

Look past library for great places to study

Bull's Head, Strong's popular locales

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Come exam time, UNC's Undergraduate Library is one of the most popular sites for last-minute cramming. But if you're looking for a quieter, less crowded

alternative, there are more than a few places to hit the books.

There is the obvious option of using the campus' less populous libraries, such as Davis or Wilson. Hike the stairs a few flights and you can find quiet corners free of

ringing cell phones and the constant shuffle of backpacks and bags of chips.

For a little more atmosphere right on campus, head over to The Daily Grind coffee shop to get a boost of caffeine, then follow up with some study time in the Bull's Head Bookshop next door.

But if you're looking for a

chance to do some holiday shopping to break up the mundane memorization that is exam time, head up to Franklin Street, where Caribou Coffee and Strong's Coffee offer a quiet coffee house environment on the town's main commercial thoroughfare.

If you work up a real appetite, try Cosmic Cantina, Hector's Bar and Grill or any area restaurants.

For some, though, the mall is a great place to find all the right presents for loved ones. Spend some time studying in Barnes & Noble.

Then, to relax, peruse the shops of The Streets at SouthPoint in search of the perfect gift.

Realistically, no one can be expected to study the entire time. To take your mind off grades, there is everything from athletic events on campus to shows featuring bands from the local music scene.

During exams, UNC will host two women's basketball games — against Wofford at 7 p.m. Dec. 13 and against Western Michigan at 7 p.m. Dec. 17.

Should you feel musically inclined, doors will open at 9 p.m. Dec. 13 at Cat's Cradle for Southern Culture on the Skids.

But for all of you who make the trek to the library or anywhere else to study, just remember a few common courtesies:

■ Turn off your cell phone. It seems that this would be a given, but it's always a problem and an annoying one at that. If you must keep your phone on, put it on vibrate and do not start a conversation while those still around you are trying to study.

■ Don't use AOL Instant Messenger. As tempting as it is, most people get sucked into multiple conversations with friends and lose valuable hours of study time.

■ If you have finals close together, study for the first one after studying for the second one. You're more likely to remember the information when it's time to do or die.

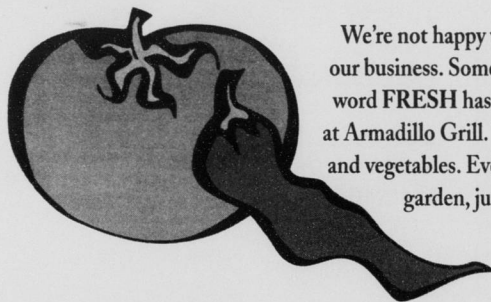
■ Figure out what environment best suits your study habits. If you like constant noise, have your CD player, iPod or computer ready and listen to music through headphones.

If you need absolute quiet, make sure you check out locations with few people in order to avoid distractions.

If you do need quiet, do not, repeat, do not study in dorms. As history has shown, quiet hours never have stopped crazy late-night antics.

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

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