

PARENTS WEEKEND

From the Taj Mahal to the Forbidden City

By DAVIS TURNER
Staff Writer

You don't have to be a master at eating with chop sticks to enjoy a variety of Oriental cuisine around Chapel Hill. Besides being a great change from peanut butter and jelly, these Chinese and Indian offerings will convince Mom and Dad that you really do eat vegetables while you're away at college.

You may have to do a little driving to get to The East Wind, Hunam, The Jade Palace, Marco Polo and Passage to India. If you don't have wheels, don't despair because there are a few that may even be closer to you than the library: The Dragon's Garden, Four-Five-Six and The Golden Dragon.

The Dragon's Garden has a delicious variety of gourmet dining in an upscale atmosphere with soft Chinese music in the background. Beer and wine are served and changing specials are offered.

You can't miss this place at 407 W. Franklin St., since it's located directly next to McDonald's. Lunch items are at the \$4 mark, and dinner is \$5-12. Lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., dinner 5 from to 9:30 p.m. (10:30 on weekends).

Located among the old boxcars and right next to the train tracks in Carrboro is East Wind Chinese Restaurant. The place is rather large and a bit more formal, but the prices for their Hunan, Szechuan, Mandarin and Cantonese fixings are still reasonable. And they have full ABC permits, so be careful of the five-minute drive back to campus. Lunch items are in the area of \$4, and most prices on the dinner menu are about \$7.

Authentic Chinese cooking is dished out from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. seven days a week, and dinner is from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. weekdays, and from 4:30 to 10:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

One of the most convenient and easily accessible Chinese grub spots is Four-Five-Six. It's a little short on atmosphere, but it is cheap and casual. There are about a dozen booths and a bar, which no longer serves beer. They serve egg rolls, soups, rice and noodles, as well as daily dishes which are already prepared and ready to choose from at \$1.99. The made-to-order dishes are mostly in the \$4-5 range.

Four-Five-Six, at 118 E. Franklin St., is open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The Golden Dragon is owned by the same folks who run The Dragon's Garden. It is quiet and sparse, again more along the lines of fast food. These folks do serve up a small variety of brews, including Tsing Tao. The prices vary from 95 cents for an egg roll to \$3.95 for a special combination platter, which should be enough for even the hungriest of us.

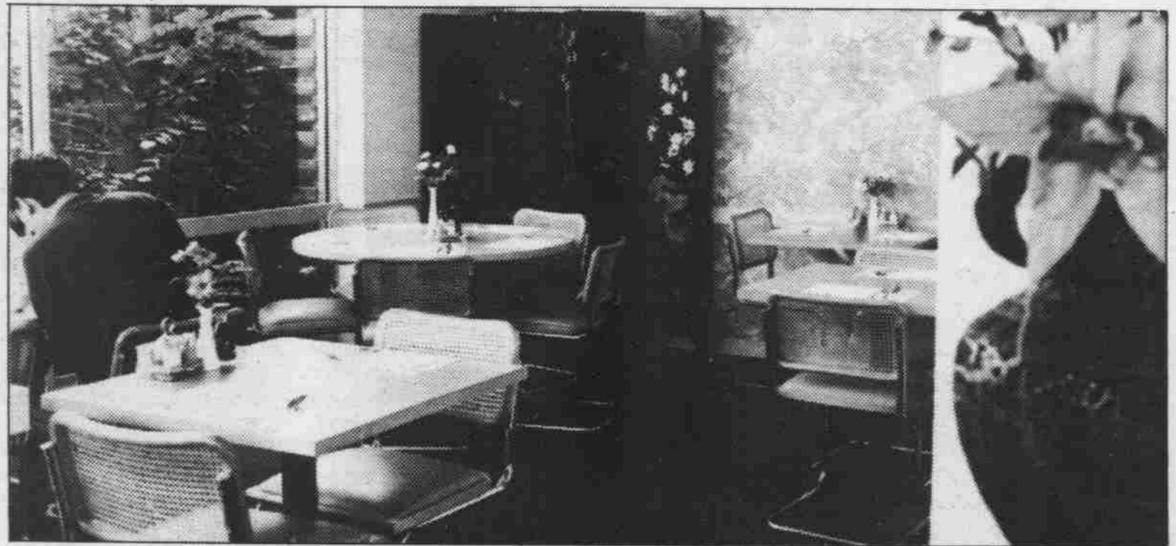
This place is conveniently located in Franklin Center and is also a 7-day-a-week operation, open from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Hunam Chinese Restaurant has ample portions of great food with a little atmosphere thrown in. The service is fast and efficient sit-down style. The specialty here is spicy Chinese, relying on red-hot peppers that are believed to have "therapeutic qualities." If sweating while you eat is not appealing, they can still handle your appetite with their heaping portions of somewhat blander entrees. Soups and appetizers are 95 cents to \$3.95 and the other dishes are in the \$6-7 range, with house specials in the \$8-10 category.

Since it may still be raining this coming weekend, you may want to mooch your parent's car for the drive down to 790 Airport Rd. There is a Fast Lunch Special from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from noon to 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Dinner is served from 5 to 9:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and from 5 to 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Jade Palace Chinese and Seafood Restaurant is well decorated with art objects and ceremonial ornaments. They offer a huge menu of mouth-watering food and free delivery. The menu is even color-coded so you don't accidentally order a super spicy meal. The prices vary from \$5 for fried rice to \$13.75 for stir-fried lobster.

It's right next to Spring Garden at 103 E. Main St. in Carrboro, and the food is available seven days a week: luncheons Monday through Friday



The Dragon Garden on West Franklin Street: Oriental cuisine abounds in Chapel Hill

from 11:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m., dinners Sunday through Thursday from 5 to 9:30 p.m. and from 5 to 10:30 p.m. Friday through Saturday. Jade Palace also offers an all-you-can-eat Sunday buffet.

Featuring three dining rooms and an indoor fountain and gardens is the Marco Polo Chinese and Italian Restaurant. This elegant restaurant boasts both a Chinese and Italian chef, and a wide variety of dishes to choose from, including chicken, prosciutto, eggplant, tasty Creole, and the freshest seafood in town, as well as great hors d'oeuvres. Get your folks

to cart you out, maybe even your date as well, to enjoy entrees with an average price of \$9-10.

Marco Polo is located at 1813 N.C. 15-501 Bypass next to Chapel Hill Tire. This establishment is open daily for lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (except Saturdays), with a Sunday International Luncheon Buffet from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and dinner from 5 to 9:30 p.m. (weekends from 5 to 11 p.m.)

Passage to India Restaurant, the first Indian restaurant in North Carolina, is now open in Chapel Hill. The place is both casual and clean,

setting the mood for an ethnic experience with Indian music wafting through the air. That hard-to-find spicy food that some of us crave is reasonably priced from \$6.95-9.50 for entrees. It's not only budget-friendly, but varied in selection: breads, soups, vegetable dishes, seafood, chicken, meat and rice are offered.

You can find it at 1301 E. Franklin St., down at the bottom of the hill where The Brass Rail used to be. Dinner is served daily from 5 to 10:30 p.m. and lunch is available Monday through Saturdays from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.



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Our Italian and Chinese Chefs are arguing... Can you help?

Chef Giovanni from Florence insists that his Pallo Alla Sorrentina sauteed with eggplant, prosciutto & spinach in a red sauce then topped with mozzarella cheese is the best Italian dish in the Triangle area!

However, our Chinese Chef Simon Chan thinks his General Tao's Chicken looks, tastes & smells just as good!

Chef Giovanni interrupts to add that his Gamborni Creole, which is created with fresh clams, shrimp, prosciutto, sauteed onion, green peppers and sauteed mushrooms over a bed of rice, is delicious as well as the best value in town at only \$10.95!

Chef Chan disagrees! He favors the Seafood Basket which has lobster meat, large shrimp, scallops & king crab meat. This dish is served with crispy vegetables in a unique potato basket and Chef Chan insists it is the freshest seafood dish ever created!

Whose dish is best is debatable, but the fact that these are the best Italian & Chinese Chefs in town is certain!

Could you come in with good friends and be the judge, so that Giovanni and Simon can settle the disagreement about who is the best chef in Triangle Area!

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Please Bring Your Friends for a Lavish International Sunday Buffet

Egg Plant Parmagiana	Shrimp Vegetables	Chicken Picanté
Beef Broccoli	Curry Chicken	Spring Rolls
Shrimp Cocktail	Prime Rib	6 mixed salads
fresh fruit & dessert		

Lunch: 11:30-2:30 (except Sat.)
 Sunday International Luncheon Buffet 11:30-2:30
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