

= No Meals on Wheels =

" No Meals on Wheels " is the 14th episode of the fifth season of the animated comedy series Family Guy . It originally aired on Fox in the United States on March 25 , 2007 . The episode features the Griffin family opening a restaurant , and eventually become overwhelmed by Joe Swanson and his wheelchair friends . With this , Peter decides to ban wheelchairs from their establishment , because they are " uncool " . This causes Joe , along with his wheelchair @-@ using friends to attempt to take back the restaurant , and prevent Peter from discriminating against them .

The episode was written by Mike Henry and directed by Greg Colton . It received mixed reviews from critics for its storyline and many cultural references . According to Nielsen ratings , it was viewed in 7 @.@ 97 million homes in its original airing . The episode featured guest performances by Barclay DeVeau , Keith Ferguson , Arnold McCuller and Patrick Stewart , along with several guest voice actors for the series . " No Meals on Wheels " was released on DVD along with four other episodes from the season on October 21 , 2008 .

= = Plot = =

Peter is annoyed by his friend Mort Goldman constantly borrowing his personal belongings , and eventually decides to create a " Scare @-@ Jew " , using his suit , which depicts Adolf Hitler in an attempt to keep Mort away from his house , which works later on . Frustrated , Lois takes him to a clothing store to get a new suit , where Peter finds some flannel pajamas . While wearing them , he suddenly notices that he can shock people with static electricity by rubbing his feet on the carpet . Annoyed by this , Lois asks Quagmire to completely remove the carpet , which leads the family to find an antique 18th century Rhode Island ship token , hidden under the carpet , which the family sells for \$ 50 @,@ 000 . With the money , Peter and Lois decide to live their dream of owning a restaurant , naming it " Big Pete 's House of Munch " .

The Griffins ' business has a shaky start and loses money until Joe promises to bring his friends to the restaurant . Peter is at first excited at the thought of his restaurant becoming the hangout for police officers , but eventually finds that Joe is actually bringing in fellow paraplegics . The restaurant becomes a huge success among handicapped customers , but Peter is disappointed that what was supposed to be a cool restaurant has become a " cafeteria at the veterans hospital , " and did not want to take the profits for granted . Angered , Peter bans them from entering with a " no shirt , no shoes , no legs , no service " policy . Joe is perplexed why Peter would turn away loyal paying customers , much less a good friend like Joe , but Peter stubbornly refuses to allow handicapped customers . In response , the handicapped unite into a giant robot known as " CrippleTron " , which begins attacking the restaurant while Peter , Chris and Stewie are on the roof . Stewie eventually takes matters into his own hands and defeats CrippleTron , which falls on Peter , breaking one of his legs . After being taken to the hospital , Peter needs to use a wheelchair for two weeks while his broken leg heals . Peter apologizes to Joe , who accepts his apology on the basis that he is glad to see Peter understand the difficulties of being disabled and that he does not want to continue holding a grudge against Peter . The two make amends , and things go back to the way they were and Peter closes down the restaurant .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by main cast member Mike Henry , who provides the voice for the Family Guy character Cleveland Brown , among others , and it was directed by series regular Greg Colton . In animating the Cripple @-@ Tron sequence , Colton largely utilized computer technology to create the sequence , in addition to traditional animation and computer @-@ generated imagery .

" No Meals on Wheels " , along with the four other episodes from Family Guy 's fifth season , were released on a three @-@ disc DVD set in the United States on October 21 , 2008 . The sets included brief audio commentaries by Seth MacFarlane and various crew and cast members for

several episodes , a collection of deleted scenes , a special mini @-@ feature which discussed the process behind animating " 100th Episode Special " , and a mini @-@ feature entitled Family Guy Live .

In addition to the regular cast , voice actor Barclay DeVeau , voice actor Keith Ferguson , singer Arnold McCuller and actor Patrick Stewart guest starred in the episode . Recurring guest voice actors Lori Alan , Johnny Brennan , writer Steve Callaghan , voice actor Chris Cox , writer Danny Smith , writer Alec Sulkin and writer John Viener also made minor appearances .

= = Cultural references = =

The episode opens with the Griffin family watching an episode of America 's Next Top Model . The show 's host , Tyra Banks , is also shown , becoming furious at a contestant , and a giant iguana emerges from her mouth . After Mort attempts to borrow something from the Griffin family , Peter states that Mort is more burdensome than the Mexican Super Friends . Deciding to scare him away , Peter then goes on to build a scarecrow that resembles former Nazi leader Adolf Hitler . This causes Mort to be scared from the family 's home , and implores other Jews to protect Jon Stewart , being that he is their " most important Jew . "

Annoyed by Peter 's constant shocking , Brian professes his discomfort by referencing his anger after O. J. Simpson was acquitted of charges in the O. J. Simpson murder case . After Lois expresses her hope for the restaurant to be successful , Stewie sarcastically states that it will be just as successful as Liza Minnelli 's Playboy photoshoot . Returning home from the restaurant , Peter and Lois decide to watch an episode of Maude , but the length of the opening theme song causes Peter to become fatigued by the show . Once the restaurant begins hemorrhaging money , Peter decides to shoot a commercial parodying M. Night Shyamalan 's 1999 film The Sixth Sense . After Joe 's handicapped friends take over the restaurant , Peter expresses his discomfort about the restaurant 's coolness to Lois by retrieving a picture of American actor Mark Harmon and showing it to Lois in an attempt to make her understand his concern .

Once Peter becomes handicapped , a montage of his difficulties as a paraplegic is shown , with Elton John 's " I Guess That 's Why They Call It the Blues " playing in the background . In the final scene of the episode , Peter decides to apologize to Joe for attempting to discriminate him for being handicapped . Accepting his apology , Joe invites Peter to join him and Bonnie while they watch the ABC medical drama Grey 's Anatomy .

= = Reception = =

In a slight decrease from the previous week , the episode was viewed in 7 @.@ 97 million homes in its original airing , according to Nielsen ratings , in the United States . The episode also acquired a 2 @.@ 8 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic , slightly edging out The Simpsons , in addition to significantly winning over series creator Seth MacFarlane 's second show on Fox , American Dad ! , in both rating and total viewership . It was the 35th most @-@ watched episode of the week .

Reviews of the episode were mostly mixed , stating that the episode had " its moments , [...] but as a whole , it was somewhat lacking . " Ahsan Haque of IGN found it to be " one of the most bizarre and tasteless episodes of the season . " Furthermore , Haque noted , " as with almost every episode of Family Guy , the plot takes many strange twists and turns . That often this leads to a muddled story with no sense of direction . " Haque also stated , that he was " amused by Peter 's static shocking escapade " and " liked the restaurant themed story angle , " saying that it was well executed . Overall , Haque finally noted that the episode managed to recapture some of the show 's " so @-@ offensive @-@ you @-@ have @-@ to @-@ groan " feel that was prevalent during the first few seasons . The fight with the Cripple @-@ Tron ranked tenth position on IGN 's Top 10 Fights in the show . Brett Love of TV Squad found the cultural references to be a " mixed bag , " but noted his enjoyment of the restaurant scenes , as well as Quagmire 's brief appearance . In closing his review , Love stated , " Overall , this one just didn 't work for me . It 's worth a look for a couple of the bits , but not an episode I 'll watch when it gets repeated . [...] They can 't all be gems . "

The Parents Television Council , which has frequently criticized the series , named the episode the " Worst TV Show of the Week " for the week ending April 6 , 2007 , for its insensitivity toward the disabled , as well as its gag depicting Adolf Hitler as a scarecrow , or " Scare @-@ Jew , " as it was referred to in the episode .