## STARTS TODAY 3:00 5:00 7:00 FAYE DUNAWAY No one admitted TOMMY LEE JONES once the film begins. **Carolina Twin EAST FRANKLIN STREET** A new comedy thriller from the creators of "Silver Streak." Goldie Hawn Chevy Chase 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30 PARAMOUNT PICTURES PRESENTS A MILLER-MILKIS/COLIN HIGGINS PICTURE GOLDIE HAWN CHEVY CHASE .. FOUL PLAY STAMER BURGESS MEREDITH DUDLEY MOORE PRODUCTO OF THOMAS L. MILLER AND EDWARD K. MILKIS SHEERS COLIN HIGGIRS SCHEET CHARLES FOX Read the James PRINCE

The Bottom Line takes a lighter look at the news Tuesdays and Thursdays on the editorial page of the Daily Tar Heel.

## Look after your plants even if you go away

By TERRI GARRARD

Before you dash off on that weekend trip, don't forget about care for your potted plants. Vacationing students do have alternatives to just leaving their greenery to droop in window sills.

Mary Lou McCleary of the Potted Plant in University Mall suggest having a friend plant-sit whenever possible. However, when plants must be left alone for a week or more, she says they should be placed in a sink or bathtub with a little water and covered loosely with plastic to keep in humidity and moisture.

Another method, suggests by Deb Baucom of Growin' Green in Carr Mill, is to water your plants well before leaving; then put one end of a piece of yarn in the soil and the other end in a pot of water. The plant will take in water through the yarn as it needs it.

Both emphasized the importance of finding out whether the heating system will be turned off over a vacation period because delicate plants might not survive.

For longer vacations, it's a good idea to take your plants along with you, Baucom and McCleary agreed. They should be wrapped in paper bags or newspaper to protect them from breakage and extreme temperatures and should be kept out of direct drafts from windows or heaters.

Plants that don't weather a vacation very well may need to visit plant doctors in local stores.

Deb and Bob Baucom of Growin' Green are professional botanists and for a small fee will take your plant for a week to treat it with insecticide, repot it in the proper soil and do what they can to try to revive it. The Baucoms report that overwatering is the most common mistake people make with their plants. If the soil is allowed to dry thoroughly before watering, house plants will grow twice as fast, the botanists say. They add that fertilizing plants every three or four waterings makes them fuller and shinier.

If you're still trying to decide what plants to buy for your dorm or apartment, the first thing to consider when selecting a plant is how much light it will receive.

Local plant specialists recommend "low light" plants such as philodendrons, Chinese evergreens, pothos and snake plants for dorm rooms because they require very little care can "can live anywhere but a closet," Mrs. Baucom says.

For first-time plant owners, those from the low light group have the best chance for survival because, "You almost have to cut them up to kill them." she adds.

Terri Garrard is a staff writer for the Daily Tar Heel.

