

The Tar Heel

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Room Only crowd — "everybody" will be there.

Unless they're at the Cat's Cradle. By far a true mainstay of live music in the area is the "Cradle," known better for its band lineup than its atmosphere. Kind of an unfinished basement with booths, the Cradle lives only for its bands. As long as someone is playing, who cares what it looks like?

But they will care what you look like. This is the spot to find, on that certain, trendy night, that certain, trendy band playing to that certain, trendy crowd. Costume is fun but not mandatory. Checking out the art on the walls, however, is required, as well as reading the playbills in the bathroom.

While Rhythm Alley is bent on a more traditional curve, the Cradle follows the new music route wherever it may lead. It does feature some incredible blues and R&B bands, some 60s revivals, some traditional groups, some Tex-Mex, some unidentifiable stuff (too loud to listen), some of everything. But its strength lies on the cutting edge of the new music scene and especially Chapel Hill's new music scene. The Cradle is always an outing, usually an adventure, and generally a surprise. You never know who you might run into; Michael Stipe, lead singer for R.E.M., has been known to perch atop a Cradle bench or two. But you've got to be there at least once to understand the scene you're dealing with.

That is, of course, if you choose to deal with it. There are top 40, music video clubs, that while somewhat less innovative, are a scene unto themselves. And there are those scenes that have no club (just ask anybody about Dexter Romwebber). But the music is here.

When you go "In Search Of," you'll find that everyone wants to take a look at your lamented, (usually terrible) photographic portrait. Most bars, restaurants, music clubs, convenience stores, pay toilets (no, not really) do card carefully, so be prepared. And come October, hate to say this, but it'll only get worse. If you don't have a picture ID with your birthdate on it, get one (your school ID won't work). And if you won't be 21 for what seems like a lifetime, chin up. Some clubs do host underage nights, and many others are contemplating it. The music proprietors of this town are an innovative group. Look for them to turn the drinking age hike into an incredible music opportunity for everyone.

So take it. Find the tunes you like, learn some styles you might not know, fall in love with music you thought you hated. Even make some of your own. The spots featured here are only a partial listing of what's to be had. Don't forget to check out the Union's offerings and there's sometimes that brief but shining musical moment in the Pit. You should hear what you're missing.

Lindsay Anderson is a senior from Jacksonville, N.C.

Carolina parents form group

By BARBARA ROSSER HABEL

Suppose you were Chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

And suppose you wanted to form an organization of more than 25,000 people who represent an untapped pool of resources and opportunities for students at UNC-Chapel Hill and who already share your strong commitment to their education and personal development.

Where would you look to find such a group?

Parents, of course. And that is precisely what Chancellor Christopher C. Fordham III did when he recently formed the Carolina Parents Association.

"The University already shares with parents a common concern for the education and welfare of our students," said Fordham. "In the Carolina Parents Association we have a great relationship which benefits students, their families, and the University."

According to Bill and Carolyn Luesing, co-chairs of the Carolina Parents Association, the goals are to establish more communication between parents and the University,

to sponsor programs that meet current and future needs of parents, and to promote the development of the University by supporting the Parents Fund. Steps have been taken already toward achieving these goals through publication of the "Carolina Family", the newsletter of the Carolina Parents Association.

"One of the most exciting aspects of the Parents Association is the potential we have to sponsor programs and develop resources which directly benefit students," said Bill Luesing. "For instance, there are many parents with extensive experience in business, law, medicine, journalism, art or any field you could name, who would be able to sponsor student internships. This would be a valuable way of supplementing opportunities for career planning and job placement."

John Kennedy, senior class president, sees the potential for students and parents to accomplish a lot by working together. "Parents will be a great additional resource for senior class activities. I am sure the same is true for many student organizations on campus," said Kennedy.

Under the leadership of a Parents Council of twenty to thirty parents or parent couples, the Carolina

Parents Association will help the University better understand and serve parent's needs and, at the same time help parents understand and support the University.

Two committees of the Parents Council plan the association's programs.

The Committee for programs and Special Events coordinated activities such as Parents Football Day in the fall, a spring Parents Weekend, and a series of local receptions co-sponsors with UNC-CH's General Alumni Association.

The Parents Fund Committee, by promoting the annual Parents Fund campaign, leads an effort to support the University in ways which directly and immediately benefit students.

The administration, faculty, and students at UNC-Chapel Hill look forward to welcoming parents into the Carolina family. Chancellor Fordham said, "I hope parents will take full advantage of the opportunities Carolina Parents Association offers to share in the exciting challenges and rewards of providing students the best possible environment for their learning and maturation."

Barbara Rosser Habel is the Program Director for the Carolina Parents Association.

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