Since its innocent beginning in 1983, The Times Best of Acadiana feature has been among our most consistently controversial. Little did we know, for example, that so many letters to the editor could result from so small a declaration as who has the best hamburger. For our 10th anniversary, a Secret Select Confidential Committee of Commissioners has reviewed past issues of Bests(1983, 1985, 1987, 1989) and come up with a retrospective of the Best of the Best. Some of the Best are still going strong. Some can be argued about. Some, sadly, are no longer with us. As always, you know where to write us.

The Best of Acadiana

STILL THE BEST

The Best Downtown Square
They aren't making many new ones these days so the green space in the center of downtown Lafayette is still the livest. St. Martinville is making a real run at the title, however, with some nice plantings of flowers. But those white fowers look to go.

The Best View from the Top
These banks have much new construction to overcome from the windows of the Lafayette City Club since 1983. Never mind. On a clear day, you can still see forever. The view on a cloudy, rainy day isn't bad either.

The Best Place to Pass a Good Time
After Work
When we did our first Best of OK... since in 1983, Downtown Al Gloss was a small intimate gathering in the Pare de Lafayette that only took place three or four Fridays per season. Downtown Al Gloss long ago outgrew the little park and now spills over several streets outside the sale, but in this case, bigger really is better. The weekly event has become the best place in town to meet up with old friends and make new ones.

The Best Oysters on the Half Shell
This category remains a draw. Black's and Depuy's in Abbotsville are both still recognized for "the Best, tender raw oysters by the dozen." Now there's more to enjoy, though, since Black's moved a few doors down to a more spacious and airy quarters. The food remains the same, with lure of both restaurants during peak periods.

The Best Cajun Culture Ambassador
Tabasco Brand Pepper Sauce will always reign supreme. Since the designation five years ago, the Louisiana sauce has begun gracing tables in Japan, proving that its appeal is universal.

The Most Accurate
Under the heading of "the more things change, the more they stay the same," COM of Committees randy reflects. 1983's Best Omelette, Cotton On Trunk, now the governor, Buddy Roemer, still lumbered into the classic with a revolution that never quite jelled, a spate of deontic negotiations and a perplexed public.

The Most Prophetic
The following entry proved to be least accurate and all too familiar as the state's economy steadily declined beyond the mid-70s. "Stay alive in '84. Take your links in 86. Chapter 13 in '77."

The Best Creole TV Dinner
The staffed booths from Creole Lunch House are the pride de resistance on the weekend's itinerary, and we confirmed for the first time in 1987 (we called them First on Line). New locations, in addition to the original at 713 22nd St., are in

CONT ON PAGE 4

Norlingale Mall and at 2500 Johnston Street. A hearty serving of Creole sausage, meat, cheese and recalling his peppered peppers (optional) wrapped in a pimento-stuffed green tomato baked to "enjoy perfection," these are not for the faint of heart or lean of stomach. The best proof: Acadienne in New Orleans' Warehouse Dept. a month devoted to Creole dishes and produced them "the ultimate Menu Food."
Framed Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

The BEST of the BEST of the BEST of the BEST of...

Best Place to Watch ESPN

The Lifecircle at Red Lerille's has been appointed by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, a television station that combines the physical experience of walking up and down flights of stairs, dedicated exercise groups (or those who like to leave that impression) with the cool, high-energy vibe of the mall. This is the perfect place to kick back and enjoy a game of games.

SUBJECT TO DISPUTE

Best Alligator-Viewing from a Golf Course

Return to the renowned Grant Acres Country Club in Pecan Island where your golfing dreams are on the rise. This course features the ultimate in wildlife viewing, with alligators and other exotic species making their home. Enjoy the natural beauty and challenge of this world-class course.

Best Cracklin'=

Bunny's U-Need-a-Butch is the shining star in the defending champ. But Bunny's isn't owned by Bruce anymore, but by his brother-in-law, Jimmy Deaver. And by the way, Bruce's name is really Bruce, it's Neilson Brunson, Nelson Brunson, a.k.a. Bruce, now owns Bruce's Grocery.

Best Place to Get in Touch with your Cajun Roots (or Somebody Else's)

Seven years ago, Little's in Breton Bridge, the local spot for Cajun pancakes and food and music. Best-known for the give-and-take carousing that goes on, it's a real gem. Come and see for yourself.

Best Hamburger=

Long a subject of intense argument and debate, true believers are not easily swayed. The choice in 1985 was Hamburger Steak and Smoker, but many argue that it's now the best burger in the city. The debate is likely to continue for years to come.

Best Way to Give Your VCR a Little Culture

It was Wago's in New Orleans in 1987, offering more than 1,500 videos that would still make a great video store proud. But now there's Blockbuster, the video giant that's been a fixture in the neighborhood for years. And in Lafayette in 1987, a total of 10,000 video titles.

Best Bourre Player

In 1980, The Times picked Lee Morris of Carencro. But the year's winner of an annual tournament organized by the Times.

Framed Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
New Orleans has always treated itself well, and, today, it continues to do so. The city's culture, food, and music are legendary, and its people are known for their hospitality and warmth. One of the city's best-known attractions is the French Quarter, which is known for its vibrant nightlife and delicious cuisine.

Best Pizza
1. Angelo's Pizza
2. Fiume's
3. Tony's

Best Service Station
1. The Jefferson Cenex
2. The Citgo
3. The BP

Best Use of Federal Funds by a Critic of Federal Spending
1. Agricultural
2. Housing
3. Education

Best Nightclub Combination
1. The Venue
2. The Blue Room
3. The Maple Leaf

Most Enthusiastic Picket Line
1. The Sizzlin' Steak House
2. The Bourbon Street Bistro
3. The Bienville Bar

Best Place to Hear Classical Music and You Don't Have to Wear Nice Clothes
1. The Black Box
2. The Warehouse
3. The French Market

Best Reason To Stay Home
1. The Movie-theater
2. The Bookstore
3. The Cafe

Best Remodeling Job On Johnston Street
1. The Old Building
2. The New Building
3. The Renovated Building

Since 1980
1. Most Thriving Remodeling Job
2. A New Burger King
3. A New Subway

Best Proof Of Why People Think The City Of Lafayette Takes Forever To Do Things
1. The Riveau
2. The Calcasieu
3. The Atchafalaya Basin

The Eugenics Hotel, which burned in 1980, was one of the city's most iconic landmarks. It was located on the waterfront, across from the French Quarter. The hotel was known for its ornate architecture and its run-down appearance, which added to its charm. It was famously featured in the film "The French Quarter," which was released in 1980.