

Fear not! You can still have fun if you're under 21

By MYRNA MILLER

Assistant Features Editor
Chapel Hill is a party town with lots of places to dance, enjoy music and meet people — if you are 21 years old.

But what about all those poor UNC students who have yet to reach that grand old age?

Students younger than 21 are people too, although most of the bars and clubs on Franklin Street refuse to admit them. However, a few businesses offer hope and a chance to do something besides go to the movies or stuff your face on weekends.

On the Hill, the newest of these night spots, opened in May. It is located above Four Corners, where the dance club Down Under was last year. Anyone 18 years old or older is welcome to enjoy the music and do a quick step on the dance floor to the beat of alternative music.

"There aren't many places that will let people underage in, and we will keep doing it as long as we don't have any problems," said manager Sheila Brown. The only night that underage people cannot get in is Tuesday, which is 25-cent draft night.

The club, which opens at 9 p.m., has a disc jockey Tuesday through Saturday and a live jam session on Sunday. A house band plays at the jam session, and several local musicians often join in, Brown said. Another special program the club hopes to offer at least once a month is a WXYC night on Fridays.

"We play alternative dance music all night, every night. That's all we play," she said.

Brown said the club would be very strict about not letting underage people drink. People under the age of 21 must have a bright red stamp on their hand, and club officials will continuously walk the floor to check for illegal drinking.

Underage people should not attempt to drink alcoholic beverages in the club, because On the Hill will stop admitting them if they do, she said.

Although some sort of cover charge will be required, the club has no set amount. Brown said guests under 21 will usually pay \$1 more than others. The cover will never be more than \$4 for anybody.

The next stop on the "under 21 bar-hopping trail" is Papagayo's Mexican Restaurant in NCNB Plaza. The lounge connected to the restaurant attracts many students who are looking for a quieter atmosphere than a typical bar or dance club.

Henry Schliff, who now owns the Chapel Hill Papagayo branch, said he is a former UNC student and thinks students are just as important to his business as anyone else.

"You shouldn't be penalized because you're under 21 and want to go out with your friends who are 21. It just isn't fair," he said. Papagayo's doesn't card at the door but you must present identification if you ask for a drink at the table or the bar, he said.

Nachos and virgin strawberry daiquiris are popular orders for many people, said Kelly Furr, a junior from Harrisburg. "Papagayo's and the Rat are my two favorite places in Chapel Hill. It's fun to get a group of people together, and those who aren't 21 can still get in with their friends who want to drink."

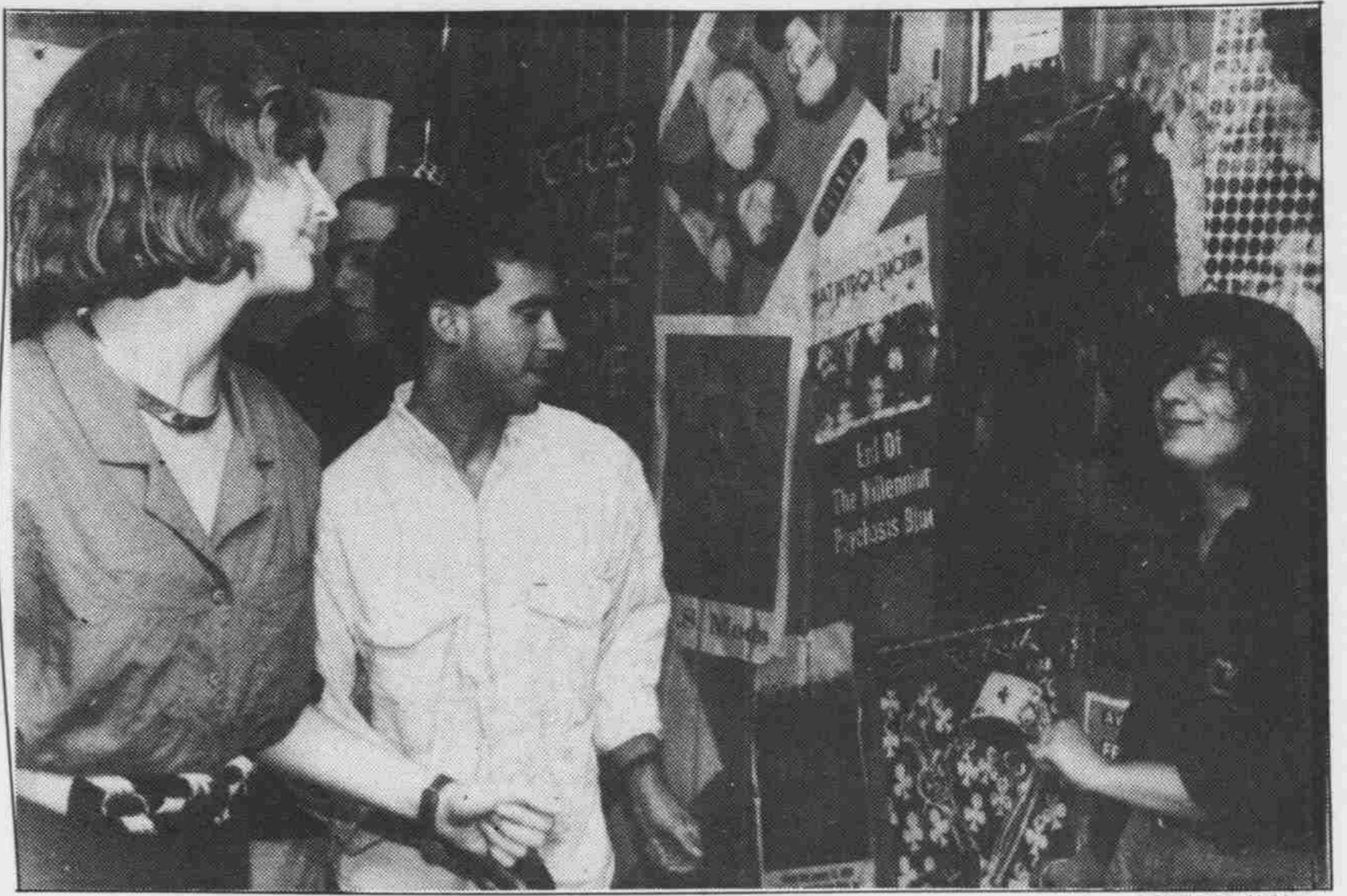
At the far end of Franklin Street is Cat's Cradle, a home away from home for many local bands. Frank Heath, owner of the Cradle, said he was proud to admit underage people.

"We thought it was sort of stupid to keep out people who are in college and the most interested in our business," Heath said. He said the club would like to admit younger people, even 10-year-olds, except that they don't want to baby-sit. "We feel that someone who is 18 is an adult, and that seemed like a good place to fix the limit."

"The emphasis here is on music, not drinking. We play majorly original progressive rock 'n' roll as well as some reggae and blues music."

The Cradle is well-known for giving local bands their first chances. The Cradle's doors usually open around 9 p.m. every weekend as well as some weeknights. The cover charge varies depending on the group performing.

Eric Dishman, a junior from Charlotte, said the music was the main reason he went to the Cradle. "I



DTH/Regina Holder

Students dance the night away at On the Hill, a new nightclub for the over-18 crowd

like the music there a lot better than other places because it is a lot like a place I used to go to back home; it is different."

To prevent younger guests from

drinking, the Cradle also stamps hands and has people circulating through the club and rest rooms to see if anyone underage is drinking. Heath said he really hasn't had many prob-

lems with people trying to break the rules.

"We throw somebody out once in a while and get a fake I.D. every now and then, but that's all."

ArtsCenter plays host to more than concerts

By JESSICA YATES

Assistant Arts Editor
Two auditoriums, photography exhibits, recording and video studios, a dance floor and a gallery are just a few of the pieces turning the ArtsCenter in Carrboro into a cultural playground.

This public center not only offers a vast array of artistic and mind-broadening classes for the community, but also boasts some of the most up-to-date performing spaces in the area, said Bett Wilson of the ArtsCenter.

The ArtsCenter, described in the Greensboro News and Record as "one of North Carolina's hottest concert halls," hosts several artists each week to perform music ranging from folk to rock to country to reggae.

"We're probably the strongest in offering alternative music," Wilson said. She listed bands such as Indecision, Nikki Meets the Hibatchi, Liquid Sound and Awareness as some of the more popular bands that perform at the ArtsCenter.

"We have a really good sound system that enhances the auditorium, as well as a dance floor that we open up for rock concerts," she said. A bar is also available.

Wilson said she has noticed that students are gradually accepting and enjoying many types of music. "Students used to just come to reggae and rock 'n' roll concerts, but more and more are coming to listen

to jazz."

For this reason, the ArtsCenter is offering discounted tickets to students for jazz concert tickets starting this semester.

Rolling Stone magazine and National Public Radio mention some of the more than 300 events the ArtsCenter holds each year.

But the center wasn't always so big, Wilson said. "We started as a one-room loft. It began as a painting class that developed into a gallery, and later there was a demand for performing space."

The previous location at Carr Mill Mall could no longer accommodate the growing cultural center, so it moved to its present location at 300-G E. Main St. in Carrboro.

The North Carolina Arts Council has recognized the center's increased activity by giving it more funds this year, Wilson said.

Although the concerts are usually well-advertised, many students are unfamiliar with the more than 100 classes offered each year at the center.

According to Wilson, students' favorites include classes in guitar, video and photography and sound engineering instruction. "Some unique classes have also been held, such as neon sculpture and right brain studies." The course list changes every semester.

For more information about concerts or classes, call the ArtsCenter at 929-ARTS.

Ideal grocery store yours for the foraging

By MYRNA MILLER

Assistant Features Editor
Fifty dollars? Just for these three bags of groceries? You have got to be kidding!

Sadly enough, this question has been muttered, screamed and whimpered by many astonished students when they see their first college grocery bill. Students can try to keep costs down in several ways. One way to save money is to choose the grocery store best suited to their needs.

Students have several options available to them. Chapel Hill has four large grocery stores, and some smaller stores such as Fowler's Food Store on Franklin Street, that are within traveling distance for most students. Students on campus also may use the small stores in their residence halls or areas that Marriott Corporation operates.

The main decision students must make is whether they value convenience or low prices. Based on a random sample of products, all of the larger grocery stores and Fowler's offered lower prices than the smaller student stores on campus.

For example, a box of Kellogg's Pop Tarts costs between \$1.19 and \$1.29 at most of the grocery stores in

Chapel Hill. This same box of Pop Tarts costs \$2.09 in the store on the first floor of Morrison Residence Hall.

A two-liter bottle of Coca-Cola costs between 89 cents and \$1.29 in other stores and costs \$1.69 in the Morrison store.

However, on-campus stores are usually just an elevator ride away and will accept meal cards.

Sandy Seagroves, a sophomore from Cary, shops at Harris Teeter sometimes, but goes to the Circus Room a lot.

"I spend almost \$70 a week at Harris Teeter and never use my meal card. Then when I need to get something really quick, I go to the Circus Room because I have to use the money on my meal card or lose it," she said.

Other students say they go to Fowler's and the campus stores because they have no other choice. "I go to Fowler's because I live right behind Ham's, but if I had a car, I would try to go somewhere else," said Caroline Reaves, a junior from Fayetteville. "A lot of freshmen and sophomores are in the same situation because they don't have cars."

Other students try to buy the bulk

of their groceries in town, even though it is a little farther away.

Each grocery store has something different to offer consumers, according to store managers.

"According to our surveys, our prices are the cheapest," said Hughie Parrot, manager of the Food Lion at Eastgate Shopping Center on Franklin Street.

Traci Hopkins, a senior from Winston-Salem, said: "When I get the time, I go to Food Lion because even though it is farther away, I can save more money. I think it is a lot cheaper than the other places."

Sav-A-Center is the only local chain to boast double coupons. "With

a minimum of a \$10 purchase, we will double up to five coupons at or below 50 cents. Those above 50 cents are always taken at face value," said Boyce Evans, manager of the 15-501 branch of Sav-A-Center.

The Kroger store in Kroger Plaza claims permanence as one of its best advantages for students. "We have been here 19 years," said manager David Sharpe.

Freshly baked goods and a make-your-own-salad bar are two of the special products Harris Teeter offers shoppers, said Jeff Hinton, co-manager of the Harris Teeter supermarket at University Mall.

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