



by Mark Rumreich

The Alley Cat has been a Broad Ripple institution for over thirty years. Named for its location off the strip, it's hidden in the alley near Old Pro's Table. Called one of the Top 20 Dive Bars in America by Stuff Magazine, the Alley Cat features a diverse crowd and unpretentious back-alley digs.

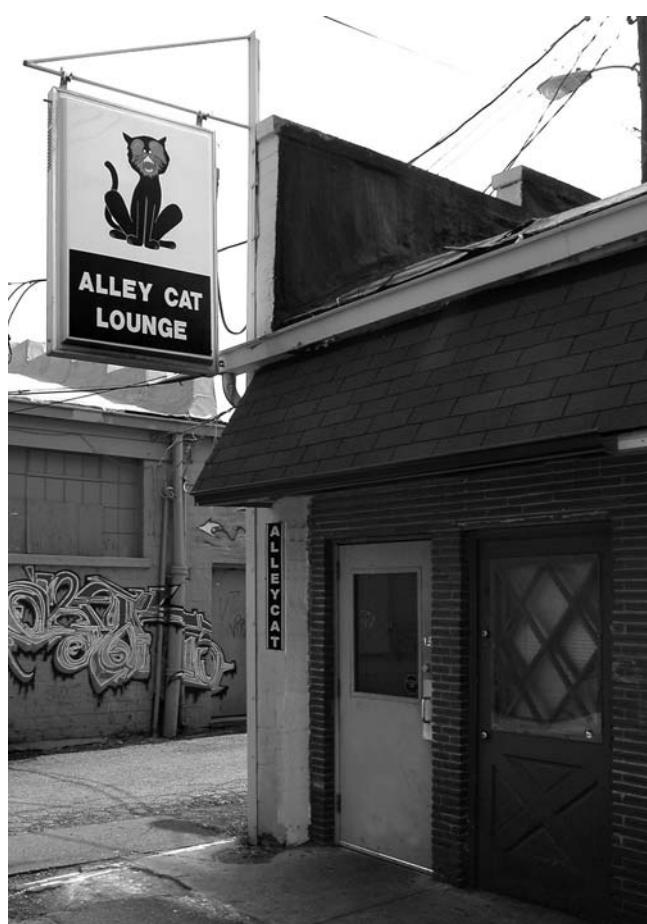
Inside, space is tight, but you'll find a bar, some tables and two rooms of pool tables and darts. The Alley Cat is open for breakfast every day and stays open until the wee hours.

The menu here covers more than you might expect. Breakfasts range from eggs and omelets to pancakes, French toast and Belgian waffles. For the rest of the day, there are burgers, sandwiches, salads and appetizers. Dinner specials include shrimp & pasta, ribeye steak, and fish - all affordably priced.

What about the pizza menu? Twelve-inch sausage or pepperoni \$4.95, deluxe \$5.25. We decided to go all out and get one of each. I was caught off-guard when the bartender asked what we wanted on the deluxe, expecting it to be pre-formulated. But it quickly became clear: the folks here aim to please. We asked for pepperoni & sausage with mushrooms, onions and green pepper.

Beerwise, if you were expecting cheap PBR in a can, it's here. But so are Bass Ale, Newcastle and Sierra Nevada in bottles.

The pizzas were delivered a few minutes apart - the sausage, the



### Crossword solution

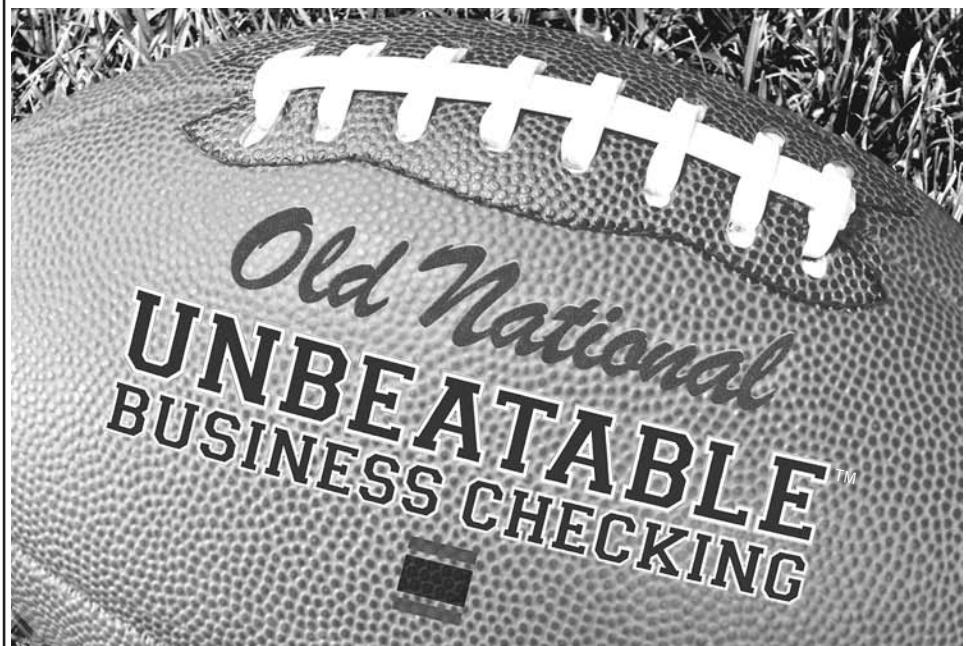
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### Hidden History solution

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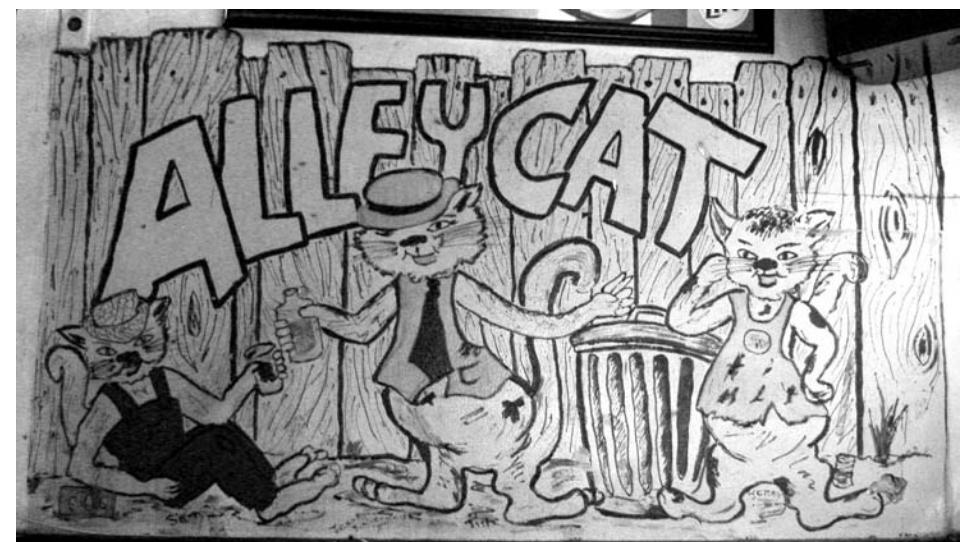
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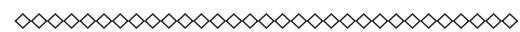
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An Alley Cat wall mural in the cozy bar.

pepperoni, then the deluxe. Gourmet, heck no, but the crusts were crisp and there was plenty of cheese and toppings. Hard to beat for five bucks.

With all that character and affordable eats, the Alley Cat is good for more than a late night beer and game of pool - it's a place for breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Mark Rumreich has been vigilantly surveying the pizza scene in the Indianapolis area for over two decades. He is an avid home brewer, has written for several magazines, and is the author of the just-released second edition of the Car Stereo Cookbook.



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