

FEATURES

Couple introduces Pennsylvania-Dutch soft pretzels to Southerners

By Kim Costello
Staff Writer

Katie Taylor and her husband Steve Brauer have been in town for just a few years, but their business already has earned one distinction.

"We're the only listing under pretzels (in the yellow pages)," Taylor said proudly.

As owners of Katie's Pretzels in Carr Mill Mall in downtown Carrboro, Taylor and Brauer have introduced a delicacy unfamiliar to most Southerners — the soft pretzel.

But don't confuse their type of pretzel with the dry, crusty "soft" pretzels often sold at concession stands and snack bars.

"There's so many soft pretzels out there that people don't understand that we're different," Taylor said.

The proof lies in the menu. In addition to daily specials with flavors such as sunflower seed, pesto and cinnamon raisin, Katie's Pretzels offers original, onion, cinnamon sugar, salt-free and garlic Parmesan pretzels every day.

The pretzels are the result of years of work, prompted by a visit to a pretzel stand at a farmer's market in Pennsylvania-Dutch country in Taylor's home state.

"We thought the pretzels were wonderful," Brauer said. So wonderful, in fact, that the two began to work on pretzel doughs until they developed one they thought was good enough to build a business on.

"There was an old family recipe we made variations on," he said. "It took a couple of years to perfect. Just altering the amounts of a few ingredients can change the taste so much."

Customers seem to agree the pretzels are unlike any they've ever tasted.

"I get one just about every day," said Laura Thiele, a 1992 UNC graduate who has been a regular customer since last summer. Thiele's usual order is an original pretzel with pizza dip. Her choice is typical of many customers who only recently have discovered soft pretzels.

"The original is still our biggest-selling pretzel," Brauer said. Following the original, the cinnamon sugar and garlic Parmesan pretzels are in a close tie for second place.

"In the mornings, cinnamon sugar is ahead, but in the afternoon, it's garlic Parmesan," Taylor said.

More exotic varieties of pretzels can be a tough sell to

people unfamiliar with pretzels. "Some customers just aren't ready for them," Brauer said.

Taylor said, "It's been interesting to introduce people to the product."

When the business opened, many customers were already familiar with soft pretzels, particularly those who had lived in the North, Taylor said.

Brauer and Taylor opened their first store in the Outer Banks in the summer of 1991. "Since we were going to be in business for ourselves, we decided we might as well live where we wanted," Brauer said.

But the season on the shore was short, and the couple decided to relocate. After scouting in the Triangle, Katie's Pretzels opened in Carr Mill Mall in December 1991.

Katie's Pretzels now has a good mix of customers, and business has been so good the couple recently opened another store in Durham's Northgate Mall. Brauer and Taylor also hope to open stores in Raleigh or Greensboro and make Katie's Pretzels a name known throughout North Carolina, they said.

Taylor said most customers heard about them by word-of-mouth.

One customer who has discovered a penchant for the pretzels is Alvin Garner, a part-time UNC student from Chapel Hill. "I wandered in one day, and from then on, I was hooked," Garner said.

Garner came back so often he eventually became the store's single employee. He believes ardently in the appeal of the pretzel and hopes to own a franchise one day. "It has a whole lot of potential," said Garner.

Another customer, UNC student Mary Lou McNeill, wants Katie's Pretzels to expand to other local venues. "(Taylor) needs to open a franchise on Franklin Street," said the junior nursing major from Norwood.

The idea is not far-fetched. Brauer said he hoped the business eventually would expand to East Franklin Street to reach more of the student population, particularly since pretzels can be an economical choice for a meal.

Pretzels cost \$1 apiece for a single pretzel and less with each consecutive pretzel. Dips sell at 25 cents each. "Pretzels have no prejudice as far as economics," Brauer said. "Everyone can afford \$1 for a pretzel."

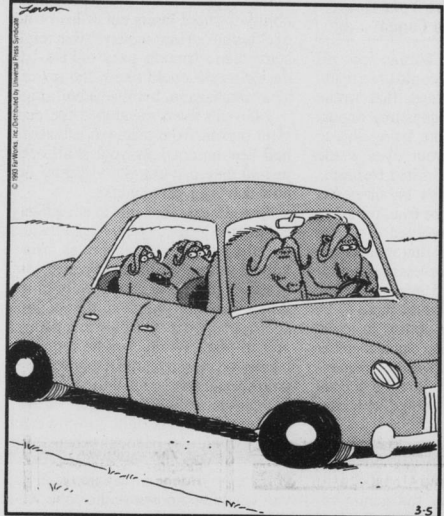


Katie Taylor and husband Steve Brauer developed their soft pretzel dough from an old family recipe

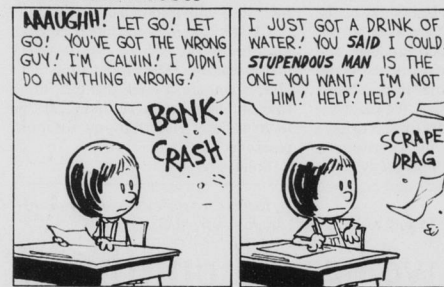
The appeal of pretzels also extends to health-conscious individuals since pretzels are baked goods, a factor that can be important in a health-conscious community like Carrboro,

Taylor said. Brauer said, "At Carr Mill we have a real loyal following and good support."

The Far Side



Calvin and Hobbes



Doonesbury



Germany to close its doors

The Associated Press
BONN, Germany — Faced with resurgent right-wing extremism and a faltering economy, Germany began rewriting its liberal asylum law on Thursday to try to halt the rush of would-be immigrants.

The open-door policy in effect since 1949 has offered a constitutional guarantee of asylum to all politically oppressed people and was enacted by postwar Germany as a way of trying to atone for its Nazi past.

But the government contends nearly all of the 440,000 asylum seekers who entered Germany last year came for economic reasons, and it has blamed right-wing violence on the flood of refugees.

Even the liberal opposition Social Democrats have agreed the carte blanche constitutional guarantee of asylum must be restricted. Because of opposition support, Parliament is expected to change the constitution and enact a package of asylum laws with the necessary two-thirds majority when it votes in late April.

Germany said it would continue to offer refuge to war victims and those truly oppressed at home.

"Recognized asylum seekers are not the problem in Germany," said Dieter Wiefelspuetz, addressing Parliament for the Social Democrats. "The problem is the uncontrolled, currently too-massive immigration to Germany." Despite the broad support for change, a few dozen protesters turned out Thursday to oppose any changes.

Smoke

from page 6

"We have to take a look at phasing out tobacco," Leichtman said. "We have to help them get into other forms of agriculture."

The effect of cigarette tax increases on tobacco farmers was one of the reasons U.S. Sen. Lauch Faircloth, R-N.C., has said he would vote against the bill.

"Senator Faircloth is opposed to any new taxes, including the cigarette tax," said John Pryor, Faircloth's press secretary.

But Lisa Shell, director of communications for U.S. Rep. David Price, D-N.C., said Price had not taken a stance on the measure.

"I don't know that he has any feeling about it one way or the other," Shell said. "Everything is on the table right now."

Erik Lundgren, press secretary for U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., said the senator had no comment on the bill.

TROSA

from page 3

Even though about 70 percent of the residents would be criminal offenders, the program also would be open to those who wished to be committed voluntarily.

Before it could open its doors to the public, Brown said TROSA would need to raise about \$320,000 from private donors.

Brown said TROSA would ask for private donations to avoid being restricted by governmental regulations.

"We don't want the federal government telling us whom we have to accept," Brown said.

Brown said he expected it to be difficult to raise enough money for the project but added that several grants from ma-

corporations, including Glaxo and Northern Telecom, were pending.

TROSA asked Glaxo for a \$50,000 grant, Brown said. If that grant is approved, Brown said he thought other corporations would follow suit.

Brown said TROSA needed \$280,000 to maintain the facility during its first year of operation and \$50,000 to find a site and hire a program director.

Brooks Fashions University Mall
Just bring in this coupon and receive 15% off any regular price merchandise. Good only at this location.

we care hair
306 B.W. Franklin St.
(Formerly Fowlers Market)
Student/Faculty Days
Wednesday & Sunday
\$6.95 WETCUT
with ID • regularly \$8
No appointment necessary
Mon.-Fri. 9-9 • Sat. 9-6 • Sun. 10-5
932-3900

Ram Triple
NCNB PLAZA • 967-8284
GROUNDHOG DAY
7:30 • 9:45 nightly (PG)
2:30 • 4:45 Sat/Sun

AMOS & ANDREW
7:00 • 9:00 nightly (PG-13)
2:00 • 4:00 Sat/Sun

BEST OF THE BEST 2
7:15 • 9:30 nightly (R)
2:15 • 4:30 Sat/Sun

PLAZA THEATRES
EASTERN FEDERAL THEATRES ELLIOTT RD. • 967-4737
4 Academy Award Nominations
SCENT OF A WOMAN 3:15 7:30 (R)

"A WICKEDLY MISCHIEVOUS, ENTERTAINING SUSPENSE THRILLER. THE MOST INTERESTING, ALL-OUT COMMERCIAL AMERICAN FILM OF THE YEAR TO DATE."
— Vincent Canby, THE NEW YORK TIMES
MICHAEL DOUGLAS
"The one movie everyone will be talking about. Provocative. Daring. Don't miss it! The first real movie of the 90's."
— Pat Collins, WWOR-TV
"Masterful. Exciting. Michael Douglas instantly heads the list for next year's Oscar race."
— Jack Garner, GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

FALLING DOWN
A Tale of Urban Reality.
R 3:10 • 5:10 • 7:20 • 9:30

"TWO THUMBS UP!"
— SISKEL & EBERT

MAD DOG and GLORY
3:25 • 5:15 • 7:10 • 9:20
ALL AUDITORIUMS EQUIPPED FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED

UNIVERSITY 2 OSCAR NOMINATIONS
ACTRESS—Mary McDonnell
SCREENPLAY—John Sayles

—Final week!—
GERARD DEPARDIEU
Tous les matins du monde
Better than 'Driving Miss Daisy' and 'Fried Green Tomatoes!'
—Andrew Sarris, NEW YORK OBSERVER

—Final week!—
"A Strong Oscar Contender!"
Mary McDonnell and Alfre Woodard give two of the year's finest performances!
—Jeffrey Lyons, SNEAK PREVIEWS

—Final week!—
"WONDERFUL, MAGICAL, MARVELOUS!"
One of the best films this year.
—SISKEL & EBERT

Fli^{ing}
2:20 & 7:20
INDOCHINE NEXT FRIDAY!
EAST FRANKLIN

1:45 • 4:20 • 7 • 9:35
PASSION FISH
967-8665

THE Daily Crossword by Raymond Hamel

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- ACROSS
- 1 — meridiem
- 5 Room
- 10 Come again?
- 14 Common laborer
- 15 Shakespeare's "— of Athens"
- 16 Gordie of the NHL
- 17 Singer from the South
- 19 Maladies
- 20 Infertile
- 21 Teapot contents
- 23 Adult grig
- 24 Edible fungus
- 25 Hoarfrost
- 28 Fox hole
- 29 Titled ladies
- 33 Spanish gold
- 34 Always
- 36 — ficta (contrapuntal style)
- 37 WWII name
- 40 Make certain
- 41 Stage gp.
- 42 Welcome —
- 43 Singer Della
- 44 Chomped
- 45 Berlin, e.g.
- 46 Violin, for short
- 48 Bikini part
- 50 Deer meat
- 53 Fish, in France
- 57 Inking
- 58 Reckless revelry
- 60 Observed
- 61 Harden: var.
- 62 Fish
- 63 Termini
- 64 Full
- 65 Assist, criminally
- DOWN
- 1 Practices me-tooism
- 2 Like the proverbial pin
- 3 Sped
- 4 Main dish
- 5 Quit, as an engine
- 6 Spear of old
- 7 "What a good boy —!"
- 8 — to (like)
- 9 Stage direction
- 10 Accident injury
- 11 Nicklaus target
- 12 Leather tools
- 13 Try out
- 18 Make haste
- 22 Jellyfish
- 24 "Splash" character
- 25 Okay!
- 26 Actress Dunne
- 27 Antlered beast
- 28 Mo.
- 30 Home of the Heat
- 31 Brilliance
- 32 Like brine
- 34 Waders
- 35 Neckline shape
- 36 "A-Team" star
- 38 Yeltsin's people
- 39 Rocker Adam
- 44 Top —
- 45 Melon
- 47 Bouquet flowers
- 48 Drilled
- 49 Dog's first name?
- 50 Gripper
- 51 Garden spot
- 52 Require
- 53 Untainted
- 54 Wedge
- 55 French river
- 56 Cartoonist of note
- 59 Silence!

DOLE REMIT AHAH
ERAL EMILE DENY
ANKLEBONES JADE
FOE LUTE STUDY
PEKE BEAST
ACTIVE BARITONE
SLOPE DELA FOR
TYEE ARISE BOOB
ODD MONA SAONE
REACHING WASTED
NIECE OARS
ACCRA ATTA ZOE
AREA BYTHEHEELS
CARD LAMER ERAT
ELSA EMORY LOVE

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