

Down home on the farm for students up on the Hill

By TOM WEBER
Staff Writer

Would-be Chapel Hill gardeners living in dorms and apartments or in areas with bad soil can rent the land they need for a spring and summer garden at two University-owned community plots.

Vicki Davis and Joel Moulin are two Chapel Hill residents who have rented a plot in order to grow their own food. Moulin, a landscape architect, and Davis, a pediatric researcher, are beginning their first year of gardening at the Mason Farm site in Chapel Hill.

"We tried to do some gardening at our house, but the soil wasn't good enough," Davis said. "We heard about this place from a friend, and we started working in February."

"Right now the work is a little boring...but it's really exciting to get a good yield," Davis said.

Fifty by 25-foot garden plots are available for a \$10 yearly rental fee, according to Community Garden Coordinator Elisa Jones of the N. C. Botanical Garden. Forty plots are still available at a site off Mason Farm Road near Finley Golf Course and 20 are available at the Horace Williams site off N. C. Highway 86 in Carrboro.

Half-plots also may be rented for \$5, Jones said. Registration forms must be filled out in person at the N. C. Botanical Garden on Laurel Hill Road.

The rental fee covers administrative and maintenance costs, Jones said. N. C. Botanical Garden crews maintain roads and mow the fields, but it is the tenant's responsibility to take care of his own plot.

Several groups of students have rented plots in the past to try to hold down food costs, Jones said.

However, Moulin said that with work hours considered, the economics of gardening may not be too favorable.

"If you put a dollar figure on it, it wouldn't be worth it," he said. "You'd have to grow and then can a lot of vegetables to come out ahead."

But Moulin and Davis find other satisfaction in the work.

"We just like to garden," Davis said. "We like to watch things grow."

Others share the enthusiasm for gardening. UNC graduate student Dorothy Scoville and her husband Richard have gardened for four years at Mason Farm.

"One advantage of having a garden is that you can grow things you can't easily find in stores," she said. "We grow Chinese vegetables and herbs, among other things."

The community garden program began seven years ago when UNC appropriated the two sites for public use, Jones said.

"Originally the community garden plots were under volunteer administration," she said. "I was appointed coordinator in March 1979, with my assistant Rick Perry."

Maintaining a plot is not overly expensive, according to veteran gardeners.

"You can have a decent garden for under \$50," said Larry Wall, a graduate business student who has gardened for two years at Mason Farm with his wife, Kim. Wall said the bulk of the expense lies in seeds and fertilizer, with the rental fee and plowing comprising the rest of the cost.

"It's surprising how little time it takes after you get



Students can be part-time farmers...by renting area plots for gardens

over the initial hump of getting things started," Richard Scoville said. Several gardeners estimated that it would take two persons a minimum of about six hours a week to maintain a garden.

Moulin and Davis cut costs and save time by sharing a plot with two other families. Cooperative gardening not only gives them more freedom, Davis said, but ensures that an abundant crop will not rot in the field.

Despite the pleasures and advantages of gardening, there are problems, Jones said. Insects and rodents have been a problem in past years and there is no adequate water supply at Mason Farm in the event of a drought.

Gardeners have dealt with the pest problem by using chicken wire fences and setting animal traps. The Walls had to bring gallons of water in milk bottles to their garden last year when there were dry periods.

But, most gardeners seem to be happy with the results of their labor.

Carrboro board wants public transit committee

By PAT FLANNERY
Staff Writer

The Procedures Committee of the Carrboro Board of Aldermen voted Monday to establish a Citizens Transportation Board that would advise the aldermen on transportation matters.

Before the advisory board can be established, the entire Board of Aldermen has to approve the proposal.

The committee approved the formation of an eight-member advisory board that would be responsible for making recommendations to the aldermen concerning transportation matters, mass transit methods and the local bus system.

Members would be appointed to the advisory board for three-year terms. The original proposal called for five-year terms, but the aldermen changed the term length to increase the rate of turnover on the board.

"We want to have opportunities for more people to serve and to open up more positions," Alderman Doug Sharer said. "I think it helps, the longer you're on it, but I don't think a limitation (to a three-year term) would have any adverse impact."

The committee also recommended that the town of Carrboro ask Chapel Hill to join Carrboro in the fight against fire hydrant fees charged by the Orange Water and Sewer Authority. The

committee agreed to ask Chapel Hill to refuse to pay the hydrant fees.

OWASA imposed higher hydrant fees this summer, but Carrboro officials since have argued that the fees should be paid by individual OWASA customers and not by the town.

"We're basically disputing the manner in which the costs of those hydrants are covered," Sharer said.

In their meeting, the aldermen said they hoped if both Chapel Hill and Carrboro refused to pay the hydrant fees, OWASA would change their fee policy.

Acting on a motion made by Alderman Steve Rose, the committee also recommended that the town hold a public hearing to discuss a change in the town's zoning ordinance affecting drive-in businesses. The change would create a new zone that would be the only place drive-in businesses would be allowed.

The discussion of drive-in businesses was generated by a controversy between the town's Board of Adjustment and the aldermen. The Board of Adjustment recently approved the construction of a Wendy's restaurant with a drive-in window at Main and Greensboro streets. But the aldermen objected to the approval and said the Wendy's construction would create traffic problems in the area. The aldermen have filed a lawsuit against the Board of Adjustment to reverse the Wendy's decision.

Troubled students discover salvation: the fast food lane

By ANNETTE MILLER
Staff Writer

It's all part of the academic struggle. University students, fighting off the late-night munchies, flock to brightly lit huts that dot the local landscape. There they find the means of survival. They are living life in the fast food lane.

When University students are deluged by tons of term papers, usually 10 papers assigned by slightly sadistic professors, food, or at least the preparation of it, is the last thing on their to-do lists.

"When I want to go out quick, it has to be a fast food joint," Susan Solomon, a senior accounting major, said as she munched on a roast beef special at Roy Rogers.

While convenience and the need to get the food in a hurry seem to be primary motivations for eating at most fast food restaurants, the quick culinary centers in Chapel Hill present some variety. Prices differ as does the quality of the food. In an informal survey by *The Daily Tar Heel*, one reporter braved the world of the greasy spoon.

Dominating the fast food scene are the burger joints, all of which seem to be clones. The chrome counters, assembly line service, and smiling "Hello, how are you" employees are all part of the classic mold.

Locally, McDonald's, Hardee's and Burger King all have their own devoted following.

"I personally like Hardee's better than McDonald's, Patricia Cannon, a sophomore psychology major said. "McDonald's is like a stereotyped hamburger with all those hamburgers coming out of the bins. When they get through with a hamburger, it doesn't taste like one."

But Mimi Renkin, a UNC freshman, said McDonald's was her favorite hamburger hangout. "You can get two all beef patties, special sauce, lettuce, cheese, pickles, onions on a sesame seed bun," she sang in defense of the home of the golden arches.

All three hamburger huts have similar prices, ranging from \$1-\$2 for a meal. The *DTH* sampler rated the food at all three as



Fast food franchises find followers...speedy service saves students time

good but not delicious. The promptness of service depends on the time. It is slow at peak lunch and dinner hours.

Each hamburger restaurant boasts its own special concoction that usually bears the name of some creature or large inanimate object. Burger King has the double whopper for \$1.39, McDonald's has the quarter-pounder with cheese for \$1.13 and Hardee's features a big roast beef sandwich for \$1.39.

If you are ready for a rousing Western welcome and slightly higher prices, Roy Rogers may be the best choice. Roy's offers such menu choices as "The Big Cowboy Hamburger Platter" (\$1.69), fried chicken (\$1.40), a roast beef sandwich (\$1.45) and a roast beef platter (\$2.09). A salad bar is also available. Service at Roy's was rated as fast, and the food received a good rating.

Sub-shops provide a change of pace for hungry hamburger hunters. Youngblood's, Sadlack's and The Looking Glass Cafe are just a few options open to the hungry. The food at all three was labeled delicious and service was fast. The prices for the subs range from \$1.50 to \$3.

For those who cannot escape the campus, there always is the Hunger Hut in the Carolina Union. The Hut features hamburgers for 45 cents (McDonald's sells theirs for 44 cents) and daily specials usually costing slightly more than \$2.

But the *DTH* food finder rated the food at the Union as, well, less than good.

Pair gets continuance in bomb case

George Spencer Brown and Richard Cooper III, the two UNC students arrested for allegedly calling in a bomb threat to Hamilton Hall March 13, were granted a continuance of their case until April 22 by the Orange County District Court Tuesday.

"Mr. Brown just recently came to see us and it takes some time to prepare a case," Lee Culpepper, attorney for Brown, said.

"The state has had time to prepare for this case ever since the incident. It (continuance) is fairly routine," he added.

Culpepper is not representing both students because they have separate interests, he said.

The bomb threat was called in to Hamilton at 9:40 a.m. and the callers said the bomb would go off at 10 a.m. Hamilton was evacuated for an hour.

University police arrested Cooper and Brown after the threat was made and brought them to the Chapel Hill Police Station. Each of them was released on \$300 bond, University Police Lt. Charles Mauer said.

According to N.C. General Statutes, making a bomb threat is a misdemeanor. Punishment for the offense is left up to the discretion of the judge presiding in the case.

—STEPHANIE BIRCHER

Paper drive set for this Saturday

In an effort to re-establish Campus wide newspaper drives, the ECOS recycling committee has arranged for a truck to pick up papers at 10 locations Saturday. ECOS co-chairperson Amy Perlmutter, said.

On-campus students who wish to donate newspapers should tie or bag them and leave the papers prior to pickup time inside the doors of the residence halls where the pickups will be made, Perlmutter said.

Anyone else who wants to contribute newspapers should bring them to one of the

pickup locations or drop them by the ECOS office in Suite A of the Carolina Union by Friday, she said.

The collection schedule for Saturday is: 9 a.m., Craig; 9:30 a.m., James; 10 a.m., Ehringhaus; 11 a.m., Morrison; noon Parker; 2:30 p.m., Lenior Drive between Mangum and Ruffin; 3 p.m., Alumni Place; 3:30-4:30, sites which people have previously requested.

ECOS is trying to locate a truck to use on a regular basis.

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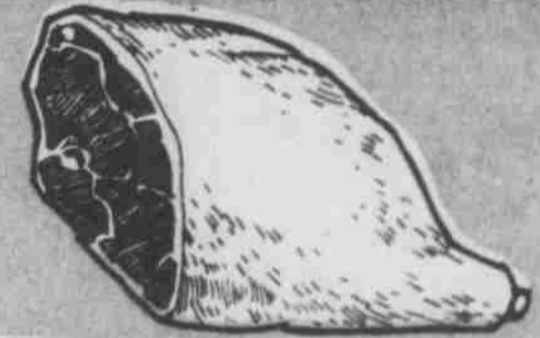
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