

Tailgating

Football fans kick-off games with lunch, fun

By LUCY McCAULEY

A Carolina football game begins for many people hours before the kickoff. It begins on Columbia Street or in a Ram's Club parking lot by eating fried chicken and cole slaw out of the trunks of cars. Tailgating, or a picnic from the tailgate, prepares many fans for the hours they will sit in the sun at Kenan Stadium.

"Tailgating is when people use the tailgate of their cars for their picnics and they bring along their six-packs and coolers," said Frank Lord, who will be a junior when he enters UNC in January.

People tailgate before games where Lord is from in New York. "They'll cruise out to the game a few hours early, have their picnic on their tailgates and go to the game with a nice buzz," he said.

Although tailgating is the term used by both students and alumni, it can still be misinterpreted.

"I always thought tailgating was when you follow too closely behind someone's car," Roger Stacks, a sophomore music major from Charlotte, said. "I got a ticket for that once."

Tailgating is a tradition in many families who were lunching before the ECU-UNC game last Saturday.

"We do this before every game," Lin Allen, a freshman from Troy, N.C. said. "Usually we have fried chicken, but my grandmother came today and brought sandwiches." Allen was having a tailgate lunch with her family and several friends in the parking lot behind Carroll Hall.

The Allen family has been tailgating for eight consecutive years, Sissie Allen, Lin Allen's mother said. The family includes grandmother Madeline Allen and three generations of UNC graduates all named James Bruton Allen.

"My mother and father started the tailgating tradition in our family at the Victory Village where World War II veterans lived," James Allen, Jr. said. "I was 12 or 13 and we would eat outside their apartment and then walk through the woods to the game at Kenan Stadium."

Two couples were tailgating on Columbia Street in front of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity house about an hour before the game began.

"I don't start cooking until ball game season starts and then I make pimento cheese sandwiches," Barbara Flowers said.

The picnics' pre-game lunch included cole slaw, chicken, deviled eggs and pimento cheese sandwiches, Bill (Fatman) Flowers, a UNC alumni from Raleigh, said.

(These tailgaters, as well as many other tailgaters last Saturday, welcomed passers-by to join their picnic.) "You aren't fooling me," he said to a reporter "Have a piece of chicken."

Charlie Grant, also a UNC alumni from Raleigh, pulled out a bag filled with pimento cheese sandwiches, a plate of deviled eggs, and then said, "You have to at least try one of these cornsticks."

Another pair of couples on Columbia Street were tailgating with their Mercedes 450-SL and Datsun 280-Z parked next to each other.

"Most of the time we have a tablecloth on the car and wine and cheesecake," Mary McAdams, a UNC alumni from Rocky Mount, said. "Today were running late, so it's Kentucky Fried Chicken for lunch."

There were four couples tailgating together in the parking lot behind the infirmary who not only had a tablecloth, but a candelabra.

"We live for the tailgates," Geet Perry from Chapel Hill said. "That's the only reason we come to the games."

Ben Perry, who is the Associate Director of Records and Registration at UNC, said that they caught the crabs last week that were in the crab quiche they were eating. "Here, have a piece," he said.

The Perrys were tailgating under a shady tree with Dale and Bud Dorgan, Francis and Richard Sparrow and Reba and Jim Lane.

Among the tailgaters in the parking lot behind the infirmary was a family from ECU. Their tailgate not only had food on it, but pictures of a beaten ram and a sign that said "The ram is ours".

"We were going to wear our trench coats and sun glasses, but it was too hot," Pat Draunghon, an ECU alumnus said.

The family almost brought lamp chops for lunch, and was going to share them with any Tar Heel tailgater, but Draunghon got hungry and ate them Friday, he said.

Four women who work for UNC were tailgating in the parking lot behind Beard Hall.



"We came out here at about 11 o'clock," Gerry King said. "We even had wine and chilled wine glasses."

Ava Fogleman said tailgating was the best way she knew how to eat lunch before a game. "All the goodies are in the back," she said. "Want a sausage ball?"

There was a van full of picnics in the parking lot behind the infirmary that had

friends in cars tailgating on both sides of them.

"We brought our portable tape-player even," Bev Tucker a UNC alumni from Henderson, said. "Want to hear some beach music?"

Lucy McCauley is a staff writer for The Daily Tar Heel.

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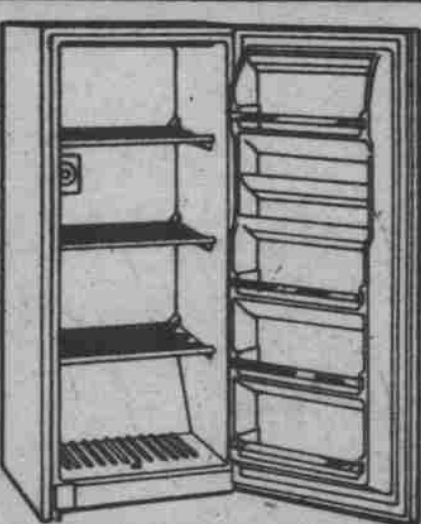
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