

Multitude of bars suit every mood and every whim

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Co-editor

Chapel Hill probably has more pizza places than any other city in the world of its size, and the same thing goes for bars, taverns, and clubs.

Few cities in the world have 18 bar "courses" where a "golfer" can go to bar one, drain a beer, and proceed to the next bar/hole and complete an entire course on foot.

He's Not Here has been a Carolina institution for 15 years and is more popular now than ever. The bar, with its 800-person capacity, has a huge outdoor patio area where students can drink huge Carolina blue "buckets." On Tuesday nights the buckets only cost \$2, but He's Not is crowded virtually every night. On weekends, students from around the Triangle flock to the two-story bar to meet friends and see the live bands featured every Saturday. The open-air bar is always pleasant, especially in summer, although the winter chill doesn't keep many students away.

Troll's, located below Jordan's on Rosemary Street, features the cheapest beer, the fastest service, and one of the best jukeboxes in Chapel Hill. Entertainment is limited to the jukebox, with selections ranging from Hank Williams (Sr. to the uninitiated) to classic '60s rock, but the atmosphere is friendly, and the beer's cold. An interior decorator might not love the decor, but the imaginative graffiti on the walls and hardwood tables and in the restrooms might urge him to reconsider.

If the urge to enjoy a cocktail strikes you while at Troll's, you can't get it there, but a short walk up the stairs will get you what you desire. At Jordan's, highballs are only \$1. The bar is adjacent to the more ornate steakhouse, but when the diners leave students take over and take advantage of what may be the villages' best drinks (if you keep your order simple) at the absolute best prices. If you have a brand preference, the drink price doubles, but it's still cheaper than the competition.

Henderson Street Bar had a fire last year, but was back open for business in a few weeks, to the delight of its many loyal patrons. Henderson Street regulars often begin their evenings at three in the afternoon (it's

the only way to get a table). The bar is famous for its large crowds and jukebox, which has classic selections from the last three decades. The decor is simple, as is the selection (beer), but if you like to pack in with a couple hundred of your closest friends, then this is the place.

Four Corners is a bar and restaurant with a sports theme half a block up the street, and students begin filing in for the late night at about 10 p.m. The food is good, with all the sandwiches named after favorite UNC stars. During the basketball or football season, Four C's is the place to watch the action on big-screen TV. The atmosphere at this bar is a little more upscale, but everything from shorts to suits is appropriate for this favorite late-night spot.

Jigsaw's is less than a block down Franklin Street, and although the restaurant is temporarily closed, it's due to reopen under slightly different management before school opens in the fall. You will have to be seated, so come early and reserve your table for the night. The bar has one of the largest drink selections in town and talented bartenders, so the wait is worth it.

A block further down the street is Rascal's, a private membership club with the biggest dancefloor in Chapel Hill. The club has big plans for the fall, including comedians, bands and other specials, but a penny draft Wednesday special might be enough reason to join the club. Have a friend bring you as a guest and apply for membership early, because the membership committee takes three days to review your application, as required by state law.

Several feet down the block is Spanky's, a restaurant with full-service bars on the first and second floors. Slightly more upscale than Four Corners, and more expensive, Spanky's is a favorite place to go for those who are already all dressed up. The bar has a Cheer's-esque brassrail and hardwood motif, and serves fine food in addition to its beverages. A good place to go to impress a date, and the prices keep the riff-raff out.

Having circumnavigated the Franklin Street bars, it is time to explore the periphery (but do it on foot). Colonel Chutney's is behind He's Not Here on Rosemary Street,

and features a full lunch and dinner menu, but has recently become famous for its Sunday late-night. The crowd at Chutney's is slightly older than at other local bars, especially on Sundays, but that's not necessarily bad. One of the most endearing features of the restaurant, besides the fish and chips, is a blackboard in the restrooms for non-vandalistic graffiti artists. Students are beginning to discover Chutney's, but that movement will probably be cut to a halt in November.

Ham's Restaurant is the newest addition to Chapel Hill. It's located next to Fowler's market on West Franklin. It has a full bar and a large selection of imported ales to complement its deli-type menu. The atmosphere is distinctive, especially the model train overhead, and the low prices encourage you to bring a friend.

If you like live music, there are three clubs that will serve your craving. They are all within a block of Fowler's. Cat's Cradle is an established institution featuring local and national acts every weekend. If you want to check out a favorite rising act or an obscure local one, the Cradle is the place. The long, large room with booths and a postage-stamp size stage is a good setting for live music. A distinctive part of the atmosphere are the murals on the wall featuring dinosaurs playing musical instruments. The dance floor is ample — great for accommodating large crowds.

Rhythm Alley is a little hard to find at first, but the reward makes the effort worthwhile. Walk down Rosemary Street, past Tijuana Fat's; when you pass Dip's Country Kitchen, reverse direction, and it's up the alley that separates them. The club is small, one room and an adjacent bar, but this is the kind of place where rock 'n roll is meant to be played. You may not have heard of the bands, but Rhythm Alley picks excellent talent. If you can sit in the pew-style benches all night without hitting the dance floor, (it's bigger than the stage by about a 10 to 1 margin) then you must be nearly

comatose. Many of the bands are blue-collar rock 'n rollers, average garage bands looking for a place to exhibit their skills.

The Cavern is a small low-ceilinged den treated with a material that covers the walls and ceilings to give it a remarkably batcave-like appearance. The Cave is also hidden away in an alley on the same block as Cat's Cradle. It features folk acts, often performing alone accompanied by guitar. Mike Cross got his start there, and the tradition continues due to

the dedication of its owners who operate the club on a less-than-profitable basis. If you missed the '60s, journey back to the Cave.

Whatever your taste, Chapel Hill has a bar catering to your whim. The smaller clubs are always eager for your patronage, and you're probably more likely to meet more people in a more intimate setting than the ones offered at some of the more popular places. You may even want to travel further off the beaten path than the route listed here.



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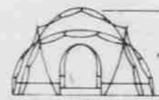
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