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Local Music Scene Offers Variety of Genres, Venues

By BRIAN MILLIKIN
Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

In terms of music, Chapel Hill is as much adjective as noun. The city's music scene is nationally known, the name a veritable promise of quality.

For diehard fans or music novices in Chapel Hill, options abound on any given night in any given genre.

Cat's Cradle

This local legend is known across the country, having helped launch the careers of acts like Ben Folds. The Cradle sustains Chapel Hill and regularly brings in great mid-major names of all genres.

"We get everything from reggae to hip-hop to scat rock," says Cradle employee Ben Rogerson. "There's no limit to what we will book."

Described lovingly as dark and dirty, the Cradle can pack 650 people into its bar, bench and spacious floor.

Go! Room Four

Sort of the little brother of the Cradle, Go! also brings in big local and nation-

al acts, mostly of the independent persuasion. With a smaller stage and a capacity of about 150, Go! offers even more intimacy than Cat's Cradle.

Carrboro Arts Center

Carrboro's champion of just about everything art, the ArtsCenter features a great variety of theater, improv and musical performances.

A visit to the ArtsCenter is comfortable physically – the larger of the two theaters features cosy movie-theater seats – and financially, with \$5 student rush rates 15 minutes before showtime.

The Cave

Local music takes the spotlight at The Cave, from Chapel Hill's signature indie rock squall to roots-oriented, jazz and bluegrass. Pool tables and an accomplished jukebox round out The Cave, which can pack in 85 devotees.

Local 506

Much like The Cave, Local 506 features mostly local acts of varying genres, not specifically rock and roll. The bar is

in front, and stage is in back.

Skylight Exchange

For a more intimate, coffeehouse vibe, the Exchange's small stage offers a good blend. Open-mic nights are Monday and Wednesday, and a spoken-word poetry event called Vague Metaphors can be enjoyed every Tuesday evening.

Caffe Driade

With its outdoor stage and candles on the tables, Caffe Driade is as unique as its superbly diverse music selection.

"We have had DJs, jazz, Latin and African music – mostly local acts," said employee Austin Miller.

Street Scene Teen Center

Housed underneath the Franklin Street Post Office, Street Scene has been holding shows for the 12-18 crowd for years. Though it will have any type of music, it's been mostly punk and hardcore bands lately, with packed crowds.

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Cuts, Economy Make Life Hard For N.C. Community Colleges

By ELYSE ASHBURN
State & National Editor

As interest in two-year colleges swells, community college administrators say they are concerned that tuition hikes and a third round of budget cuts in less than a year might threaten accessibility.

The N.C. community college system will have its budget cut by about \$22 million under the proposed House budget, while the Senate's proposed cuts go as deep as \$27 million.

"It's sort of the death of a thousand cuts – a little bit here and a little bit there," said N.C. Community College system President Martin Lancaster.

The House and the Senate will have to reach a consensus on the budget – including community college funding – in upcoming Appropriations Conference Committee meetings.

But impending cuts are not the primary factor straining North Carolina's community colleges.

Lancaster said two-year colleges' main struggle is to absorb incoming students as the institutions are already operating at full capacity.

Displaced workers have caused a surge

in community college enrollment at the same time that many students are transferring from four-year universities to two-year campuses, Lancaster said. "We always see an increase in transfer students when parents have lost jobs."

Lancaster said legislators have made a concerted effort to fund enrollment growth at community colleges.

"We are encouraged and pleased with their efforts," he said.

Both legislative chambers have slated more than \$50 million to fund community college system enrollment growth.

"That (funding) is critical if we are going to fulfill the role of educating the work force," Lancaster said.

But administrators at Durham Technical Community College are worried they won't receive the promised money because the slumping economy might prevent the state from gathering the necessary revenue. "Our biggest fear is that we will be funded for enrollment growth but not get the money," said Wanda Winslow, DTCC vice president of institutional support services.

DTCC is feeling the crunch caused by high enrollment numbers, Winslow said. Usually 2,000 to 2,500 students register

during DTCC's early registration period. This year, the college enrolled more than 4,000 students in pre-registration. Normal enrollment at DTCC for the past five years has averaged 5,100 students. "We have been concerned that our numbers were going to be really high," Winslow said.

But more than 600 students were removed after pre-registration because they failed to pay tuition. Winslow said students were given several chances to pay but that many were unable to because of their economic situations.

Tuition increases might also have contributed to students' inability to pay for their education, Winslow said.

Both the House and the Senate have proposed a tuition increase of \$3.25 per semester hour for in-state community college students and \$17.50 for out-of-state students, bringing tuition to \$34.25 per semester hour for in-state students and \$190.75 for out-of-state.

"Many of those we serve are putting themselves through school," Winslow said. "Any tuition increase is going to hurt."

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ArtsCenter Survives Budget Woes

By NICK PARKER
Arts & Entertainment Editor

With budget cuts plaguing the state, many institutions that receive state funding are facing difficult times – including the Carrboro ArtsCenter.

But that doesn't mean it will be shutting down any time soon.

Judi Cooper, developing and marketing director at the ArtsCenter, said that despite economic troubles she doesn't expect major changes in the schedule, programming and focus of the ArtsCenter.

Because the majority of its funding – more than 75 percent – comes from tickets sales and class tuition, the ArtsCenter will be able to absorb any blows resulting from a cut in state funding. On average, only about 2 percent of the center's funding comes from state support.

Cooper said, however, that the center might face as much as a 25 percent cut. She noted that when the economy is in tumultuous times, it is harder to find donations for unexpected expenses.

"We recently lost two air-conditioning units, and because of the difficult times the money just isn't there to replace them," Cooper said. "But it is also in these hard times that the community really pulls together – projects become a great collaboration, a great effort."

In the spirit of the community, the ArtsCenter organized a "Beat the Heat" event, which took place Friday, to raise money to replace its air conditioners.

Among many other donors, Top of the Hill and Carolina Brewery contributed kegs of beer while Amante's Gourmet Pizza fed the musicians – all of whom performed for free.

This communal effort is a trait that

will characterize many of the ArtsCenter's programs this year, Cooper said.

"Because times are so hard, we will not be adding a lot of new programs because we don't have the resources to support them," Cooper said. "Instead we will be focusing on what we do well, working with many different people to please as many people as possible."

Despite an uncertain future, modest gifts and moderate cutbacks, the ArtsCenter still hopes to grow and never lose sight of its vision.

"We will still keep looking for enterprising ventures and still remain a central presence in the community," Cooper said. "That is really what the ArtsCenter is all about – the spirit of the community."

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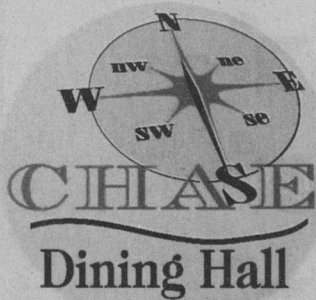
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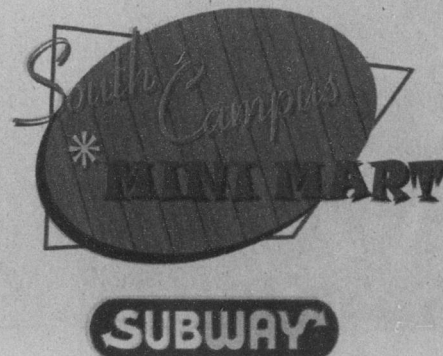


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