

Greeks and Romans serve classics

From staff reports

Historically speaking, the Greeks and Italians have never been bosom buddies, so why restaurants specializing in Greek and Italian food should abound in Chapel Hill is a bit of a mystery. But when you're hungry, it's not the sort of thing you want to consider. There are too many to list them all, so here's the pick of the crop:

Mariakakis' Restaurant and Bakery located on the U.S. 15-501 bypass features Greek and Italian food at very modest prices, including possibly the best and cheapest pizza in Chapel Hill. A large 16-inch pepperoni pizza currently runs in at \$6.50, and the large deluxe everything-included pizza is \$9.50.

Mariakakis' is a great place to go with a group of friends. The

atmosphere is very casual and is ideally suited to the student wardrobe. Their back patio, which looks quite spruced-up these days, is ideal for large parties.

And if you can resist picking up a pastry or two on the way out, you're doing yourself a disservice.

Leo's Restaurant is located a good walk down West Franklin Street (about a block beyond McDonald's golden arches) and features more up-market Greek and Italian food in a casual atmosphere. Cheapest on the menu is the highly-recommended lasagna at \$5.75. The chicken or veal parmigiana clocks in at \$7.95. The Greek side of the menu is a little more expensive, starting at \$6.95. All entrees, from both countries, are served with salad and bread.

Leo's prides itself on being a family-run business since 1962, which, for this area, is something of an achievement. The restaurant seats 100, and a quick turnover is guaranteed. So, if you intend to move on to other things after dinner, Leo's may be your place.

Pepper's Pizza on Franklin Street is a relatively new addition to the Chapel Hill pizza scene, but a very welcome one. Open from 11 a.m. to midnight Monday through Wednesday, and until 2:30 a.m. Thursday through Saturday, Pepper's is ideally suited to the late-nighter. Unlike most pizza places in this area, Pepper's does not deliver, but the cozy, small-capacity nook is definitely worth your attention. It's sad that the graffiti has gone, but at least the pizza is still hot and spicy.

WXYC Top 20

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|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Jane's Addiction | Nothing Shocking |
| 2. Fishbone | Truth and Soul |
| 3. Michelle Shocked | Short Sharp Shocked |
| 4. Let's Active | Every Dog Has His Day |
| 5. John Hiatt | Slow Turning |
| 6. The Feelies | Only Life |
| 7. My Dad is Dad | Let's Skip the Details |
| 8. The Colourblind James Experience | The Colourblind James Experience |
| 9. Rose Avalanche | In Rock |
| 10. Jad Fair and Kramer | Roll Out the Barrel |
| 11. Red Lorry Yellow Lorry | Nothing Wrong |
| 12. James | Strip Mine |
| 13. Various Artists | Folkways |
| 14. The Smiths | Rank |
| 15. A. R. Kane | 69 |
| 16. Siouxsie and The Banshees | Peep Show |
| 17. Dream Syndicate | Ghost Stories |
| 18. Screaming Tribesmen | Bones and Flowers |
| 19. Big Audio Dynamite | Tighten Up Vol. 88 |
| 20. Tom Waits | Big Time |

Random Notes: Bland, Va., parrots and Martians

By ELIZABETH ELLEN
Staff Writer

Reality's realm seems infinite sometimes, and examining the vast expanse can be overwhelming. There exists in Oregon a town called Boring. People really do live there.

Nestled in rural western Virginia is Boring's soul twin — Bland.

And right here in North Carolina, down between Farmville and Wilson, is Saratoga. Or at least, the town limit sign spells the town name as such. The local general store spells it "Saratoa." So, take your pick.

Saratoga (I'll go with the state's official spelling) has one stoplight, and according to longtime residents of this area, the law enforcement officer who habitually hung out at this intersection was the town's major source of income. He made a game out of catching ECU students speeding through Saratoga's maze of decreasing speed limit zones and ultimately running the red light.

ECU students are not the only folks who just pass through Saratoga. The town used to have a resident doctor with an office right on the main drag. He was a general practitioner with a generic name — Jones or Smith or something along those lines. When Saratoga got to be too much for

him, he not only moved his practice, but he uprooted the entire building and had it carried away. Now there's a nifty parking lot across the road from the post office.

What is the definition of a town anyway? Any wide spot in the road with a post office, a gas station and a church. Often there is a Fast Fare or similar store to keep things lively, but this is not required.

Just when things get dull, either something redemptively peculiar comes along to jar your consciousness or you stumble across one of UNC's campus pencil sharpeners. There aren't many of them, and those few crop up where you least expect them. I mean places like the women's bathroom on the first floor of Saunders or the window sill on the main floor landing in the Hill Hall stairwell.

Whether one does it in a bathroom or a stairwell (or for that matter, in departments of music or religion), sharpening one's

language skills sharpens one's mind. And a speaker's world view is affected by which particular language he or she happens to speak. Do English-speaking parrots think at all like Arabic-speaking parrots, or those who speak French or Italian? Put a parrot in Alaska, teach him to speak Eskimo, and I'll bet he can learn to distinguish between 10 or so varieties of snow simply because the language allows him to verbalize these subtle concepts. On the other hand, he might freeze.

If you've ever tried to predict when Martians will invade Earth, today is a fairly good guess since Mars makes its closest approach to our planet right about now. If invading Martians can be taught to speak as easily as parrots can, they could probably be rounded up, herded into Boring and Bland, and turned into productive members of society indistinguishable from the natives.

If the Martians bring along parrots (and why wouldn't they?),

the birds could assemble in Saratoga and entertain the locals, which would distract them from watching the intersection with

the stoplight. That is, after those parrots learn to speak Southern and thereby acquire a proper perspective of things as they are.

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