

# Apple Chill In Chapel Hill: Festival offers crafts and entertainment



DTH Staff Photo

The 18,000 people expected to attend Apple Chill will see crafts such as these on display.

**By GUINEVERE ROSS**  
Staff Writer

Students who forget what life is like outside of the University campus will be reminded of small-town Chapel Hill when more than 100 craftsmen and entertainers hold the town's 18th annual Apple Chill street fair, sponsored by the Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Department.

Instead of business as usual — church traffic and the occasional Sunday driver — visitors to Franklin Street will find an open marketplace filled with craftspeople selling their wares. The street will be blocked off from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. between the Morehead Planetarium and Spanky's, said Street Fair Coordinator Laura McClain.

McClain, who said this was her first year with the spring event, said that in addition to the 104 food and crafts booths, 56 organizations, such as the American Civil Liberties Union, Habitat for Humanity, and Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals will hold booths in the fair. These groups will be distributing information and possibly sell T-shirts.

Those leaving church on Franklin Street or just taking a Sunday stroll will be able to enjoy live entertainment at each end of the street as they browse among the booths. McClain said the Apple Chill Cloggers would perform at the intersection of Franklin and Columbia streets. On the main stage there, Blue Note Special, a blues band, the Leaky Creek Boys, a bluegrass band, will perform along with rock musicians Mike Edwards

and the Banned.

In McClain's words, "a mirage of entertainment" will take place at the other end of the street (on the corner of Franklin and Columbia). To keep the University appeal, the UNC Loreleis will sing, McClain said. In addition, a group called the Society for Creative Anachronism will perform medieval dancing and fighting styles and the Hilltop Harmonizers will sing barbershop quartet tunes, she said.

Also on Henderson Street will be Cornflake the Clown, riding his unicycle and doing magic tricks, McClain said. This area of the festival should be excellent for adults who find themselves with children uninterested in homemade jelly and the bluegrass band. Here children will be allowed, for once, to draw with chalk on the street, and a group will come and build a maze out of boxes. Another group will bring tovs.

Events that promise to attract attention are the shag contest and the pizza-eating contests, sponsored by Chapel Hill's WCHL radio and Domino's Pizza. According to WCHL Promotions Director Beth Sisel, this is the fourth year the station will broadcast live at the fair. This year they will be located in the middle of Franklin Street with a platform for shaggers.

The three pizza-eating contests, dreamed up by Domino's to promote its new pan pizza, will begin at 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., Sisel said.

"The purpose of the pizza-eating contest will be to eat as

much pizza as you can in a specified amount of time," Sisel said. The winners will receive a pan pizza party sponsored by Domino's.

The first pizza-eating round will be a competition between a team from WCHL, a Chapel Hill Herald team, and a group of community leaders like Stephen Halkiotis, Orange High School principal.

Sisel said the shag contest will kick off the radio station's annual Beach Blast, a Sunday afternoon beach music program. A beach trip for two will be given to the winners of the contests, she said. Rounds will begin at 2 p.m. and 3 p.m., and the winners from these rounds will compete at the 4 p.m. shag-off.

"Winners will not be judged on any specific qualities, but on whether we like their shagging," said Sisel. Enthusiasm would be one important attribute, she said.

McClain said the recreation department has worked to keep the fair oriented toward the community. "Raleigh and Durham both have similar events. Local artists wanted something of their own. There are a lot of artists in Chapel Hill."

Mike Luveman, director at Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation, said Chapel Hill's annual arts and crafts fair was "started as a community celebration to give people an opportunity to celebrate the town and themselves."

Luveman, who has been working with the recreation department for 10 years, said that the fair has not changed since its begin-

nings. "We always try to have good variety and try to use local artists and craftspeople."

"We are taking a hard look at this year's fair as whether or not it will be feasible to expand the fair or to limit the number of booths available to special interest groups," he said.

Luveman said people have voiced concern that the fair is losing its arts and crafts element to these groups.

Luveman said 156 booths are available. "This is the first year that the fair filled up within two hours of registration," he said.

If the fair was expanded in the future, said Luveman, it would extend west of Columbia Street. He said the department will have to report this recommendation to the town council in June.

Judging from the amount of response from the community and from past crafts fairs, McClain said she expects at least 18,000 people to attend Sunday's event.

That is, "if we have some nice weather. It's hard to tell with this 25-degree springtime," she said. McClain added optimistically that the fair had never been rained out.

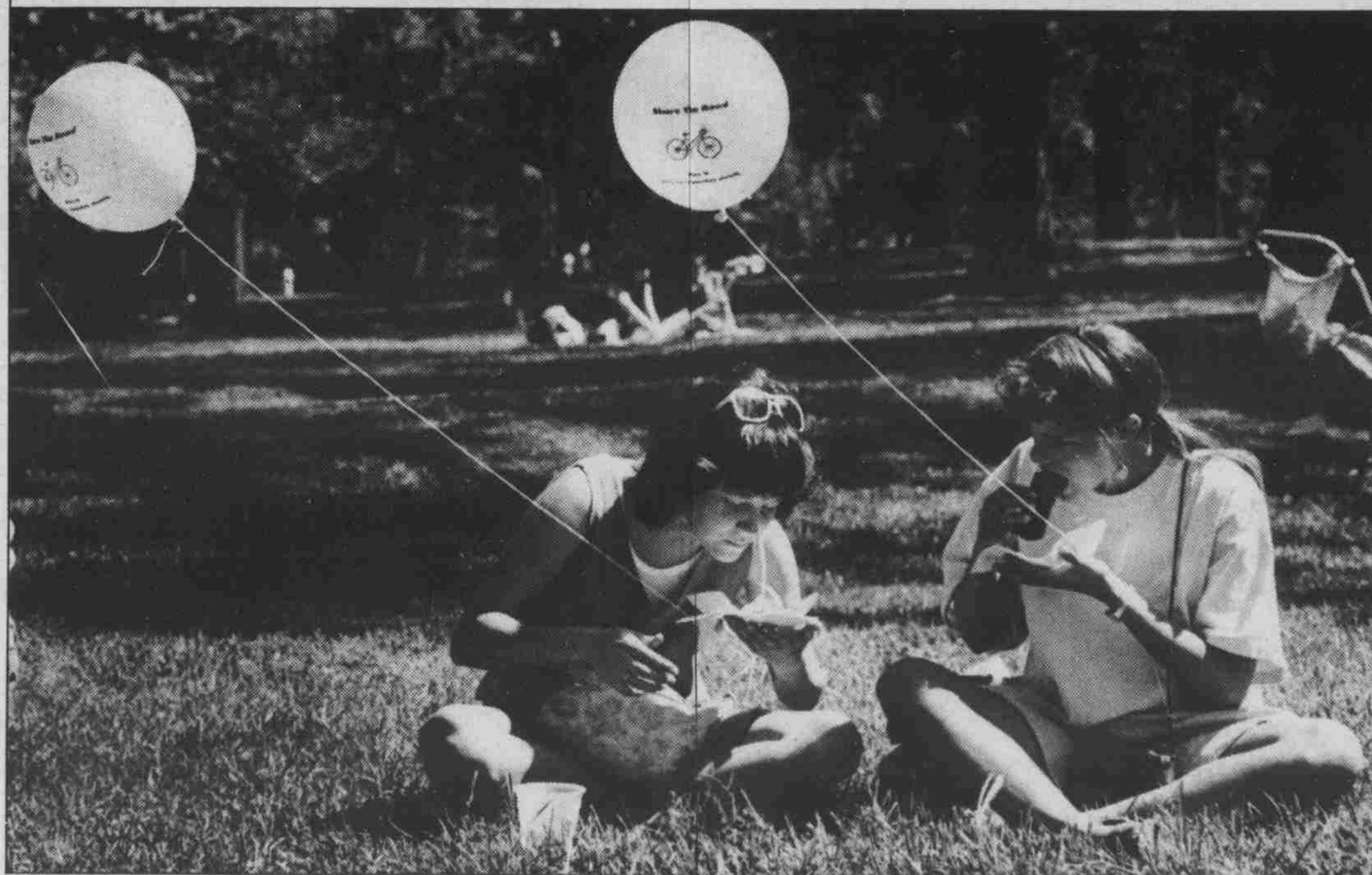
Probably because most townspeople will not give up a chance to buy a real tie-dye shirt, eat homemade brownies or dance to excellent music. It doesn't sound like a bad way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Anyone planning to go to Sunday's fair and is interested in registering for the pizza-eating or shag contests can contact Beth Sisel at 942-8765.



DTH Staff Photo

The festival offers more than apples: visitors will be able to enjoy music, crafts, dance and pizza.



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Apple Chill sponsors are optimistic about Sunday's weather. The festival has never been rained out in its 18-year history.

