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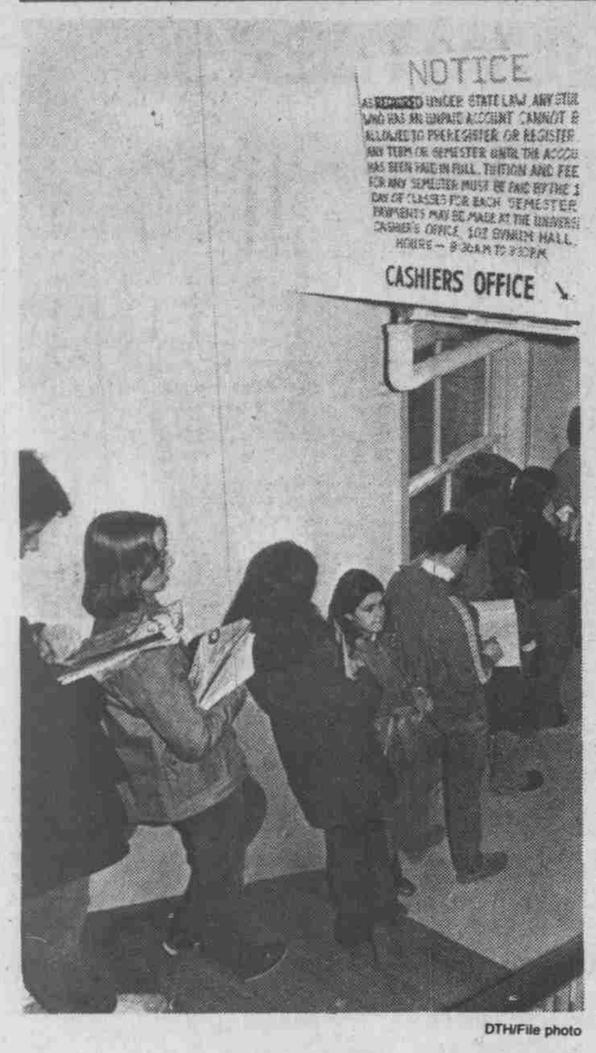

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Whether it's to pay University debts (left) or to add and drop classes (right), students at UNC usually end up waiting in lines, especially during the first weeks of each semester.

DTH/File photo

Lines...

Reflection of culture and values of today's society

Hate to wait? Don't come to UNC

By CINDY HAGA
Staff Writer

They amble past the Bell Tower at the beginning of the semester. They snake around corners, ease out through doors, fan into streets, and they huddle on the lawn at UNC's Traffic Office during the wee morning hours.

Lines.

Ever-present, never-ending, they dominate the lives of UNC students from matriculation to graduation.

Some pleasant-natured people, determined to enjoy their time in lines, chat with people around them and make new friends.

Others go blank while waiting in line, or keep quiet and observe the life about them to see what they can learn.

But most people, who hate, dread and avoid lines, end up by shaking their heads and tolerating them only because they have to.

They don't spend much time thinking about the true signifance lines have in human culture.

Dr. Bibb Latane, UNC psychology professor and director of the Institute for Research in Social Science, said lines can be indicators of a society's values.

Time, he said, is a very precious resource to most people.

So people who have devoted a lot of time to a line feel they merit some type of compensation.

Certain codes of behavior should be followed while in line, Latane said.

No one likes people who break in line, for instance.

Lines are also proof that value judgments are not formed in isolation, but are made on the basis of other peoples' decisions.

If a restaurant has a long line, it is often assumed that is a good dinner choice.

Latane said the reasoning for this is individuals value things that other people value.

As many people seem attracted to a restaurant, then, its line may grow even longer.

In many cases, a long line can enhance a person's appreciation of an event.

It seems the closer a person gets to a potentially good thing, the more determined he is to have it, and to make sure it balances with his idealized visions.

One UNC senior, who asked to remain anonymous, compared the philosophy of lines to religion.

He said in religion people are taught never to lose faith, but to believe that if they can endure long enough, finally a new and better day will dawn.

Think about that in the drop-add line next year.

By LISBETH LEVINE
Staff Writer

While football players have spent a good portion of their summer preparing for the upcoming season, I have devoted my share of time to training for the first week back in Chapel Hill. The most effective exercises included two attempts to see *E.T.*, purchasing half-price tickets for a Broadway show at the TKTS booth, and trying to cash a paycheck at lunch hour.

New Yorkers are said to possess a subconscious passion for waiting in lines; could that be why I've been looking forward to returning to the Hill? Have I been deluding myself by thinking I wanted to see my friends, be reinfected with Carolina Fever and return to the peaceful but always exciting campus life? Perhaps I was really longing to undergo the trauma of drop-add, wait interminably to purchase books I won't even read, and expose myself to the indignation of waiting a half-hour to enter Purdy's.

Waiting in line has become a way of life at Chapel Hill. From the moment a freshman waits to move into his first dorm room and be photographed for an I.D. card to the last rites of graduation, students are subjected to lines. One of the most surprising observations about our lines is that many are voluntary. Of course everyone must wait to buy books or add a course, but waiting three days for football tickets to a Clemson game is not part of the required curriculum.

Neither is spending a perfectly good Saturday morning (meant as time to recover from Friday night) in Carmichael Auditorium whiling away the hours until basketball tickets are distributed. As much fun as it is to see the game live, the fact of the matter is that the television is a wait-free alternative.

Sporting events aren't the only cases of voluntary line waiting. It seems that anything worth doing or seeing (well, almost) in Chapel Hill has a long line as a prerequisite.

The morning when James Taylor concert tickets went on sale last March, fans had already been there for 10 (count 'em) hours.

A lively Saturday night on Franklin Street finds the crowds queued up outside not only Purdy's but Harrison's and Four Corners as well.

Face it. North Carolinians must have the same weakness as New Yorkers. They seem to derive some sort of masochistic enjoyment from waiting in line.

Why else would a weary student emerging from Carmichael at 3 p.m. on Saturday give only a noncommittal shrug of his shoulders and comment "it wasn't so bad," to a query as to how he endured six hours of misery?

It is possible to have a hell of a good time in line with the right attitude and some creativity.

Witness the lawn chairs, blankets, radios and coolers set up along the sidewalk during the now-famous Clemson wait last fall. WTVD, the CBS affiliate in Durham, even thought it worthy of television coverage.

WTVD also couldn't resist documenting the crowd that willingly waited 40 hours at RDU to purchase New York Air tickets at 49 and 79 cents. On the 11 o'clock news they appeared to be having the time of their lives as they sang the New York Air theme song and even threw in a kickline.

Approach a line with the right attitude. When it is a clearly unavoidable part of the day's agenda, it's necessary to accept it as such. Don't become frustrated and impatient, because tantrums won't make the line disappear.

The following are some suggestions to help make the line a less unpleasant and more productive experience.

1. Balance your checkbook.
2. Bring some friends, a Frisbee and someone to hold your place in line.
3. Make copies of a crossword puzzle, hand it out to the people around you and work on it together.
4. Bring and friend and a picnic lunch.
5. Listen to your favorite tunes on a Walkman.
6. Make an effort to meet the people around you. One will probably turn out to be your next door neighbor's ex-wife's college roommate's cousin.
7. Plan your dinner menu for a week and make a grocery list.
8. Write a letter to your dog.
9. Bring a cooler. Note: size of cooler is directly proportional to length of line.
10. Make a list of things to do once you get out of that stupid line.

Lisbeth Levine, a sophomore English major from Millwood, N.Y., has written her dog five times this week.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Public service announcements must be turned into the box outside *DTH* offices in the Carolina Union by noon if they are to run the next day. Each item will be run at least twice.

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

The Anglican Student Fellowship welcomes everyone to Holy Communion at 10 p.m. at the Chapel of the Cross. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the service.

UNC Rugby Club will meet in the Carolina Union lobby.

The Wesley Foundation, the Student Methodist Center, will meet at 6 p.m. for a fellowship dinner at 214 Pittsboro Street. The $1.50 dinner will be followed by a square dance.

The Sexuality Education and Counseling Service will meet at 7 p.m. in the SECS office. All former counselors who wish to work with the service again this year must attend.

The Covenant Players are in town! Come join them at noon in the Pit.

There will be a colloquium featuring John Glauert of Manchester University, Manchester, England on "The Manchester Prototype Dataflow System" at 2 p.m. at 210 New West Hall.

The UNC Cycling Club will meet at 7 p.m. in 207 Carolina Union. Anyone with an interest in cycling, from touring to racing, should attend.

The UNC-CH Men's Soccer Club is holding tryouts for the fall season. All students, faculty, and staff interested in playing competitive soccer should meet at 7 p.m. on the steps of Carmichael Auditorium.

Sociology majors and prospective majors, as well as those with interdisciplinary majors and a concentration in Sociology, are invited to an organizational meeting to plan activities for the 1982-83 academic year at 3:30 p.m. in 151 Hamilton Hall.

The first meeting of the Latter-Day Saint Student Association Institute of Religion will be held at 7 p.m. in 203 Dey Hall.

COMING EVENTS

Nihongo O Hanasu Kai: Join us and enjoy Japanese conversation at noon Thursday in the Frank Porter Graham Lounge in the Carolina Union. Anyone interested is welcome.

Tax cuts for monopoly corporations, high unemployment, people at poverty level and more rate hikes for Southern Bell and Duke Power Company. When will it all stop? Join the Public Interest Research Group at 7 p.m. Thursday at 220 Carolina Union to fight against corporate interests.

The Housing Committee of the Student Government will meet at 4 p.m. Thursday. Place TBA. Please try to attend.

There will be a meeting of the Student Government State and National Affairs Committee at 4 p.m. Thursday in Suite C. All members are strongly urged to attend.

Attention all water skiers! Come to the first meeting of the UNC Water Ski Club at 8 p.m. Thursday in 210 Gardner Hall. Skiers of all abilities are welcome.

The Society of Physics Students will hold its first meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in 277 Phillips Hall. All interested physics students are invited to attend.

UNC Sorority Rush — Convocation for Rushees will be held Thursday in Memorial Hall. Upperclassmen will meet at 5 p.m. Freshmen will meet at 6:30 p.m.

The Pre-Law Club will meet at 3:30 p.m. Thursday in 217 Carolina Union. Mrs. Bernholz will speak on "Being Pre-Law at Carolina."

Students considering a dramatic arts major are welcome to attend a Dramatic Arts Majors meeting at 3:30 Thursday in the Paul Green Theatre.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Enthusiastic? Hardworking? Want to get involved? Come work at the "Student Hotline" — an information service of the Student Government for the student body. Persons interested should stop by Suite C and ask for Kathy McNulty, or call the Hotline at 966-4084 or 4085.

Any member of the UNC community can contribute their time or ideas to the 1983 Fine Arts Festival. Please leave a note in Box 15 of the Carolina Union if you would like to join the committee.

The Sexuality Education and Counseling Service is now taking applications for counselors for 1982-83. Applications are available at the SECS office in Suite B, Carolina Union and at the Union desk.

All freshmen who ordered *Freshmen Registers* must pick them up at the Alumni Houe on Columbia Street at 5 p.m. Friday.

Extra *Freshmen Registers* will go on sale Monday at the Alumni House.

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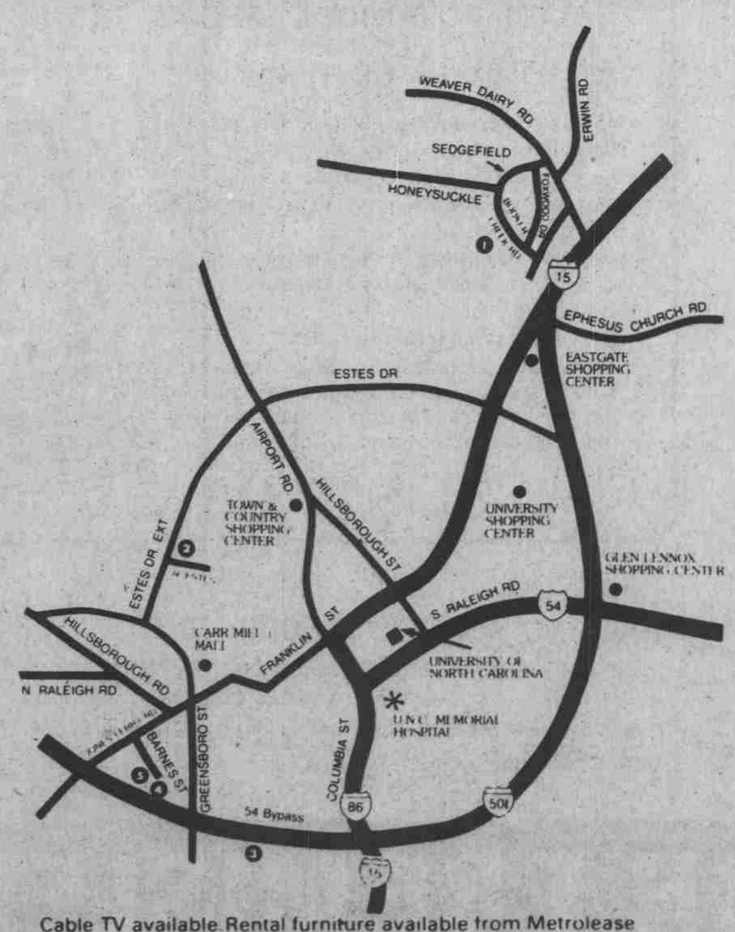

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