

Students Have 'Long, Honorable' Tradition Of Gripes About Food

By BILL SMITH
UNC News Bureau

UNC Students follow a long, honorable tradition when they gripe about the quality of food in University cafeterias. Kemp Plummer Battle's "History of the University of North Carolina" shows that food has been one of the major causes of student dissatisfaction since Hinton James walked from Wilmington to become the first UNC student in 1795. Letters of early students gave pointed commentary on meals in Commons, the first dining hall.

"The bread is not near so good as Phyllis (their mother's cook) bakes for herself," John and Ebenezer Pettigrew wrote. "It is impossible to describe the badness of the tea and coffee, and the meat generally stinks and has maggots in it."

Rules governing etiquette at the table were stringent in the early days. According to Battle, "The tutor must reprove one complainant in the food unjustifiably in his opinion, and order one behaving unseemly from the table. This indignity created wrath in

the youth subjected to such public insult, banished in disgrace from his food in presence of his fellows."

Food complaints were frequent and vocal enough to attract the attention of the University's founder, William R. Davie.

"Serious, and I believe, well-grounded complaints are made by the students against the Steward," he wrote in 1796, "but Messrs. Ker and Harris (UNC's first executive and instructor) did not think it proper to mention them to the Board (of Trustees) although they gave assurance to the students that they would certainly do so."

Davie's letter may have been prompted by concern for his two sons, who were University students then.

Conditions in Steward's Hall (the 19th century dining hall) were described by Dr. William Hooper, an early professor:

"Do you wish to know the ordinary bill of fare fifty years ago? As well as I recollect board per annum was thirty-five dollars!"

"This, as you may suppose, would not support a very lux-

urious table, but the first body of Trustees were men who had seen the Revolution and they thought that the sum would furnish as good rations as those lived on by those who won our liberties.

"Coarse corn bread was the staple food. At dinner the only meat was a fat muddling of bacon, surmounting a pile of colicwarts (collards); and the first thing after grace was said, (and sometimes before), was for one man, by a single horizontal sweep of his knife, to separate the ribs and lean from the fat, monopolize all the first to himself, and leave the remainder for his fellows.

"At breakfast we had wheat bread and butter and coffee. Our supper was coffee and the corn bread left at dinner, without butter.

"I remember the shouts of rejoicing when we had assembled at the door, and some one jumping up and looking in at the window, made proclamation—'Wheat bread for supper, boys!' And that wheat bread, over which such rejoicings were made, believe me, gentlemen and ladies, was manufactured out of wheat we call seconds, or, as some term it, grudgeons.

"You will not wonder, if, after supper, most of the students welcomed the approach of night, that as beasts of prey, they might go prowling, and seize upon everything edible within the compass of one or two miles.

"Nothing was secure from the devouring torrent. Beehives though guarded by a thousand stings—all feathered tenants of the roost—watermelon and potato patches, roasting ears, etc., everything that could appease hunger, was found missing in the morning."

Conditions had changed considerably for the better by the time the late Louis Graves, former editor of the Chapel Hill Weekly, enrolled in 1898.

Very early in the University's history students had turned to boarding houses to escape the unappetizing diet offered them in the dining hall. Graves wrote with obvious delight of the fare offered at boarding houses.

"The boarding house used to be a kind of club," he reported. "I'm sorry it went out of existence. There was a sociability about them that contributed richly to the pleasure of living. And what food!

"My mother began to take in boarders after my father died. She had friends among the students who had been devoted to my father and they had conferences with her about what she should charge per month. Should hers be one of the low-price, or one of the high-price places?"

"They decided high-price. So she set the price at \$13 a month!"

The highest-priced boarding house, where faculty members lived, charged \$15 a month. The price included room and board, labor, laundry, breakage and miscellaneous wear and tear.

Students ate heartily. "Every student boarder would eat eight or ten batter cakes at breakfast," Graves wrote "with molasses generally, besides sausage or steak, and hominy and hot biscuits.

"Looked back on, it's incredible—if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes.

- Parking -

Continued From Page 1

parking spaces because it makes it difficult for the policemen to check the parking stickers and also because back-up parking has resulted in damage to shrubs and walls."

Students who are eligible and wish to apply for temporary parking stickers must secure them within 48 hours after bringing their car to campus. Ineligible students must make prior arrangements.

Any student who feels he has received a red parking ticket or blue parking notice unjustly or in error must appeal within 48 hours upon receipt. The red ticket is taken to the Chief Safety Officer on the second floor of the YMCA building and the blue notice is taken to the Traffic Counselor in 02 South Building.

The red ticket is for a violation such as parking in a no-parking zone or reserved area. The blue notice covers such violations as unregistered vehicle, improper display of permit, and illegible permit.

The parking fees have remained the same with a \$5 charge for cars and motorcycles except \$2.50 for T stickers (car can not be parked on campus.)

The amount of staff parking stickers has been reduced from eight to two. F stickers will cover parking for faculty and administrative staff department heads, and A stickers will be issued to all other staff members.

All drivers and passengers of motorcycles this year must ride astride the vehicle facing in the direction of the forward progress of the vehicle.

"This means that women cannot ride sidesaddle," Kerner said. "When a woman rides sidesaddle, it throws the bike off balance and increases the chance of an accident."

Motorcycles and motor scooters must also be operated in full accordance with the regulations applying to all motor vehicles. Each driver and each passenger is strongly urged to wear a safety helmet at all times when the vehicle is moving.

First Edition Of Quarterly On Thursday

The orientation edition of the Carolina Quarterly—Carolina's literary magazine—will be on sale all over campus Thursday.

The edition, one of the first to be available at the beginning of a fall semester, makes the Quarterly an actual quarterly—not the three editions which have appeared in past years.

Included in this edition are stories by O. B. Hardison, who was selected by Time as one of the top ten professors in the nation last spring; Leon Rooke, last year's writer-in-residence; Max Steele, this year's writer-in-residence; and X. J. Kennedy.

In addition, the short story which won the Thomas Wolfe Memorial Award last spring is included.

The edition will be available from students at numerous campus localities, including Y Court. Cost is 25 cents—down from the former cost of 75 cents.

Carolina Housing Situation Improved From Last Year

By LYNNE HARVEL
DTH Staff Writer

This year's housing situation has improved considerably over the crowded conditions of last year, or as Housing Director James Wadsworth puts it, the present conditions are "real fine."

No one will be housed in basement rooms, and there are only 25 rooms with three people.

Wadsworth credits Granville Towers with easing crowded conditions. Women who registered too late for a University room were sent to Granville Towers.

The difference in room rent has been lessened by the University's increase of \$30 in the price of its rooms.

"The real problem is with married students' housing," Wadsworth said. "Almost all available trailers and apartments have been filled. There are still a few vacancies calling in. We hope that some of the new apartments going up will help this situation."

The shortage of married student housing has been caused mainly by the removal of temporary buildings from Victory Village.

On another problem, Wadsworth noted that his office is again getting a flood of requests for room changes. "We don't make any changes for the first two or three weeks," he said.

"We are trying to strike a happy medium between absolutely no room changes and free moving about."

Wadsworth noted that the housing situation changes continually from year to year as new buildings become available and others are turned to other purposes.

James Residence Hall, now under construction, is slated for completion by next September. It will be the fourth high-rise dorm in the Morrison-Ehringhaus-Craige section.

At that time, Smith, now a women's residence hall, will be converted to an office building. The women in Smith

will be moved to Carr. Men from Carr and other Lower Quad dorms will be moved to the new James Dorm.

The University is now providing 2431 residence hall rooms for men, and 743 for women. These rooms have a total capacity of 6,324 persons.

"Single rooms are one of the most frequent requests," Wadsworth said. "We have only 58 single rooms available for men; naturally we cannot fill all the requests, so there are many disappointed students.

"We do our best to make everyone happy, but there just aren't enough accommodations to satisfy everyone."

Granville Towers can now accommodate 500 people. Other students are housing in off-campus apartments, trailers and private homes.

The Housing Office also assists students in finding available off-campus lodgings and provides a list of approved residences.

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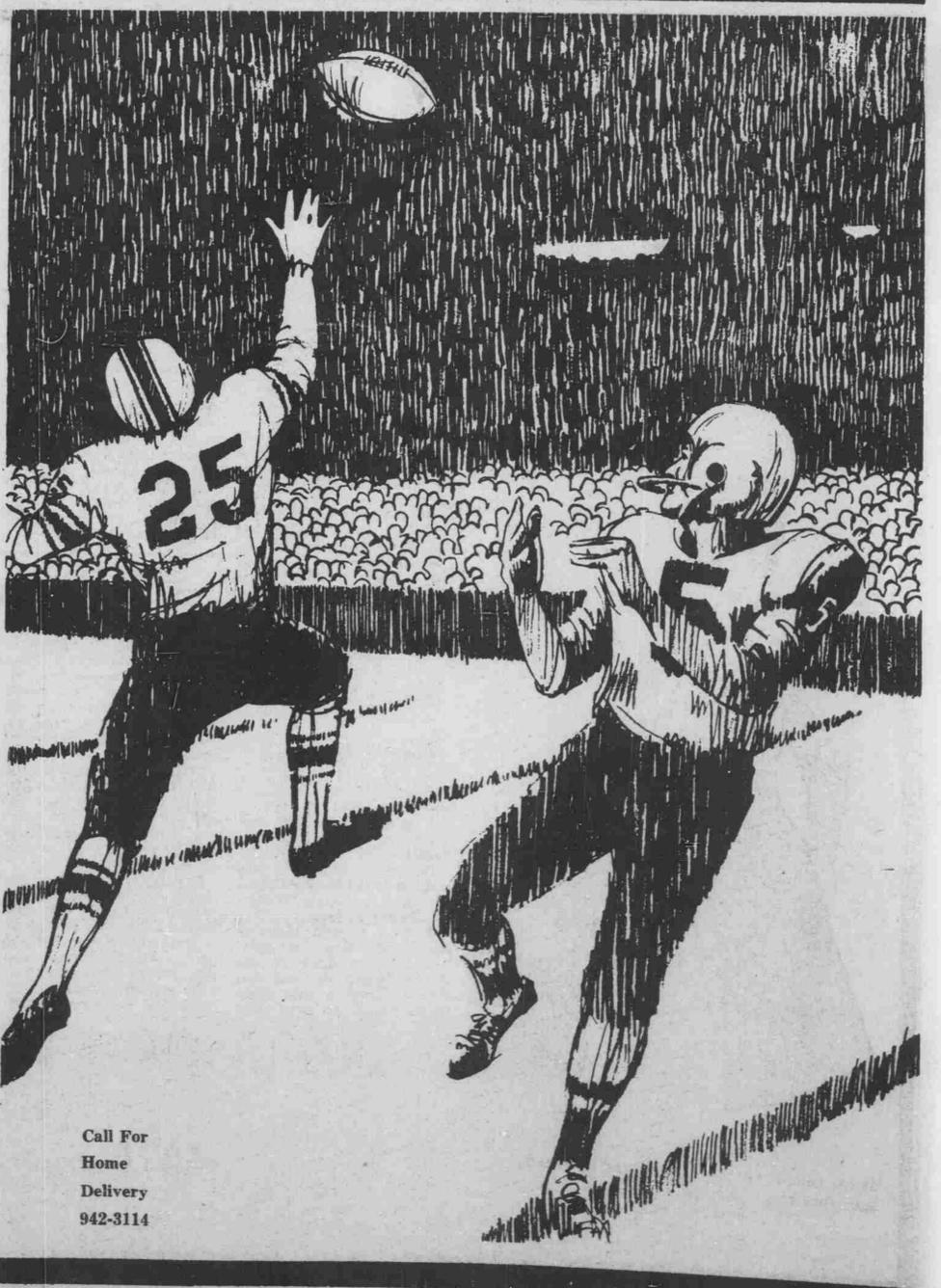
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