

Alcoholic megalopolis s roars through the Hill and beyond

The Parlor (\$4.90), the upscale pool hall at 204 E. Franklin St. But don't expect a smoky little hole in the wall with a five-song jukebox. The Parlor is clean and spacious and permits no cut-offs (shirts or pants) or flip-flops. Though there are tons of tables, there still might be a bit of a wait to shoot the eight ball on weekends. Monday nights are Ladies' Nights, when women play pool free, and Tuesdays are league nights. For a special on collegiate bubbly, check out \$.75 draft night on Thursdays. More specials are forthcoming as The Parlor reorganizes its specials calendar, but a wide range of beers is always available.

Squealing around the corner and parting the Hector's fumes, take the small sheltered staircase down to Linda's (\$5.40), at 203 E. Franklin St. Rather small but nevertheless cozy, Linda's is the first bar in our list so far to offer mixed drinks, including an impressive selection of sippers and shooters. Seating at booths and at the bar is limited but helped by the recent removal of video games to add a new bench around the back wall.

The clientele is mostly composed of regulars who have pull when it comes to helping the bartender select a tape for the stereo — so don't expect any say in playing tunes 'til you've been there a few times. Linda's is a

restaurant too, so pick something up and keep that ol' BALWith parents, it's a classy place / with friends, it's decadence DTH/Grant Halverson in check. For the specials rundown, on Sunday nights, Whiskey Sours are \$1.75 and Rolling Rock, \$1.10; on Tuesdays, house highballs are \$1.75; and on Wednesdays, pitchers are \$3.25 and imports, \$1.75.

A short cruise down the block and you find the world-famous **Four Corners** (\$4.50), located at 175 E. Franklin St. The motif here is Carolina sports, earning the restaurant the name of Dean Smith's famous basketball strategy. On a game day (or night), people literally pile in and, let me tell you, it's hell getting to the bar if you're buried on the bottom. I know, not funny.

Like some of the other bars, Four C's offers bands on Sunday nights. The staff will serve up (Lendl style) your favorite beer or mixed drink. The Wednesday night special is \$2.50 pitchers, and be sure to take advantage of \$1.50 imports on Sunday. Why not buy me one too — Dos Equis is my favorite.

Right next door at 174 E. Franklin St., above Ye Olde Waffle Shop, you can dance away that slight buzz at **Club Zen** (\$4.50). The dance floor is rather small, but, with no inhibitions, you'll be up there in short order. The music tends to be alternative, so wear your cleanest Cradle clothes. For those of us who know all too well how poverty sucks, mark Tuesday night (dime draft) and Thursday night (quarter draft) on your social calendar. While a DJ rules the airwaves most nights, be sure to check out the top local bands on Sunday nights. A WXYC presentation, to see the Sunday locals will only run 'ya two bucks.

Don't take off your dancing shoes yet, because the next stop is **Players** (\$4.25), located up the stairs at 159 1/2 E. Franklin St. With the biggest dance floor in Chapel Hill, this is one club you won't want to miss. Tuesday night is Greek night, with \$1 draft and \$3 Long Island Iced Teas, and Thursday night is Ladies night, with domestic longnecks on special for \$1.25. Players offers a variety of different music, including Top 40 rock (Greek night), progressive and straight dance music.

Now make a pit stop at the NCNB machine, because, of course, you're out of money by now. Then duck inside the plaza to **Papagayo** (\$4.75). If you start the bar loop early, start here, since Monday-Friday, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., they offer food specials and free chips and salsa. In keeping with the Mexican motif, the big favorite here is the Papa G's margarita, which runs \$3.40. Though music or the television is usually going, this is one of the quieter drinking spots around. The couches around the bar are quite comfortable — and portable. When with a group of people, that facilitates those secondary things, like ... uh ... talking.

Along the straightaway at 101 E. Franklin St., cruise into **Spanky's** (\$5.00). Despite the upscale restaurant atmosphere, Spanky's offers a good selection of beers and assorted spirits. The reasonably quiet atmosphere offers the throbbing temples a bit of a break. The specials breakdown includes \$1 domestic non-premium draft (if you can say that three times fast by this point, color yourself an IROC champeen) on Mondays and \$1.75 house highballs on Wednesdays. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Spanky and the gang discount \$.50 on draft, \$.75 on pints and \$2.00 on pitchers. Those rates apply to Bud and Natural on Tuesday and to Heineken and Bass on Thursday. When not serving up suds, the

310 W. Franklin St. at **Ham's** (\$4.85). Rest the oil-stained hands either inside or out on the patio. This year's Ham's highlight falls on Fridays, when pitchers of "The Beast" (a.k.a. Milwaukee's Best) are a mere \$1.50. If the beast is more than you can handle, join the Chapel Hill drinking brigade for \$.99 highballs on Monday, \$2.50 shooters on Tuesday and \$.50 Lite draft on Wednesday. Since the headache's gone by now, check out bands on Thursday nights while knocking down \$1.50 blue cups and flaming Dr. Peppers. Though it's been called the "K-Mart of bars," this flashing blue light will have you in and burning rubber for the next stop.

As we all know, good and bad consumption habits cancel out, ex-

Once again, it's time to pit. The next stop is at 506 W. Franklin St., home of **North Carolina's Original Sports Bar** (\$4.75). True to its name, the Sports Bar boasts four pool tables, four dartboards and eight TV's, two of them wide-screen. Why just sit and watch the game, though, when the basketball hoop beside the door is a great way to win a few beers or, better still, beer money. For Monday Night Football, you bar athletes can take advantage of \$1 longnecks, and \$1.75 blue cups will make the mid-week lull passable on Wednesdays.

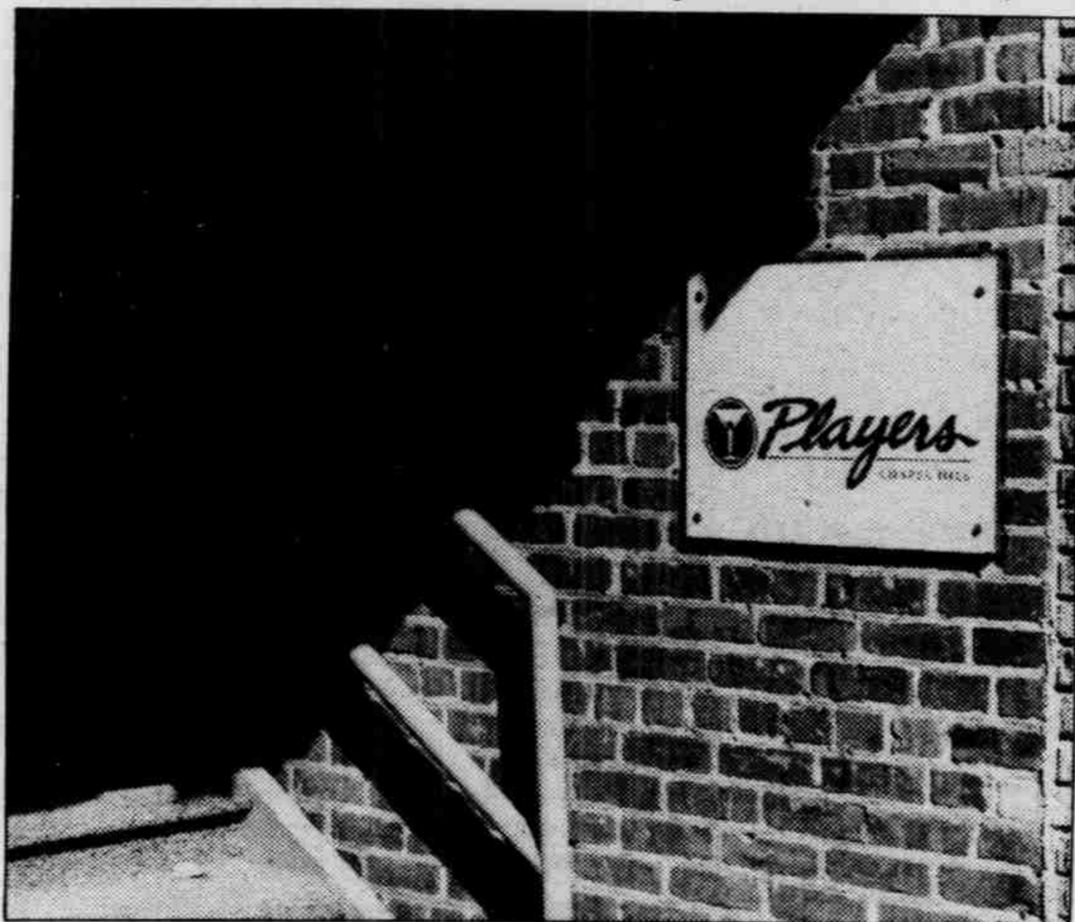
Right upstairs, above Magdalena's, head into **La Terraza** (\$5.50), located at 508 W. Franklin St. Dancing should be second nature by now, so La Terraza throws in a small dance floor and a patio bandstand. The only beer special falls on Thursday nights (surprise, surprise), when \$.75 draft is the rule. Gear up with local and alternative music on Thursdays and big-name bands (like Black Uhuru or Delbert McClinton) on Fridays and Saturdays. The clientele is largely made up of regulars, and the dart competitions can be pretty intense, not to mention blowing out those racing tires if you're not a regular racer.

Take the far turn of the loop at **Spring Garden** (\$5.00), 111 E. Main St. in Carrboro. Billed in neon as the "biggest bar in Carrboro," Spring Garden defines the term "bar and grill." The triangular bar set up lets you see everyone without moving your weary butt an inch. The big glass windows allow the still-sober racers a chance to check out and follow other racers on the bar loop.

It's a sad day, because "Natty Bo" (i.e., National Bohemian) has been bumped off the Spring Garden menu — thus denying one the pleasure of seeming literary when demanding a James Fenimore Cooper-inspired beer nickname. But, never fear, since the Garden has moved up to Killian's for draft beer. The bartenders grandstand a bit as you watch them cop a few moves from Tom Cruise, putting their mixology to the test when creating favorites like bloody marys and screwdrivers (both on special for \$1.50 on Sundays).

Cruising back on Rosemary St., you're on the back stretch heading home. Stop in at 403 W. Rosemary St. — **Tijuana Fats** (\$4.45). Yes it's Mexican, yes they've got food, but you don't really care by now. Miss this touch of Mexico on Monday and you've missed "margarita madness." Drink down \$2 margaritas and \$1.75 Cuervo shots while watching the two TV's through blurry eyes. As Pete Townshend sings: "The drinks flow/ And people forget." You can't forget this one, though, since you're almost done.

The next to last stop on the loop comes at **Colonel Chutney's** (\$4.75), located at 300 W. Franklin St. What He's Not is to Tuesday, Chutney's is to Sunday. Chapel Hill legend has it that if you ain't at Chutney's on Sun-



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Players: drafts and domestic longnecks (you supply the dancing shoes)

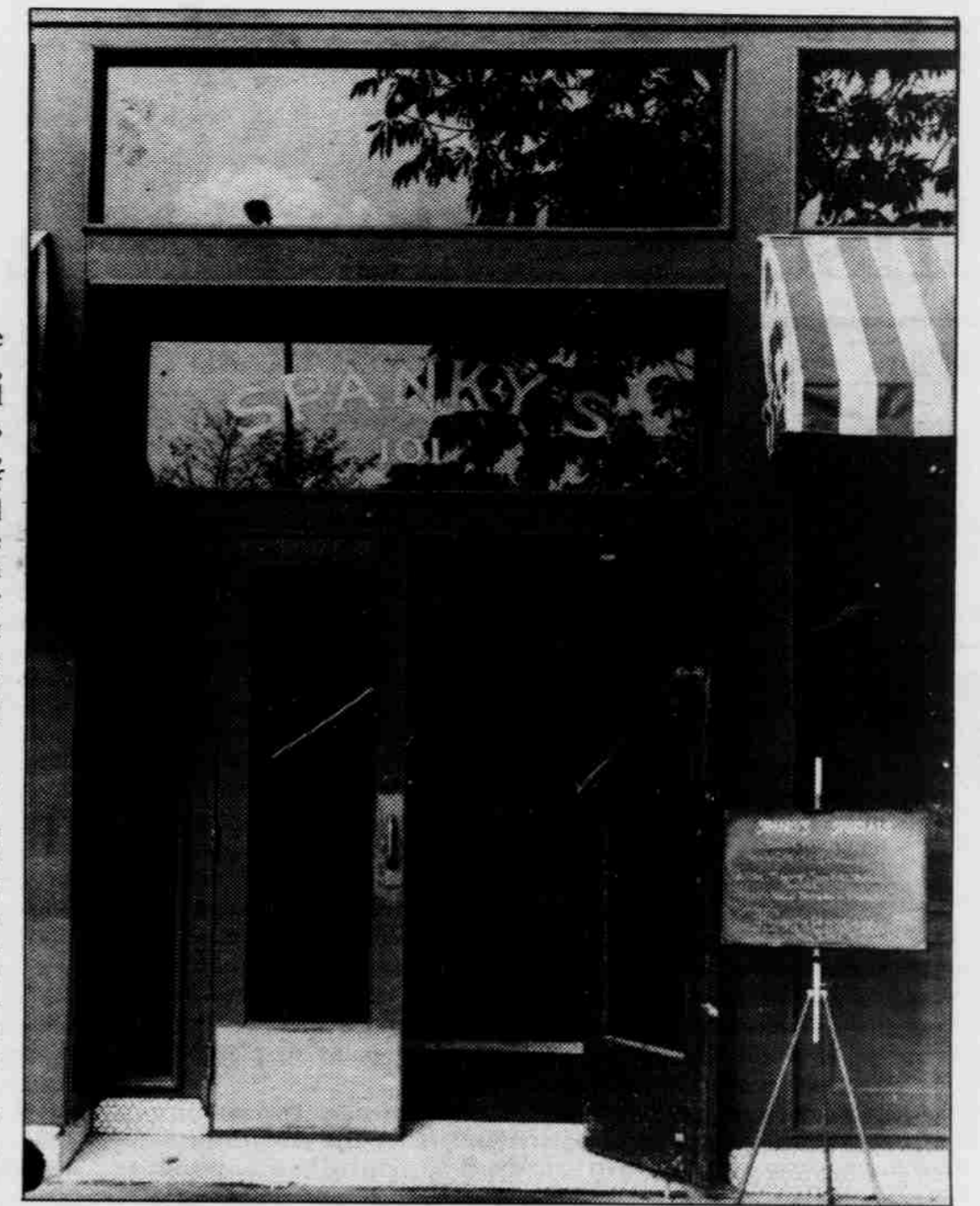
Spanky's crew offers the expected sippers and a grand array of new and different shooters. The newest little blast at Spanky's is a humdinger called the "Buddy Shot." Whoever's riding shotgun can race you as you suck down (through two straws) a concoction of amaretto, vodka, cranberry juice and OJ. The same classy place where you took your parents turns decadent for late-night partygoers.

After crossing Columbia St., the next heavyweight along the way is **He's Not Here** (\$4.50), located on the Village Green at 112 1/2 W. Franklin St. At everyone's favorite open-air bar, the Tuesday night specials of \$1.50 blue cups (33 oz. of draft beer) and \$2.50 pitchers are legendary. In warmer times, to miss a Tuesday night at He's Not is to drive a nail into one's social coffin. Of course, there are two levels inside for cold evenings, with the usual array of pinball, darts and TV. Check out bands on Friday and Saturday nights for a minimal cover charge when the weather is of reasonable temperature.

Picking up speed, cruise through

plaining the Diet Coke and Snickers bar principle. To test this age-old theory, grab the best in vegetarian cuisine at 431 W. Franklin St. better known as **Pyewacket Restaurant** (\$5.25, with Killian's instead of Natural). And, since you're eating well for a change, slurp down a few of their best 10 oz. brews, including Harp and Guinness. It's time for more music, so take a listen to blues on Mondays, jazz on Wednesdays and things like folk or bluegrass on Fridays. Cover is free, but the tip basket will be passed. You'll want to save a few bucks for the rest of the lap.

Ok, so the scenery whizzing by gets a bit dizzying. To remedy the situation, pull through 452 1/2 W. Franklin St. at **The Cave** (\$5.00, but figuring a Natural longneck instead of draft). This is the hallmark of consistency in a bar. The Cave features live music every night, most frequently blues. Names like Bob Margolin are regular features. Don't be fooled, though, because it's not just your eyes adjusting — the sign says "The Cavern," but you've got the right place.



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With parents, it's a classy place; with friends, it's decadence

days, you ain't happenin'. Sundays and Mondays, drink down \$1 draft and \$2.50 pitchers while you grab a booth inside or chill on the famous patio outside. Domestic longnecks are \$1.40 all the time, the cheapest around. Also a restaurant, Chutney's offers late-night food specials for the seasoned partiers.

To draw on Elvis Costello, "Welcome to the home front/ It may not thrill you/ But I hope it doesn't kill you." You've made it this far, but before you put on the roses, stop in at 136 E. Rosemary St. for **Molly Maguire's Irish Pub**. Sure it's a club now, but membership is only a buck, and the bar is open for both members and guests. If you haven't been in since Molly's grand conversion, the new raised ceilings, carpet, lights and ceiling fans make it worth checking out.

Molly's offers one of the largest collections of imported beers in town (in Chapel Hill, Molly's is the only bar with Newcastle brown ale), as well as a full stock of liquors and mixed drinks. Wednesday and Thursday are big special nights at Molly's, when tequila shots are \$1.50; Italian Valiant, \$1.75; and German Liquid Valiant and spiced rum, \$2. Chug that drink down, and you've finally made it.

And now you're back to Bub's. For either a warm-up or deceleration stretch, head down to 1506 E. Franklin St. and grab a seat at **Applebee's** (\$5.90). This classy place has a whole slew of specials, so get ready. Monday is \$.99 draft; Tuesday, \$1.95 highballs; Wednesday, \$2.75 margaritas; Thursday, sours and collins, \$2.25; Friday, house wine and coolers, \$.99; and, last but not least,

Saturday and Sunday, screwdrivers and bloody marys, \$2.25. Put all those on your calendar, since that's too many for the average alcohol-laden brain to remember. The furniture's comfortable, and the atmosphere quiet, so, whether for a warm-up or cool-down, Applebee's awaits.

The last entry in this guide is one of the newest — **Garfield's** (\$5.25), located on Elliott Rd. at Wellspring Plaza. This restaurant hasn't been in business long enough to cultivate the *de rigueur* garden of specials, but, right now, Monday Night Football is a big draw. With \$1.25 14 oz. draft and hotdogs at halftime, the fans flock in. Mixed drinks and more than 50 kinds of beer make Garfield's a must-stop for those who want variety.

The Garfield's beer club is already making a name for regular bargoers. After sampling 24 different beers, a free prime rib dinner and one's name engraved on the plaque of honor await. Later prizes for those reaching the 50 plus plateau include another prime rib dinner, having a bar stool named after the drinker of steel and a monogrammed beer mug. Whether starting or ending here, whip out that beer card. After all, with all the money you're spending, never pass up a chance for a freebie.

If you're brave enough, and feeling like Mario Andretti, take the full 500 laps around 'dis thang. If you make it, you'll win an Indy-sized pitcher o' milk, a Texas-sized hangover and probably acute alcoholism.

But seriously, my friends, don't drive home after this. The cops are waiting and so is Ed (short for Edwina — that's *Raising Arizona* if you didn't know). Besides, it's easier to walk and let your nose light the way.



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Best for \$1.50 on Fridays