

Spring Break — it isn't just a beach trip any more

By KAREN HATTON
Staff Writer

Did you wait until the last minute to try to make reservations for Spring Break? Or is your wallet too thin to even consider a week of skiing in Colorado, a tour of Europe or a cruise to the Caribbean? Don't despair. Your vacation isn't lost.

The possibilities are endless for a week free of classes, midterms and papers. If your budget is tight, one possibility is going home — if your hometown is within a reasonable driving distance, or if Mom and Dad are willing to spring for the plane ticket.

"For some people who go home, it gives them a chance to renew old ties," says Glen Martin, a counselor at the Student Development and Counseling Center. "They are able to regain the feeling of comfort that comes from someone else in charge."

Students can take on an "I can relax" attitude because someone else is paying the rent and the food bills.

"It's nice to let Mother and Father care for you," Martin says. "Going home gives people time to talk with family members about issues and questions that come up during the semester, such as philosophical type of questions or career questions."

Students are able to bounce ideas off Mom and Dad, tie up loose ends and touch base with their roots, he says. But students must be aware that conflict can come in.

"Mom and Dad are used to the old you, the one that lived in their house for 18 years, and you are used to the new you," Martin says.

If going home isn't a good option for you, then staying here is a possibility. Chapel Hill has a slower pace when the population dramatically decreases because of a university vacation.

"Movie lines are shorter, traffic is less, parking is better and restaurants seat you immediately," Martin says. "And you have a chance to do some things you've been wanting to get done here."

For those of you who are staying in Chapel Hill, musical entertainment is available. Cat's Cradle is featuring Moja Nya (reggae) on March 4; The Bad Checks (rock 'n roll) on March 5; a disco on March 6; Enormous Boy (rock 'n roll) on March 11; and Flat Duo Jets (rock 'n roll) and the Excelsators on March 12.

The Cave is featuring The Swamp Cats (dixieland to rhythm and blues) on March 4; David Only (acoustic) on March 5; an album release party for Sam Milner's *Highway Bound* on March 8; Shaking Sherman and Tommy Hartley (country rock) on March 9; The Boomers (rhythm and

blues) on March 11 and Messablues (rhythm and blues to rock-a-billy) on March 12.

And the Skylight Exchange is featuring Sleepy Tom, G.K. Bishop & friends (blues) on March 5; Timothy Williams (country folk) on March 10; Alan McDonald & The Resistors (jazz and blues) on March 11 and Tracy Dracht & David Bennet (Drock 'N Droll) on March 12.

If the idea of staying in one place for a week bores you, then you can plan some inexpensive trips. Using your home or Chapel Hill as a base, you can explore the tourist attractions of North Carolina or your state.

The Tar Heel state has plenty to offer the would-be traveler. For the price of a tank of gas and a basket of food, you can picnic in the mountains or on the beaches and enjoy the scenery.

In Western North Carolina, attractions include the Blue Ridge Parkway with lookout and picnic areas; Grandfather Mountain, complete with a mile-high swinging bridge and Mildred the Bear; Chimney Rock with a view of the Blue Ridge Mountains; and various parks.

Eastern North Carolina offers sandy shores, coastal islands, the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and the Wright Brothers' Flight Memorial at Kill Devil Hill at Kitty Hawk.

If you have some money to spend, you could go to the Biltmore Estate and Thomas Wolfe's house in Ashe-

ville; try some skiing at one of the various resorts; visit Old Salem in Winston-Salem; tour the N.C. Zoological Park in Asheboro; and check out the U.S.S. North Carolina Battleship Memorial at the Cape Fear River at Wilmington.

Do you remember that eighth-grade class trip to the state capital? Now is the perfect time to relive it and realize how different everything looks to you now compared to when you were 14. Go to the Museum of Art, Museum of History, Museum of Natural Sciences, the Capitol Building and all the other sites on the state capital tour. But be careful, this is Spring Break — you wouldn't want to accidentally learn something.

And what about getting closer to nature? Another vacation possibility is a camping trip. Dig out those sleeping bags, back packs, tents and camping equipment left over from those Girl and Boy Scout days or borrow somebody's camping equipment. For a small fee, you can camp out at a camping ground at one of the state parks. According to the North Carolina Division of Natural Resources, a primitive campsite (with no wash areas nearby) costs about \$4 per person. A group campsite costs \$1 per person each night, but has a minimum of \$5 per night. Family campsites with complementary wash areas are \$7 per night. If a camping ground is too tame for you, you can explore the woods to find

a good camp spot — but be sure to get the land owner's permission and be sure to take a compass in case you get lost.

No matter where you spend Spring Break or what you go, remember that the purpose of the vacation is to relax. So go to it.

Martin said that people set up themselves to be disappointed by planning too much to do. Then they return exhausted and need another vacation to recover from the previous one or unhappy because they didn't do everything they planned.

"The point of a vacation is to relax," he said. "A person needs to cultivate an 'I can live with it' attitude in case something goes wrong — it invariably does — and go on enjoying the day. On any vacation, you need to be ready for plans to change. Be ready to be flexible."

"The point of a vacation is to enjoy a change of pace," he said.

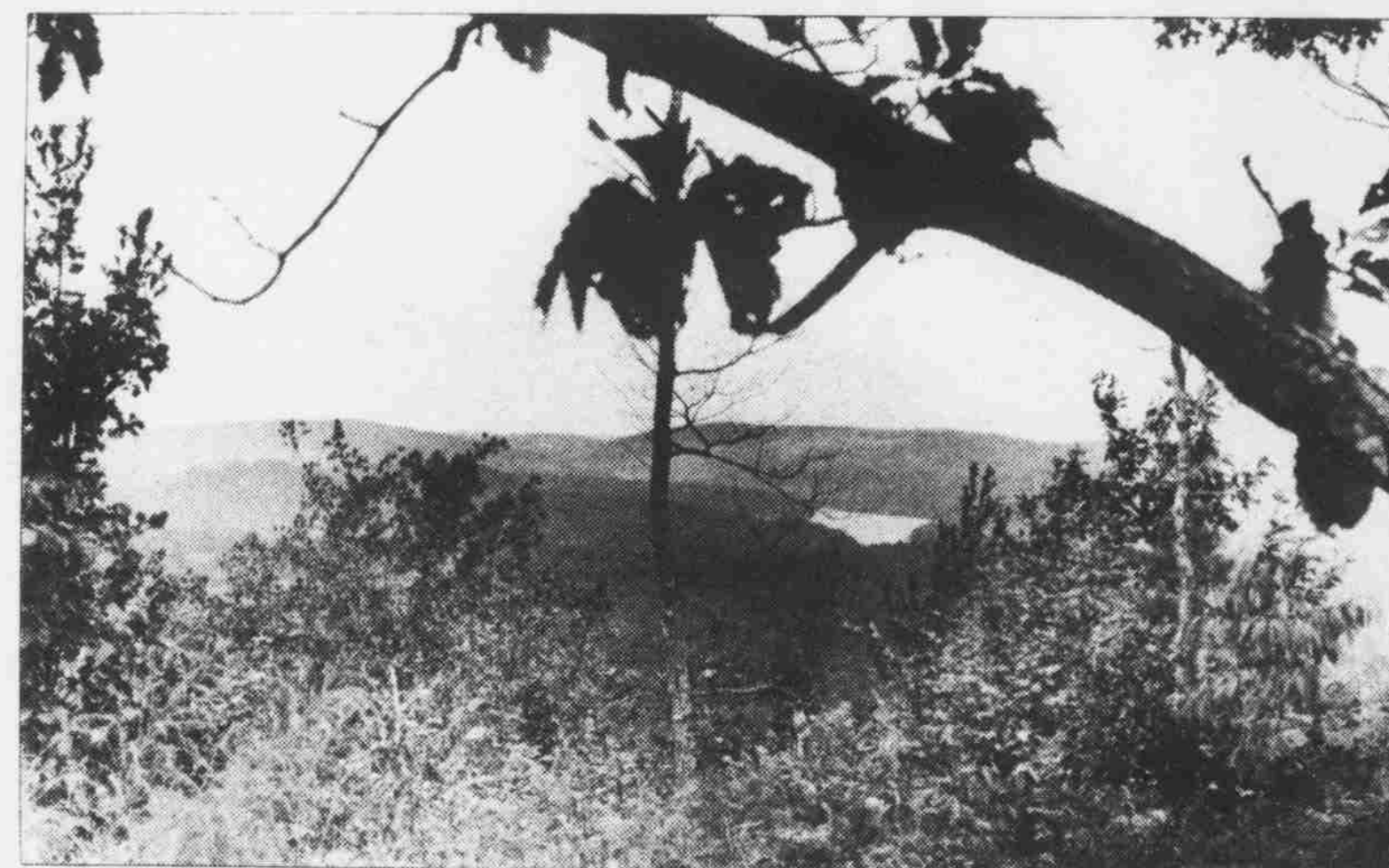
Now you're ready to begin your break from classes and enjoy a laid-back pace. Just remember not to plan more you can do, be flexible about changes and make sure you have a map or compass (and someone along who knows how to read them), so you won't get lost.

Then, when your friends spend all their money, and get sun poisoning in Jamaica or Fort Lauderdale, you can feel superior because you'll come back rejuvenated and ready to finish the rest of the semester.



The Carolina beaches are still the most popular vacation spot for students

DTH/Matt Pilyer



Many students will head for the mountains this Spring Break

DTH/Charlotte Cannon

A vacation guide for the culturally deprived

By AMY HAMILTON
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Spring Break. The mere mention of these two words conjures up mental images of newly tanned, slightly (or more than slightly) intoxicated bodies lying on warm, sandy beaches trying to meet members of the opposite sex or bundled up, slightly (or more than slightly) intoxicated bodies skiing (falling) down powdery white snow trying to meet members of the opposite sex.

However for some of us, Spring Break is more than a good time. It's a time to soak up a little culture instead of a little sun. But where is one to go to get culture over Spring Break?

Before we decide where to go, we should define culture. Culture (in the sense we mean) is not what will form

in the bottom of the cup that you will forget to empty over Spring Break. And it is not an anthropological term referring to exotic tribes who wear bones in their noses and very little else. Culture is the refinement of intellectual and artistic tastes (chocolate is a favorite).

Okay. So now we know what culture is. We can now begin our pursuit for culture.

To be cultured, one should be well versed in the visual arts, the theatre, music and literature. We'll start off with the visual arts.

For an exciting Spring Break, we can acquire culture in museums. More specifically, art museums. Art museums contain examples of the visual arts, namely painting, sculpture, etchings, cartoons, etc.

When visiting art museums, you must never, never touch anything

unless there are several big signs saying PLEASE TOUCH. Guards will say nasty things to you if you touch (or get too close or breathe on) their precious art works.

If you're not already cultured, you can give the illusion of culture. Just walk through an art museum with a friend (keeping a safe distance from the valuables), stop in front of an art work occasionally and converse for a few moments. If someone should be in a position to overhear you, just make vague references to the artist's brushstrokes, chisel marks or mother.

The best museums are usually located in the larger cities such as New York City, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia. But if you're not planning to go out of state, you can visit the N.C. Museum of Art.

If you're not into museums, you

could try going to the theatre. It would probably be helpful to find out the plot of the play before going. Sometimes the actors talk so fast that you miss things and spend the rest of the play trying to catch up. This problem is particularly apparent in performances of Shakespeare when actors affect horrid English accents and spend more time pronouncing than acting. You can also impress your date if you can recite the lines before they actually happen. This could lead to trouble, however, if the actors overhear you. They will probably break character and beat you into small pieces.

It's probably not too late to get tickets for performances during Spring Break to some play. Surely somebody out there is performing something for those of you who won't be lying on beaches or falling

down slopes. You could check with Paul Green Theatre here on campus, Raleigh Memorial Auditorium, John F. Kennedy Center, etc. Give 'em a call. They'll be glad to help.

If you find yourself in the mood for some fine music over Spring Break, you might check out composers like Beethoven (which is not pronounced like it's spelled), Bach (kind of like the noise a dog makes), Handel, Brahms, Mozart (you might have seen the movie), etc. Cultured people listen to them. You should, too. You can hear these and many other fine composers at symphony performances, on classical radio stations or on tapes you buy from record stores. (The classical tapes are usually squeezed into a small corner between the greatest gospel hits of all-time and music to boogie by. Keep looking. You'll find them.)

That's enough culture for one Spring Break. Have fun on the beach!

And of course, to be cultured, one must be well-read (that means that you must read well). To be well-read, one must read the classics. Mark Twain said that a classic is something everybody wants to have read, but nobody wants to read. He's probably right. Classics are usually very, very long. They also usually contain very, very long words. In fact, it might be helpful to read the dictionary before tackling the classics. But some classics that you might try are "Ulysses" by James Joyce, "Lolita" by Nabokov, "War and Peace" by Tolstoy, "Moby Dick" by Herman Melville, and "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain. Or you could always read the classic comics versions. They're shorter and have pictures, too.

That's enough culture for one Spring Break. Have fun on the beach!



A camping trip is an inexpensive way to relax and enjoy nature

DTH/Charlotte Cannon