drastically.

"You're an artist now. You can't turn this on and off," he told her.

Gaga eventually took Fusari's comments seriously and dramatically changed her style

Rah Rah Fashion by Gaga

The reasoning behind Gaga's most outrageous outfits

"If we don't stand up for what we believe in, if we don't fight for our rights, we're going to have as much rights as the meat on our bones," Gaga said during an interview with Ellen Degeneres after the 2010 VMAs.



"It's fabulous, I hope the Queen likes it," Gaga told "New York City Magazine."



"I should like to make one person believe in that moment [seeing Gaga in her bubble dress], and it would be worth every salt of a No. 1 record," Gaga said during an interview with "New York Magazine."



"One day, I said to my creative team, 'Gaultier did bows, let's do it in a new way.' We were going back and forth with ideas, and then I said hair-bow. It never cost a penny and it looked so brilliant. It's just one of those things. I'm very arrogant about it," Gaga told "New York Magazine."

Graphic by Molly **Rakoczy**

Sources: <http://www.mtv.com/news/was-lady-gaga-s-meat-dress-real/>; <http://www.fash-eccentric.com/2009/10/>; <http://www.mtv.com/photos/vma-2009-backstage-moments/1620614/4251809/photo.jhtml>; <http://www.nycmagazine.com/2009/12/09/what-lady-gaga-wore-to-meet-the-queen/>; <http://www.nowmagazine.co.uk/star-style/get-the-look/300814/lady-gaga-goes-a-shade-braver/1/>

until it was the eccentric, eye-catching look seen everywhere. A natural brunette, Gaga dyed her hair platinum blonde so she wouldn't be mistaken as Amy Winehouse. She turned away from her sweatshirts and embraced leotards and oddly shaped shoes.

And then she stopped wearing pants. "My grandmother is basically blind, but she can make out the lighter parts, like my skin and hair," Gaga told "New York Magazine." "She says, 'I can see you, because you have no pants on.' So I'll continue to wear no pants so that my grandma can see me."

Along with her extreme change in attire, the dance artist began to go by her new name, Lady Gaga. Fusari called her Lady Gaga because she always sang Queen's "Radio Ga Ga."

Stefani Germanotta, a shy girl at a private school, was nowhere to be found in this unique, confident dance artist. An outrageous name for an outrageous girl.

Lady Gaga was on the fast track to stardom, but she hadn't quite reached it. Her first

record deal with Island Def Jam fell through after she produced her first few tracks. She and her boyfriend of two years, DJ and bar manager Luc Carl, broke up, leaving behind a tangled mess of leftover feelings.

But that might have been the push she needed. Gaga and Carl's breakup inspired many of the songs on her first album, "The Fame". She was also inspired by her friends in New York and other artists such as Madonna, Michael Jackson and Judy Garland.

With these inspirations, Gaga became a star. Interscope Records signed a deal with her and she released "The Fame" in 2008.

Since then, Gaga's career has exploded. She quickly developed a large group of followers, thanks to her odd fashion choices and catchy dance tracks. She has had two number-one hits off of her first album, "Poker Face" and "Just Dance."

Her music videos for the songs "Bad Romance" and "Poker Face" won her eight trophies at the 2010 MTV Music Awards in

September, according to cbsnews.com. While wearing her dress made entirely of meat, Gaga announced the title of her new album, "Born This Way." The album will be released sometime after her Monster Ball Tour is over.

Gaga's meat costume caused many mixed reactions, but to her it just seemed normal. After all, she wore a bubble dress as part of her Monster Ball Tour and a red latex dress with red sparkles around her eyes to meet the Queen of England.

To her, fashion is "everything." She views it not only as art, but as a way to make statements about her beliefs.

Sophomore Anna Hautzinger saw Gaga's concert in Kansas City this August. She heard Gaga's music on the radio and liked "the way her songs sound" and that "she stands up for her beliefs."

According to Hautzinger, the most outrageous costume Gaga wore at her Kansas City concert appeared to be made of glass. Hautzinger said that Gaga's costumes are "her, no one else could do it." Hautzinger, like many others, will be attending Gaga's concert in Omaha this March. Tickets went on sale on Oct. 2 at 10 a.m. and were available until later that morning, according to omaha.com.

For one full-price ticket on Ticketmaster, prices ranged from about \$60 to almost \$200. Some packages, such as the Little Monster Package, cost more than \$200.

Little Monsters is the nickname Gaga uses to refer to her biggest fans. She uses the term affectionately because her fans inspire her music.

In an interview with Oprah, Gaga said, "I want them to free themselves, and I want them to be proud of who they are. I want them to celebrate all the things they don't like about themselves the way that I did and to be truly happy from the inside."

Top 7 SCARIEST Movies

Marian girls have ever seen

Results based on a survey of 150 Marian students
Graphic by Molly **Misek**

- 7 Halloween
- 6 The Shining
- 5 Texas Chainsaw Massacre
- 4 The Strangers
- 3 When A Stranger Calls
- 2 A Haunting in Connecticut
- 1 Paranormal Activity

Check out **The Network Online** for more stories and pictures!
www.omahamarian.org/netpaper

Through The Years

A glimpse into sophomore Annie Skradski's Halloween past



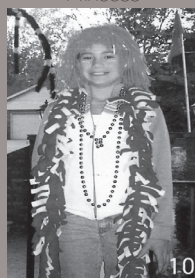
Pre-School: Princess



Kindergarten: Blossom the Powerpuff Girl



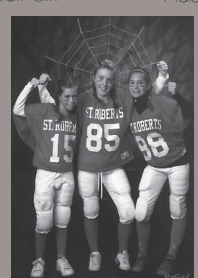
Fourth Grade: Hula Girl



Fifth Grade: Thing One



Sixth Grade: Fanta Girl



Seventh Grade: Football Player



Eighth Grade: Army Girl

Graphic by Kaitlin **Johnson**
Photos courtesy of Annie Skradski