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Prepmania!

Many students follow the trail of the gator

By TOM MOORE
Arts Editor

The days of T-shirts, frayed blue jeans, long unkempt hair slowly have given way to more conservative, more traditional manners and morals. For guys short hair, knit alligator shirts or button downs, khakis (and sometimes jeans if they don't look too worn) and top siders or duck shoes worn without any socks are now the norm on campus. And women wear their hair shoulder length — sometimes longer — and in a pony tail that can be conveniently curled for a mixer or a night out dancing. And the clothes for women vary: multi-colored sun dresses, button down shirts with tight jeans, an Izod blouse, khaki or madras Jane Hathaway shorts, bright or kelly green pants with those little tute cutie whales on them, a pink belt with a cockle shell or some other nifty buckle, and dozens, maybe hundreds, of those golden beads whose meaning remains mysterious.

"Are you a Preppie? Are you A Preppette?" two satirical posters popular among the college age crowd asked. Other Preppy paraphernalia has sold well, most notably *The Preppy Handbook* and the T-shirts, calendars and stationary that have been spun off from it. And the film, *Animal House*, is still popular among the college crowd and those about to enter that throng. On the surface all this is satirical stuff, funny to just about every college youth. But too many that are laughing are also studying the fine points of the parodies to make sure they measure up.

You're more than a number in my little red book
You're more than a one night stand
Baby Won't You Shag With Me
For the whole night through
Do you believe in love at first sight
I believe that it happened tonight
It's not what you got
It's how you use it.

On the wooden dance floor in front of a giant Carolina insignia a few couples are dancing — shagging, that laid-back Southern shuffle. There they go bobbing back and forth, the girls twisting around the guys and though the dancing couples are smiling there's a definite bored look about them. Mostly they're busy trying to look cool, trying to get the steps right, trying to impress. A few couples are out there clumsily attempting to keep up with the rest. What they're doing looks a little like a shag, but the swaying is too mild. Their legs don't make the right moves and their arms get confused in the lazy twirling. Things haven't been carefully coordinated back in the dorm room to make that shag look just right. But still they try to keep up with the best and they're having a good enough time.

On the side, against the bar and in the chairs lined up against one wall, are others. Some guys in packs hungrily eye the girls on the dance floor and elsewhere in the room. And the women who've gotten all dressed up for a night on the town make nervous small talk among themselves. But mainly the people just stare off into space thinking they should be having a good time, especially the couples sitting against the wall who've been dating so long that they're as bored with each other as two people who've been married for 20 years.

Back out on the dance floor two or three couples dance with that certain look in their eyes that tells they're in love. And one pair dances with frenzied energy that shows they can't wait to get back to the apartment or dorm and lock the bedroom door.

The room is decorated with beach decor, a few lifesavers, ships' wheels and two long signs that once advertised gasoline for sale on the marina. All this is left over from when the building was Fosdick's Seafood Restaurant. And the flags strung from the ceiling are from even older days when it was The Ranch House, one of the best restaurants in the South.

In front of the bar a few happy couples, between dances, are chattering about nothing and behind the bar a blonde barmaid has both hands gripped on the beer taps as she lightly sways and sings with the music. In the booth to the side of the dance floor the DJ who wears a set of earphones and stands in front of Disco Top 60 list-

ing as he stares ahead thinking what to play next. It's a slow night at Crazy Zack's.

Chapel Hill's Crazy Zack's opened in late February. It's the third Zack's to open; there is a Zack's in North Myrtle Beach and the original — which opened in 1976 — is on Hillsborough Street in Raleigh. Zack's decided to branch out because of the incredible popularity of the original. It was and is one of the few places for college students to meet in Raleigh.

"Zack's became very popular in Raleigh because there are so many girls' schools in Raleigh. Around 18,000 to 19,000 people show up for the Happy Hour on Friday in Raleigh," said Rob Jordan, assistant manager at the Zack's in Chapel Hill.

And the number of Zack's T-shirts, jogging shorts and visors you see around the state attests to the popularity of the club among college students across North Carolina and the rest of the South. Zack's in Raleigh specializes in beach music, but Chapel Hill is different. "Here you have to play all types to keep people happy," said Jordan. Which judging by things means they mix a little disco and Top 40 with the standard beach fare.

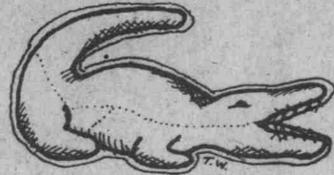
The crowd at Chapel Hill's Zack's is the standard knit shirt, blue jean and sun dress crowd; they aren't all Greeks, of course, they just look that way. Attendance is good. "When we first opened up, it was incredible. We were the new bar in town." Though things slacked off a bit in the spring and summer the crowd is enormous for things like Zoo Night, every Wednesday when draft beer is 10 cents, and Pony Night, on Thursdays, when pony bottles are 35 cents, and of course the famous Happy Hour on Fridays when buckets of beer cost \$1. "People in Chapel Hill look for specials and we've got them," Jordan said.

"And we've got pool tables, pinball machines, plenty of booths, indoor bars, outdoor bars and an upstairs and a downstairs," Jordan said, listing the reasons for the popularity of Zack's.

"I don't know where they got the idea of the preppy look in the first place. To me the preppy fashion is just a sharper look, a little more dressed up," said Bob Varley, who owns Varley's Men's Shop on Franklin Street.

The shop, which opened in 1938, caters to college students. "No question that students are dressing better, that things are more conservative," Varley said. "Students aren't wearing blue jeans to the same extent. They're beginning to look much sharper. It's a trend of the times, a definite trend throughout the country."

See PREP on page 10C



DTH/Matt Cooper

Above, students crowd the dance floor at Zack's on a busy week-night. At right, a young man shows that even persons clad a bit unpreppily can swing and sway to the music. Local dance floors have long been established as places where students, particularly those displaying small green alligators and other suitable apparel and mannerisms, can come to mingle and show their stuff to the masses.



DTH/Matt Cooper

Inside

Broadway on Tour includes four of last year's most popular Broadway productions . . . See p. 30

Area media offer students opportunity to gain experience . . . See p. 5C

Are Chapel Hill Clubs really different? . . . See p. 10C

Local artist says his success comes from a belief in God . . . See p. 11C



By TOM MOORE
Arts Editor

Fried chicken, that mouth-watering treat, is a delicacy native to the South. And Chapel Hill, being a down home town, boasts many fine restaurants that serve fried chicken. But like any food or drink, fried chicken varies greatly in quality from restaurant to restaurant. So I, along with a few of my illustrious colleagues on *The DTH*, decided to search for the best fried chicken in Chapel Hill.

The Great Fried Chicken Hunt took us to many of Chapel Hill's fine eating spots in search of the ever-elusive best fried bird in town. Though I, a long-time avid eater of the great Southern meal, don't want to see any of the stuff ever again (Well, at least for several months) I think my pilgrimage can help those chicken-loving folks out who don't care to do the extensive research I did for this story.

Although the chicken at several restaurants was pretty close in quality, the best chicken in Chapel Hill is at Time Out, which is located in University Square near Granville Towers. The fried chicken there is a little on the greasy side, which is to be expected of good fried chicken, but has a delicious crunchy and spicy taste to it that the other fried chicken in Chapel Hill seems to lack. Two-piece dinners come with a biscuit and three-piece dinners come with a biscuit and your choice of cole slaw or potato salad. These fixings are superior to most of the side orders you get in a fast food restaurant.

Just below Time Out on the Great Fried Chicken Hunt's scale of excellence are Dip's Country Kitchen and Brady's. Dip's, located at 405 W. Rosemary St., offers the best balanced fried chicken meal in the area. With your order

of one-fourth white meat or dark meat or three-piece white meat or dark meat you get to choose two items from a list of home cooked vegetables and you get your choice of bread. The chicken is good; it's less greasy than Time Out's, but it somehow lacks the scrumptious taste of The Great Fried Chicken Hunt's number one choice.

The same is true of Brady's, located at 1505 E. Franklin St., near University Mall. Brady's is a little greasier than Time Out's and Dip's but they give you more for your money than any other establishment in town. Along with the fried chicken come some tasty rolls and hush puppies, some cole slaw and some rather inedible fries.

The K&W Cafeteria, located in the middle of University Mall, ranks next in The Great Fried Chicken Hunt. It's good and crunchy. And you get plenty of it, but it's rather bland when compared with the good tasting home cooking style of Time Out, Dip's and Brady's.

Another notch down is Golden Skillet's fried chicken, found at 412 E. Main St. in Carrboro. Here the stuff is typical fast food fare. And though Golden Skillet is above average for a take home place, the chicken is still too greasy and the taste indifferent for it to rank in the forefront of fine Chapel Hill fried chicken establishments. With the chicken at Golden Skillet, you get a roll and some pesty goo that is supposed to be mashed potatoes.

Colonel Sanders did more to promote fried chicken as a great American dish than any other man who ever lived; so why is the fried chicken at his Kentucky Fried Chicken at 319 E. Main St. in Carrboro so mediocre? The chicken there is ultra-greasy and tasteless as is most of the foods served at such large national fast food restaurants. The service is incredibly slow, it rivals

From the heart of the

Southern Part of Heaven, it's...

The Great Fried Chicken Hunt

the McDonald's on Franklin St. as the worst in the Chapel Hill area. Still, people line up in droves to buy the stuff, which shows what a good ad campaign can do for business.

Comedian David Letterman on a recent *Tonight Show* asked a rather disturbing question: "Did you ever wonder what part of the chicken McNuggets come from?" McDonald's latest culinary wonder is available at two locations in Chapel Hill, University Mall and 420 W. Franklin St. Are the McNuggets fried chicken? Are they chicken? Are they food? Even with the aid of one of the several sauces Ronald and company provide you with McNuggets still don't have any taste to them.

But they aren't the worst fried chicken discovered on my daring odyssey, that dubious honor goes to The Porthole. For a restaurant that offers up many fine items how could the fried chicken be so awful? I mean to make cracklin' good fried chicken all you need to do is shake and bake and get somebody to help. When at The Porthole, stick to the garden salad; the ribs and, of course, those famous Porthole rolls.

And there are many other fine fried chicken places in Chapel Hill, but an early deadline combined with a limited expense account and a weak stomach, kept my search to a bare minimum. True fried chicken lovers like me (Uh, like I once was) will want to do their own Great Fried Chicken Hunt. Half the fun is eating there.

Special thanks to Edwina Ralston, Susan Mauney, John Royster, Jon Rich, Geoffrey Mock, Keith King and Dennis Hodges for their moral support during The Great Fried Chicken Hunt.



The Great Fried Chicken Hunt is over and Tom Moore's winner is Time Out ... the taste tester pigs out at Brady's, which tied for second with Dip's