

Bikes provide ideal transportation to campus

By **KATIE WHITE**
Staff Writer

One of the things students worry about is how to get to campus. If they live on campus, they can walk to school and to downtown Chapel Hill, but places such as South Campus and off-campus are farther away. Places to park in Chapel Hill and on campus are hard to find, and if found, are often expensive. The

best way to get around in Chapel Hill is by bicycle.

"Cycling is good in this area," says Michael Gleason, owner of the Tumbleweed bicycle store at 456 W. Franklin St.

Tumbleweed has been in operation for 13 years and has actively promoted cycling in the area by supporting bicycle races, bike safety and pushing the bicycle path system

which now exists in Carrboro and Chapel Hill. These bikeways can be found on Jones Ferry Road and North Greensboro and Weaver streets in Carrboro, as well as a concrete path built between Chapel Hill and Carrboro so that cyclists are able to avoid the heavy traffic areas. On Cameron Avenue, (a main road for traffic going into and away from campus from Carrboro), parking on the side of the road has special times according to the flow of traffic and this allows the bicycle traffic plenty of room on the road.

"We gear our shop primarily for the commuter," says Gleason. He recommends a mountain bike to the average commuter because they are more durable, more comfortable and easier to ride. Tumbleweed sells all types of bikes, including mountain bikes and bicycles which Gleason makes himself. The store also stocks a variety of accessories for the cyclist, as well as information on area rides (on-road and off-road for mountain bike fans) and races. Off road rides leave every Saturday at 7:45 a.m. from Tumbleweed Cyclery.



Tar Heel/David Foster

A bicyclist searches for a space near the Union

"The cycling here is good because so many cyclists have promoted it and because the drivers here respect the cyclist more than most parts of the country," says Gleason, who cycles regularly in the surrounding countryside. From time to time there are cyclists who do not respect the road and this creates a bad reputation for the serious cyclists in the area. Good places to ride are west and north of Chapel Hill. Maps are available at some area bicycle stores.

The campus police advise students

to register their bicycles. They can do this by stopping by the campus police office downstairs in the YMCA building on campus or by going to any fire station or police station in the area. These organizations also set up a bike registration location in the fall for the students. When the bike is registered, a permanent registration number is stamped on the bike and the rider is given a decal to put on the bike which will advertise that the bike is protected.

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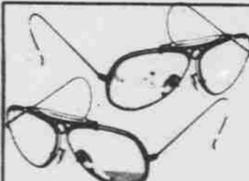
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