

The Rat . . .

. . . where the waiters are part of the tradition

By KYLE HUDSON
Staff Writer

The waiters at Franklin Street's Rathskeller are as much of a tradition as the restaurant itself — maybe more.

A common sight to the thousands of students who eat there, the waiters are almost legendary for their fast service and catchy nicknames. Beyond the piping food and the gruff exteriors, however, no one seems to know much about these men.

What are they like?

There are four full-time and five part-time waiters at the Rat, in addition to two managers, nine cooks and two busboys. The "youngest" full-time waiter has been at the Rat since 1969. One of the older waiters, now a part-timer, has been with the restaurant for the past 36 years.

The head waiter at the Rat is known only as "Man" Cozart. He refuses to give his real name, but everyone who works at the Rat knows who Cozart is.

Cozart has been at the Rat for 24 years, half of the restaurant's history. He said when he graduated from high school in nearby Apex, he wasn't sure what he wanted to do with his life.

While he was in Chapel Hill that summer visiting his sister, Cozart heard that a restaurant downtown was looking for waiters. Cozart checked the place out, liked the work and never left.

After a quarter of a century of hard work, Cozart took time off to

sit down for a few minutes and talk about his career at the Rat.

"It's been up and down," he said. "I like dealing with the public, meeting people but the hours, well . . ."

Cozart broke off, a grin crossing his face. He explained that he works a split shift, beginning every morning at 8:30 and working until 9:30 at night, with one break from 3 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Still, Cozart has few complaints. He said that he loves his work. His list of acquaintances reads like a "Who's Who" of UNC. He is personal friends with men like former Carolina football star Lawrence Taylor and Orange County District Attorney Carl Fox.

But the students still are number one on Cozart's list.

"If not for the University and the students, I don't know where we'd be," he said. "When the students are gone, we miss them. They play a hell of a role in the business."

Ed Morgan, the waiter better known as "Squeaky," started at the Rat in 1960 and then left for awhile to work for a furniture company.

"I left the Rat when I got married," he said. "I didn't have any time at home because I was working too many hours at the restaurant."

During his 15-year hiatus, Morgan continued to work at the Rat part-time. But he couldn't stay away forever. He returned to waiting full-time in 1985.

"I love it here because I meet peo-

ple I haven't seen since the '60s, and they remember me," he said.

"Everybody remembers my nickname. That's why keep the tag on all the time."

Morgan said that he doesn't have any specific stories about waiting on celebrities, aside from meeting some of the basketball players through the years.

And what about the hectic pace at the Rat? Would he prefer to work in a more relaxed atmosphere?

"No," he said. "I love working in a college town. I love the fast service and the fast pace."

Waiter Alvin Alston is more commonly known around the Rat as "Thinman." He has worked full-time for the Rat since 1969.

"I've always been a waiter," he said. "You gotta work somewhere."

Alston said that he enjoys working in the fast-paced college atmosphere at the Rat even though it is hard work. Not surprisingly, he was busy putting away utensils as he spoke.

"There's definitely a special friendship among the waiters here," he said. "Most of us have known each other since we were kids. Squeaky and I played together when we were growing up here in town."

Alston said that he also has gotten to know some of the basketball players. Those aren't the only famous customers he has encountered, though.

"I waited on Andy Griffith once or twice about 10 years ago," he



DTH/David Minton

Waiter "Man" Cozart gives Gina Powell a refill during lunch hour at the Rathskeller

said. "He was just an average customer."

David Blackwell, whose friends call him "Hausman," is the fourth full-time waiter, Cozart said. He has been with the Rat since 1965.

Although he isn't a full-time waiter, Cliff Stone is a big part of the tradition surrounding the Rat. Stone, who actually goes by his given name, began as a waiter at the Rat in March of 1952 — 36 years ago.

"I enjoy the Rat," he said. "I've been part-time since 1954, so waiting on tables here is like recreation for me, like playing golf."

He said he only works Friday and Saturday nights now.

Stone has seen a lot over the past four decades. He met Charles Kuralt when Kuralt was a student editing The Daily Tar Heel.

Stone said that the Rat has changed over the years. "We used to have a piano where

the bar is now," he said. "The bar was behind that. We had a guy who'd come in every night and play for free beer."

Students, basketball stars and even chancellors come and go, but the Rat waiters remain, sometimes — like Cliff Stone — for nearly 40 years. When today's UNC students come back to town for their 20-year class reunion and stop by the Rat, Cliff Stone or "Man" Cozart still may be there to take the order.

Business students work to improve relations among students, faculty

By JEANNA BAXTER
Staff Writer

The Association of Business Students' (ABS) "town meetings" will improve relations among the undergraduate business students, faculty and administration and bring the business school closer together, said Scott Martin, ABS policy chairman.

ABS developed the idea of town meetings to discover and remedy student concerns through discussions with faculty and administration, he said.

Martin said discussion at the first town meeting Jan. 20 included student concerns over the raised GPA from 2.75 to 3.0 for business school admission and the decrease in the number of students being accepted to the business school.

Gayle Saldinger, director of undergraduate business programs, said: "I think that the town meetings are a great idea because we have been looking for a way to

communicate with the students and to let them know what is going on in the business school. The students have come up with good ideas that the faculty are getting the opportunity to react to."

Leonard Emory, a junior business major from Charleston, S.C., said: "It is good to get the interaction between the students and faculty, especially in a school this size. Many students don't get the opportunity to talk in class, or they are intimidated."

Martin said the discussions could end in policy changes. At the first meeting, students, faculty and administration discussed the sectionalization of classes. After discovering that students disapproved of the idea, faculty and administration put the idea on the back burner.

Julie Edwards, a junior business major from Wilmington, said, "The meetings are a good chance for faculty to learn where students

stand on issues, especially now that a lot of changes are going on in the business school."

Gary Armstrong, a marketing professor and chairman of the marketing area, said the meetings will be a continuing source for good information.

The discussion at the second town meeting on Tuesday addressed how to deal with problems concerning teachers and classes, teacher evaluations and the lack of communication throughout the business school.

Martin said ABS plans to have one more town meeting this semester and three to four meetings during subsequent semesters.

He said the ABS policy committee also wants to improve communication throughout the business school by taking control of the information board and publicizing the Business School Journal, a newsletter for business students.

'Hope and Glory' shows war from a child's perspective

Elizabeth Ellen
Cinema

Chronicles of war range from the "war is hell" variety of moral and physical mayhem to the jingoistic and romanticized heroic saga. Rarely does an audience see a war from a semi-safe distance through the eyes of ordinary children. War can be an exciting adventure, a delicious anarchy and freedom from the routine adults impose upon their offspring. Such a view is the meat of John Boorman's celebrated film "Hope and Glory."

A classically constructed plot is not a strong point of "Hope and Glory"; the storyline follows a London family's experiences during World War II. Subtly sparkling humor, impressive settings, excellent casting and acting, and a fine acquaintance with the ways of the young recommend the film instead.

Sebastian Rice Edwards, who stars as Billy Rohan, is one of the most endearing English leading men to come along in quite some time. The

7-year-old conveys both shy innocence and the mischief which little boys cannot possibly check, especially under such extraordinary conditions. Boorman selected a non-stage child for this role on purpose, and he hit a gem when he spotted Edwards during a search through London schools. The same can be said for Geraldine Muir, who plays Billy's 5-year-old sister Sue.

Billy's mother (Sarah Miles) is a bit clueless, but coping the best she can with a husband off at war, the tiny salary of a soldier and three children to raise. Billy's 15-year-old sister Dawn (Sammi Davis), a handful all by herself, plays the adolescent version of the anarchist, the older counterpart to Billy. Davis brings to

the screen the rebelliousness of a young woman who wants nothing more to do with the war effort than to comfort soldiers.

Daily life goes on in England during the war, but the routine is punctuated by air raids and paranoid rumors ("I heard the Germans are dropping diseased rats on bomb sites"). Even the childhood drudgery of school is made exciting by the periodic descents to bomb shelters where students don gas masks while reciting their multiplication tables.

The lifestyle is both more difficult and more liberated because of the absence of father figures. Gender roles and class distinctions become more of a blur. Women become stronger and children become more free. This theme is woven throughout the film, in conversations between mothers and in the geographically expanded play world of the children.

Boorman invades the world of childhood adventure, where gangs of little boys climb rubble piles while imitating what they imagine their fathers are doing in Europe. The childish destructiveness, innocent sexual curiosity and comradeship portrayed in the film ring very true, as does the wonder the children share with their elders at spectacles like barrage balloons and a shot-down German pilot.

"Hope and Glory" is based on Boorman's recollections of his own boyhood. He obviously has vivid memories and the knack to bring them to life through setting as well as characters. The movie's setting switches from rather drab suburban London to an idyllic country house on the River Thames. Boorman brings out the best in each setting with breathtaking shots of dogfights over the rows of houses, bombs bursting in air, impromptu cricket matches on the lawn, and afternoon outings on the river.

Small absurdities in everyday life form the humor core for the film. When Billy's father brings home a captured can of German jam, his wife reacts with paranoid horror and Dawn claims that it is unpatriotic to eat the enemy's food. Bill's eccentric grandfather (Ian Bannen) provides many memorable comic episodes, such as the one in which he shoots a rifle across the breakfast table at a rat in the garden. Typical of Grandfather George's attitude towards life is his assertion that the best he could do with four daughters (whom his wife named Faith, Hope, Charity and Grace) was to organize a string quartet.

The overall tone of the movie is somewhat nostalgic. It seems to be about a place very different from the present, a place where callous children casually discuss death and play on the ruins of family homes. And yet, the wonder of childhood is a fairly universal experience, whether that wonder is provoked by German bomber planes or by the more mundane elements of a peacetime childhood.

"Hope and Glory" is a very satisfying film — one that has interesting things to say about the English homefront and about the reactions of incompletely informed non-combatants to a nearby conflict. Blessed with excellent acting, writing and directing, this beautiful British import is currently up for the Best Picture Oscar. The nomination should be no real surprise to anyone who has seen the picture.

Recruiting

about doctoral study and to foster interest," he said.

The national pool of black faculty is so small that it limits UNC's recruitment efforts, the report said, so the University has a responsibility to increase that pool if it hopes to benefit from it.

Recruitment efforts should be combined with minority fellowships and research opportunities, the report said.

Finally, efforts should be made to retain the black faculty already here, and the University should raise money to provide competitive salaries for black faculty members, the report said.

The report recommended that a search committee be formed to find and evaluate black faculty candidates and notify school deans and department chairs when candidates are identified.

The University should allocate money for faculty members to contact black faculty at other universities and research institutions to learn about excellent black graduate students at those universities, the report said.

McMillan said implementing the recommendations outlined in the report might take some time.

"We don't know how realistic we're being, but it's important to set a goal, he said.

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Protest

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lots, car and van pools and improved public transportation are possible solutions, he said.

"We'll continue to explore possibilities and look for deck financing," he said. "We've been working for a year and a half to get the Craig deck plans to the point where they are now."

Financing costs caused the plans for a parking deck near Craig Residence Hall to be "postponed until the financing plan is acceptable to Chancellor Fordham," Swecker said. Parking fee increases are "just

enough to operate at current levels and allow for inflation," Swecker said.

Parking fees cover parking monitors, the public transit system, campus shuttles and some of the University Police budget and are used to pay staff to handle permits, he said.

"Surface area for parking on campus is gone," Swecker said. "There's nowhere to go but up. Another alternative is to build parking lots off campus and improve public transportation, but no matter what, the price of operations will increase."

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