

City Wok Dim Sum: great food option for students on a budget

REVIEW BY JESSICA MCMILLAN

STAFF WRITER



Jessica McMillan is a junior interdisciplinary studies major from Bryant, Arkansas.

If you are looking for a place where you can get food that is fast, at a good price and isn't far, then City Wok Dim Sum is a good place to start. The location of the restaurant is in downtown Jonesboro on Main Street. Now looking at time wise, it would be about 10 minutes depending on traffic to get there.

It was during my sophomore year here at A-State when my friend and I first came upon this place. We learned of City Wok by Google searching for "food near me" which didn't bring up anything that sounded good at that time. So we tried looking for different cuisines and finally we looked up "noodles restaurants near me." This resulted in us finding City Wok Dim Sum and it soon became a great find for us.

When you first enter the restaurant, you will find it looks like an alleyway. It is long in length, but smaller in width. To the right you have a line of half-

booths and chairs going along the reddish brick wall. Each table had a set of white bowls, and later we found out they had different sauces within them. In front of you, toward the back is where the cash register and menu are.

I say the overall look of the place was simple, neat and a little homey. Though the restaurant was on the smaller side, it still held a comfortable feel.

On the menu, we had no trouble understanding it and the prices. The menu itself held four main sections: drinks, ramen, dim sum and wraps. The prices on this menu weren't high at all and was a plus for us being college students. What I ended up trying for the first time was a bowl of chicken ramen that was \$5.99, and an order of pork dumplings which was \$1.99 and three come with each order. All together came up to around \$8 with tax.

The wait time was about 20 minutes for both of our meals. We sat in the middle of the rows of the half-booth. My friend took the booth while I sat down on the chair. We examined the two white bowls and found what kind of sauces they were. One contained a soy sauce-like mixture while the other was a hot and vinegary type.

When the food came out, everything was steamy and fresh. Our meals were not on the small side, and mine easily filled up my stomach. I tried the ramen first and found that the soup

base was very simple. No added sauce or extra compound. It was a clear chicken broth that could have been boiled with a few other vegetables. Within the ramen contained: somewhat soft cabbage, half of a hard boiled egg, a handful of chopped green onions and chicken.

My pork buns were also a nice surprise. How I would describe the bun is that it is more bread-like than a regular dumpling. Before evening eating the bun, you could smell the yeast in and even more so after biting into it. The filling, like the ramen, was simple and nothing complex. The mixture within the bun was pork and vegetables which, when cooked, created a hot soup like liquid. So when first taking your bite, you may burn yourself if you are not careful. I also found that the bun really pairs well with the hot vinegary sauce given to you.

Overall, my experience at City Wok was a major success and left a great impression -- so much so that it became a lunch spot for my friend and I every Tuesday around 12:30 p.m. We would look forward to it at the beginning of each week, and would order the same thing and never get tired of it.

My advice for those looking for a change of our lunch routine, I would suggest going to this place first. The restaurant is nearby, easy to find, the menu is simple and the prices are reasonable. The food is filling and delicious!



Photo by: Jessica McMillan | Staff Writer

City Wok Dim Sum offers ramen, dim sum, drinks and wraps. City Wok is currently offering takeout only due to COVID-19. The restaurant is at 241 S. Main Street Suite A in downtown Jonesboro.

ARKANSAS LAWMAKERS WORKING ON THIRD ANTI-TRANSGENDER BILL

Bill claims to protect teachers

ALEX CLARK

LIFE EDITOR

A bill targeting transgender students' names and pronouns passed the Arkansas state House Thursday and is in the Senate.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Mary Bentley, is meant to protect teachers who are allegedly worried about being sued or face some other consequence for misusing a student's name or pronouns. Teachers would be allowed to exclusively refer to students as their "biological" name and sex.

This is the second piece of anti-transgender legislation opposed by Gov. Asa Hutchinson. In a statement to the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Hutchinson said, "This bill is unnecessary. I am requesting my Department of Education to further evalu-

ate."

The bill has been criticized as protecting teachers who simply do not want to respect trans students, which Rep. Bentley has acknowledged, saying, "It's not compelling anyone's speech. It's not prohibiting anyone's speech. It's helping those professors and teachers in our schools that do not want to be sued for not using a certain person's pronoun."

However, Rep. Bentley also said, "This bill is just a first step to help protect our teachers, but when we have students in school now that don't identify as a boy or a girl but as a cat, as a furry, we have issues."

A petition titled "Teachers reject HB1749" opposing the bill is going around on social media, urging teachers to sign and show they are not in support of this. As of Tuesday eve-

ning, the petition had 1,919 or the 2,500 signatures needed.

In a comment left on the petition page, Carolyn Miller said, "As a retired middle school teacher, I know how important it is to call a student by his or her "identifying" name. Doing otherwise is almost always humiliating to the student. How DARE you decide this for a child? The correct pronunciation of a student's name, his use of initials instead of full name, use of a middle name instead of a first—THAT was most important to me when leaving instructions for a substitute teacher. This is a bill that supports bullying. Shame on you."

The petition can be found at <https://www.change.org/p/arkansas-legislature-teachers-reject-hb1749>.



Stacy O'Brien started this petition to Arkansas Legislature

HB1749, if passed, would require Arkansas teachers to use the name and gender pronouns indicated by a student's birth certificate, rather than their preferred name or pronouns. This bill is petty, cruel, & unnecessary.

Arkansas teachers are united in standing up for our students' mental health and safety in the classroom and we reject this blatant attack on our LGBTQIA students.

We are asking Arkansas teachers to sign and share this petition, which will be presented to the House and Senate Education Committees. Please leave a note with your credentials and years of experience.

SCREENSHOT COURTESY OF CHANGE.ORG

A petition by Stacy O'Brien on change.org encourages Arkansas teachers to speak out against HB1749.

Interested in reporting? Join us every Monday at 5 p.m. in room 224 in the Communications Building.

The basics about Ramadan, the holy month of fasting

ALEX CLARK

LIFE EDITOR

Ramadan is the holy month of fasting, the ninth month on the Muslim calendar. Ramadan began Monday and ends May 12.

During Ramadan, Muslims fast from dawn to dusk as a way to practice sawm, or restraint, which is one of the five pillars

of Islam.

While sawm is most widely recognized as the obligation to fast during Ramadan, it can also be interpreted as the obligation to refrain from eating, drinking, sexual activity and all forms of immoral behavior. If sawm is broken during Ramadan, it can be made up with an extra day of fasting after Ramadan is over.

Muslims who have reached

puberty are expected to participate in the fast. Children are not expected to, but around the age of seven, they may begin some form of limited or symbolic fasting.

Some are exempt from fasting if they are ill in some way, pregnant or too weak. They are expected to make up the fast later, unless they experience chronic illness or cannot fast due to

age. Other ways the fast can be made up are by volunteering, performing righteous works or feeding the poor.

Muslim families get up early in the morning to eat suhur, a breakfast-like meal. Following the meal, the family does a morning prayer. At sunset, the fast is broken with a meal called iftar. Iftar begins with dates or apricots and water or sweetened milk, according to the custom of Muhammad.

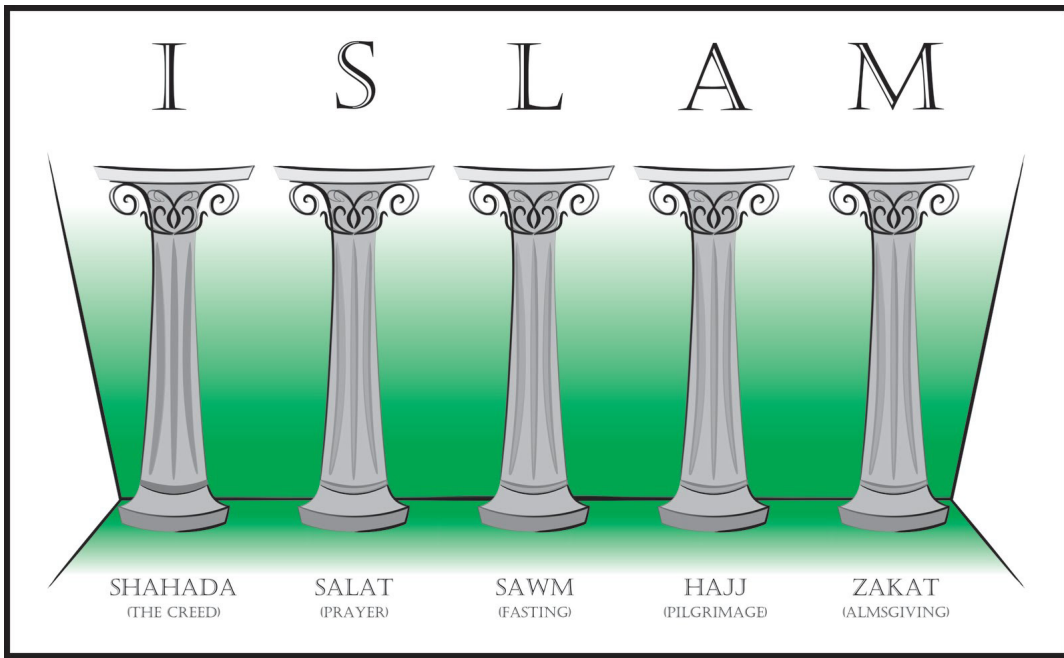
Following iftar, families may go to the mosque for night

prayers, and also participate in tarawih. The entire Quran may be recited throughout the month of Ramadan during tarawih.

Lailat al-Qadr, or the Night of Power, is within the last 10 days of Ramadan and is commonly recognized specifically on the 27th day of Ramadan. This is symbolic of the night the Quran was revealed, and is the most blessed night of Ramadan. Mosques are open all night for prayer vigils and Quran recitations.

May 13 will be Eid al-Fitr, or the Festival of The Breaking of The Fast. Eid al-Fitr can be elaborate: children wear new clothes, women wear white, special food is baked, the graves of loved ones are visited and people gather for family meals or to pray in mosques.

During Ramadan, you may see or hear the phrases “Ramadan Mubarak,” “Ramadan Kareem” or “Eid Mubarak.” These mean, respectively, “blessed Ramadan,” “generous Ramadan” and “blessed holiday.”



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF DAR AL-IFTA AL MISSRIYYAH

The above graphic shows the five pillars of Islam: shahada, salat, sawm, hajj and zakat. Sawm is the pillar recognized primarily during Ramadan.

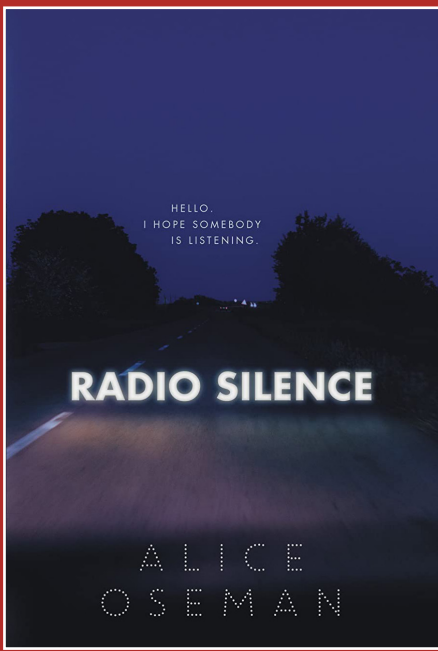


PHOTO COURTESY OF WGNV (ACHMAD IBRAHIM | AP)

Muslims participating in Ramadan observed social distancing practices during prayers.

THIS WEEK'S POP PICK

“Radio Silence” (Alice Oseman, 2016)



BOOK COVER COURTESY OF AMAZON KINDLE

Alice Oseman’s second YA novel, “Radio Silence,” follows the blooming friendship and changing lives of Frances Janvier and Aled Last.

Frances has always been seen as a rigid workaholic, focused solely on getting good grades and being accepted into a good university. Frances always saw Aled as a shy boy who shadowed her classmate Daniel.

That is, until she discovers Aled is the anonymous creator of her secret favorite podcast, “Universe City,” and he’s unknowingly asked her, an anonymous artist on Twitter and Tumblr under the pseudonym Toulouse, to become the official artist

for the podcast.

As friendship blooms between the two, they become more comfortable being themselves around each other. They wear clothes they don’t wear around anyone else, share Universe City and confide in each other about family and the future.

After accidentally drunk-posting a silly episode of “Universe City,” a popular YouTuber talks about how much he loves the podcast in a video and causes it to go viral. The massive gain in attention causes people to figure out Frances is Toulouse, and soon figure out Aled is the creator.

The trust between the two is absolutely shattered, and now they have to pick up the pieces.

“Radio Silence” takes place in the same literary universe as Oseman’s first novel, “Solitaire,” but takes place after the events of the novel and only briefly references them.

HOROSCOPES

ALEX CLARK

MYSTIC CORRESPONDENT

<p>ARIES (March 22 - April 19)</p> <p>Overindulgence now will lead to isolation later. No matter how exciting something is, take it slow and look at all angles.</p>	<p>TAURUS (April 20 - May 20)</p> <p>Don’t turn everything into a competition. Learn to work with others rather than against them, and you’ll make it further in life.</p>	<p>GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)</p> <p>Be patient with yourself and those around you. We’re in troubling times and everyone deserves some grace.</p>	<p>CANCER (June 21 - July 22)</p> <p>Stay focused on your goals. Don’t let yourself become discouraged or distracted, you’re so close.</p>
<p>LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)</p> <p>Listen to yourself and your feelings. You know you can trust your intuition.</p>	<p>VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)</p> <p>Take opportunities to learn as they come to you. You always have room to grow your passions.</p>	<p>LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)</p> <p>Things will not always be easy, but you can get through them. Allow yourself to grieve.</p>	<p>SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)</p> <p>You can make your dreams a reality. If you find yourself searching for purpose, reconsider your path.</p>
<p>SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)</p> <p>You care a lot about others and you should embrace that. Consider letting others get close to you as well.</p>	<p>CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)</p> <p>Your hard work is paying off. Stability and safety is coming your way.</p>	<p>AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)</p> <p>Let the world around you inspire you. You are surrounded by wonder and beauty.</p>	<p>PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 21)</p> <p>Stop wallowing in self-pity. Get up and figure out what the problem is.</p>