# FEATURES

## Going away for Spring Break? Make travel arrangements now

By GINGER MEEK
Staff Writer

As the weather starts to get cooler, students wishing to travel extensively during Spring Break should begin making plans soon, according to area travel agents.

"It is getting more and more difficult each year to get anything after Christmas," said Marie Catlett of Chapel Hill's Small World Travel.

"We've had about 20 students so far inquiring and making reservations — they're smart," she said.

Some agencies are offering special packages for students, while others are sticking to the regular rates for that time of year.

The Bahamas Princess Resort and Casino package is available from several agencies in Chapel Hill, Durham and Raleigh. It features round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations for three nights and other travel expenses (except departure taxes) for as low as $229 per person with four people sharing a room.

Because of damages hotel owners have encountered in the past from students, many hotels in the more popular vacation spots are no longer accepting student groups during Spring Break, said Mike Siriello of Council Travel in Durham.

Some hotels are still accepting student guests but at a higher rate to compensate for anticipated damages, he said.

"It is difficult for students to get space. I would encourage them to consider other places — Europe, Guatemala or Costa Rica," he said.

Siriello said Berlin was an excellent choice for students.

"It has the party atmosphere, and it's nothing but young people. Especially since the wall is down; it is the focal point for excitement," he said.

Travel to Berlin would cost about $500, or $600 with hotel, he said. He recommended, though, that students plan to stay in the youth hostel in Berlin.

A youth hostel is a hotel for youth similar to a dorm. For $6 per night, students share a room with three others and are fed breakfast.

"The youth hostel is clean, big and a great place to meet people," Siriello said.

He added that students who were seeking a beach scene should consider Costa Rica or north Florida.

Students could spend their break at Panama Beach, Fla., he said, for $450 (inclusive). Costa Rica offers beautiful beaches and inexpensive hotels accessible to students for $400.

Jeff Mallett, of Cole Travel Agency in Chapel Hill, said Cancun, Mexico, was a popular Spring Break spot. Not including a $12 Mexico departure tax, travelers can fly non-stop from Charlotte Douglas International Airport to Cancun for $580 with accommodations in a beachfront hotel.

Students willing to spend a little more can fly from Raleigh-Durham International Airport to Jamaica for $1,200 per person, said Denise McDuffie of Durham's Horizons Travel, Inc.

Stepping aboard the S.S. Atlantic to cruise to Nassau is possible for a group of four students for $600 each with airfare included, $430 without. This is available from Premiere Cruise Line via Huddleston Travel Agency in Chapel Hill.

Susan Trimmer of Huddleston said they had also booked 96 seats on a flight out of RDU for a five-day trip to Nassau including hotel accommodations at various prices based on the grade of hotel. Prices range from $630 to $830.

"Reservations are selling out fast," she said. Prices are more expensive than last year because of the situation in the Middle East. Fuel prices have affected airfares, she said.

Dawn Hoyle, of Pegasus Travel in Raleigh, suggested that students on a strict budget try to save money by taking flights out of Atlanta or Mexico, instead of Charlotte or RDU.

For those with a bundle to spend, a Club Med representative suggested three resorts where students could enjoy their Spring Break. Prices include meals, sports activity and instruction, and other recreational activities hosted by the resort.

The Buccaneer's Club in Martinique has reservations available with a flight out of Miami, Fla., for $1,630 and $80 membership fee. The same features apply to the Cancun Club for $1,390 plus the $80 fee.

Seats on a plane out of Atlanta to the Club Med in Playa Blanca, Mexico, resort, are also available for $1,260 plus the $80 membership fee.

Most students, however, will not be spending such a large amount of money on travel during Spring Break.

"Some of those packages are out of the question (financially)," said Pam Sanders, a freshman business major from Charlotte. "But as long as it's not Myrtle Beach, I don't care where we go."

Melinda Boyd, a sophomore French major from Chapel Hill, said she would like to go to Graceland, the home of Elvis Presley, in Memphis, Tenn. Her main objective, though, is to try to save money, she said.

Other students said they would not be taking a major vacation for the week.

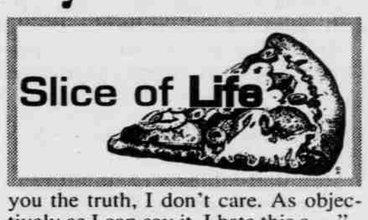
"Spring Break is a long time away, but I'll probably just go home and work," said Michele Quinn, a sophomore from Eldersburg, Md., majoring in international studies and anthropology.

Whether they travel around the world or around Chapel Hill, most students will be grateful for the break.

**Watch for The Daily Tar Heel basketball preview dribbling your way in the Friday, November 16th issue!!!**

## Late nights, lots of caffeine go with territory for WXYC staff

By MARA LEE
Staff Writer




> *"Just pick it out and play it."*
> — Richie, DJ

Way past midnight, when Tar Heels were nestled all snug in their beds, while visions of beers danced in their heads, a few creatures were stirring upstairs in the Student Union.

A few people are at their jobs at all hours of the morning — at Kinko's, at The Daily Tar Heel, at Time-Out. Some hardy volunteers are up and about too, manning the microphones at WXYC, the student-run radio station, on the graveyard shift: 2 a.m. to 6 a.m.

WXYC consists of a corridor *completely* plastered with posters and assorted rooms holding floor-to-ceiling shelves of records, a coffee pot, a stereo and the control booth room. On its door reads a sign, "Biohazard. Admittance Authorized to Personnel Only. Hazard identity: WXYC."

The door is ajar, and inside is the outgoing DJ, who, after he signs off, puts a cigarette behind his ear and searches for a pencil to record what songs he played. Richie, the current DJ with dirty-blond long curly hair and a beard, comfortably settles into the seat of power and puts on headphones. He plays his first song in the dead of this Saturday night.

Along with the personnel are visitors, the first, a blond woman in a black leather mini skirt and an Australian man. They wander around, reading the notices and discussing obscure bands. One notice warns against gratuitous obscenity. Richie explains, "You can say bitch and ass on the radio now, you just can't say real curse words. You can't say f—, f—, f—."

An outsider asks incredulously, "You can't say 'sit on my face' on XYC? That's not in bad taste!"

She and the first DJ drift out, and the next interloper is a woman who peeks her head in the door. "Can I request something?" she asks, "This Mortal Coil — Song of the Siren." Richie seems puzzled, and rationalizes she came by because she is an acquaintance. He plays the song a little later.

In the lull between guests, DJs editorialize on the CDs. On the GWAR CD, an entire treatise is scribbled: "Are these guys really this stupid, or have they actually created a multi-dimensional satire on the biggest money-making genre in music today? To tell you the truth, I don't care. As objectively as I can say it, I hate this s—."

Brad and Scott show up to break the monotony shortly before 3 a.m., but since tonight ends Daylight Savings Time, it's now 2 a.m. Richie offers, "Do you want to do a PSA? Speak loudly."

As Scott and Brad accept the announcement about absentee ballots, Brad says, "I'm just thrilled to be on XYC. I'm going to tell my friends." They switch off sentences and ad-lib, "'Cause you're really not cool if you don't vote, man. Yeah, man."

Richie asks them while on the air, "What's the weather like?"

Scott says, "It's pretty chilly, man."

Richie gives the weather, "Yeah, that's how it was when I came in. It's chilly, probably getting chillier. Possibly getting chilliest right before dawn."

As the rap, African, jazz and alternative songs play, Scott asks, "So how do you know what to play, man?"

Richie does have to follow rotation somewhat, but since only insomniacs are listening, he has some leeway. "Just pick it out and play it," he says nonchalantly.

"Way cool," Scott says, "You can't go wrong with that s—, man."

Brad and Scott browse through the CDs and hang around until around 3 a.m., when Brad suddenly says, "I got to get up at eight in the morning because my parents are here. I'm going to be hating life." Before they leave, they admit they're disc jockey wannabes.

"This would be a cool place to work," Scott says. "I wouldn't want to work the two-to-six shift — those are the only hours I sleep."

Brad adds, "If I could get the two to six shift I'd work it in a minute, but the test is so hard you have to pass." They are late-night groupies and joke, "Many a night we exchange requests for sexual favors. We're just slandering."

Richie drinks some orange juice for energy and describes life in the late-night lane. "Requests kind of drop off at 4:30, except for people working at Kinko's and other people staying up late for various reasons," he says.

"People stay up for exams, say they're studying, and ask for stuff. Sometimes you get people who can't sleep asking for stuff.

"There was this one really freaky lady that called. She was asking what kind of subliminal messages we were sending over the radio. I didn't really have a conversation with her, I just engaged in a Socratic dialogue with her."

As he plays some Beethoven from "A Clockwork Orange" and some Beastie Boys, he talks about staying awake. "They encourage us to have a couple of people or one person at night. It helps a lot. I don't have to worry about falling asleep with someone to talk to.

"The great god of caffeine helps, I suppose. I try not to drink too much. It's only 4:15. I've got another hour and 45 minutes. I'll probably end up making tea."

In between songs, he goes on the air and asks plaintively, "If you know what time it is, call us up, because we don't know what time it is. Usually you set the clocks back at night, because you go to sleep. But when you don't go to sleep, what time is it?"

Mark and Kirk, who go on the air at six, come in right before five. They also share the graveyard shift Thursday mornings. "Sometimes you can get one guy calling in all the time, asking all about some band. They think you know everything just because you work here," Kirk says.

They all agree that the graveyard shift isn't so bad. "You never know who's going to drop in," Kirk says.

Richie adds, "Dude, I'm up anyway. This is when I work anyway."

Mark describes how he manages to go to classes on the day after his show. "I'll go into Lenoir about 7:30 and drink about six cups of coffee. I'll go to my 9:30, then go home and sleep."

At the end of the shift, Richie goes home and sleeps, and the music plays on.

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