

Cookies come with comfort from Brighton

It was a different world the night of Sunday, Sept. 9, when Geoffrey Auslen and Andrew Koven opened the city's newest delivery business, Geoff & Drew's Late Night Incredible Cookies. It was summer, muggy and in the 70s. And Boston was in a laid-back, just-keep-bringing-on-the-good-times, life-is-a-banquet mode.

Cookies fit the bill, then.

Buttery, homemade confections that you wish your mother, or someone's mother, would make and send.

Chocolate Chunk. Oatmeal Raisin, M&M Chocolate Chunk, Double Fudge Chunk, Peanut Butter Cup Chuck, Black & White Chocolate Chunk baked fresh in Brighton and delivered warm to your door.

Dozens of college students called in orders that first night for things like the Sex and the City Special — 16 cookies, milk and a pint of Ben and Jerry's — or the BC Combo — mix and match 12 cookies and four fudge brownies.

Cookies were fun. Cookies were frivolous. Cookies were perfect for the time.

They still are. The first two nights Geoff and Drew sold only cookies, fresh and delicious, yes, buttery and loaded with chips. The best cookies in the world, according to Koven. But only cookies.

Now they're selling comfort, too. The memory of childhood afternoons, of walking home from school and into a house sweet with the smell of cookies baking. The taste of butter on tongues and chocolate on fingertips. And the illusion of being 10 and safe again.



**Beverly
BECKHAM**

Hot cookies, cold milk, safety and a little TLC. Isn't that what we are all looking for these days?

On their first night in business, before Sept. 11 when the world appeared to be a safe place, some girls at Boston College called 866-EAT-LATE and ordered a dozen cookies for a boy in their dorm named Patrick.

Auslen, the cooking partner, took fresh dough from the refrigerator and baked the cookies. (Why wouldn't you bake them ahead of time and just reheat them? he was asked. "Because that would be cheating," he said. "Because then the cookies wouldn't be fresh.")

Brian Lerman, a college student, delivered them.

Patrick answered the door.

"These are for you," Patrick was told. He lifted the lid from the box and his roommates drooled. "Oh, man. You've got to marry whoever did this," one of them said.

Late Night Cookies has pledged a dollar of every order it takes to the Red Cross. "We wanted to do something. We wanted to help." Cookie orders slowed for a few days after Sept. 11. But they're picking up again. And Koven and Auslen are expanding the business to include corporate gifts, cookie parties, birthday cakes and other baked gifts.

At a time when other businesses are cutting back, they're going forward. Such is the magic of cookies.

When the world was good, cookies made it better. Now that the world is upside down, cookies are pure comfort.

As Koven puts it: "Cookies make you happy. Cookies make people smile."

**Late Night
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pledged \$1
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Talk back to Beverly Beckham on line at bostonherald.com.