

# Make the most of your time at UNC

## Ultimate college-town atmosphere helps in shaping lifetime memories

By ELIZABETH MURRAY

Henderson Street Bar always has good music. Pedestrians assume the right-of-way. Hector's remains the most popular haven after the bars close, and the Arboretum is never safe at night.

Despite the influx of thousands of new faces into Chapel Hill every year, some things never change. Together, the town and the University create an entity that neither time nor newcomers can alter. Only the students change, with their four years — or more — of exposure to the landmarks of what some call the Southern Part of Heaven. Welcome to the consummate college town!

For the first two years it's easy to think of this place as either one or the other: a town or a university. But this is a mistake, because the two are so inextricably bound together, students say.

"The town wouldn't be much without the University," said Tim Taylor, a sophomore math major from Rocky Mount. "Many of the industries and the people that are here wouldn't be if it weren't for the University."

Anyone who has visited the campus during Thanksgiving break knows that the town loses much of its life when its students leave. But when the students return, the town bustles like any other metropolitan area, offering students a chance to see the real world beyond University boundaries. Where would we apply the knowledge we gain on campus without this exposure?

It is exactly this "college town" atmosphere that separates UNC from many other universities, students agree.

Part of what characterizes Chapel Hill as a college town is the variety of places to go. Just think of the places you can meet people — the coffee shops and the bookstores, the Union films and the bars, the Cabaret and the quad. We have places to go whatever the mood.

If you're feeling like a philosophical conversation, Columbia Street Bakery is the place to have it. A slow beer with a close friend? Head to Linda's. A foreign flick on a rainy Sunday afternoon? You can count on the Varsity.

"Hardback Cafe is my favorite place," said Nick Lingg, a senior biology major from Tarboro. It's like a small composite of all that Chapel Hill people value, he said. Music, books, beer and people are all part of the furniture there.

And what about a lazy Friday night in the suite? For many students these do exist, despite the fraternity parties and the "18 watering holes."

"A take-out order from the Jade Palace, even though it's not cheap, is great," said Chris Brannon, a sophomore philosophy major from Charlotte.

Professors have their favorite places and rituals, too. "Giorgio's is my current favorite restaurant, but I go up and down and back and around," said English professor Connie Eble. "I can spend every penny of my check in Chapel Hill and Carrboro. I don't have to go anywhere."

But for those who are still familiarizing themselves with campus life, here's some advice.

"If I could tell them one thing, I swear I'd tell them to meet with their adviser before they even got here. I really got jerked

around and had no idea what I needed," Brannon said.

Advice from a resident assistant can be even more precious. "I'd tell them that Carolina isn't high school," said Joel Winful, a senior political science/African studies major from Greensboro. "People who you may not consider as smart as yourself and who take a little extra time out to study are, nine times out of 10, going to do better consistently. Soon you'll find yourself saying 'If I had studied harder, I could have ...'"

Making calendars and charts to help schedule activities is a smart idea, Winful said.

"My godfather told me before I came here that if I fail to plan, I should plan to fail. Time management — it's crucial."

As long as there are new people coming here, there will be years spent in innocence, if not downright ignorance, students agree. There should be some huge book to read to tell our freshmen everything they need to know, but of course, that would be like trying to learn how to dance by staring at a computer. You just have to do it and fail to know how to do it.

Every upperclassman has his or her list of "if only's". If only, when I was a freshman, I knew that classes were more important than bashes and that building my resume was more important than building my "I have kissed ..." list!

But the main thing to remember is that one day you, too, will know your way around, Taylor said. "I would tell them not to panic about the new surroundings. It's an adjustment that just takes time, and you shouldn't be too quick to put anything down or just give up."

For those who are coming back to Chapel Hill after a few months away, the return is also good for perspective. We have some stored memories and knowledge of the town, but many students don't really appreciate it until they spend some time away.

With coming back, most students enjoy being able to meet people easily again. "There are a lot of people here. In a big city the only place to really meet people is in a bar, which is kind of questionable," Brannon said. "But here you can meet people everywhere, in different lights and atmospheres than anywhere else."

And students enjoy the laid-back college attitude. "It's a very relaxed atmosphere where everybody's pretty casual," Taylor said. "Academically, the competition is here. If you want to find it, you can, but you don't have to be stressed unless you want to be."

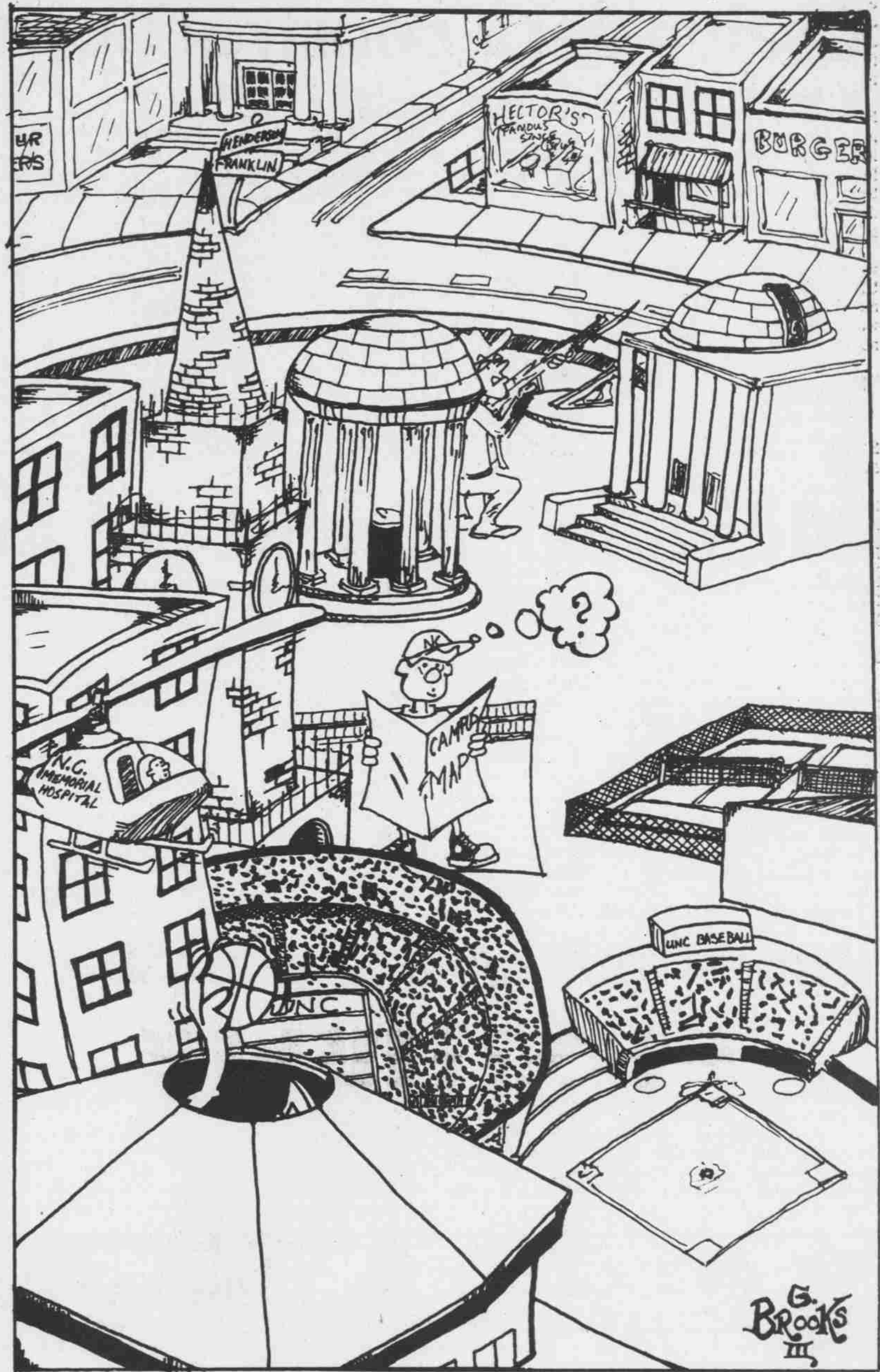
But the important things are what we'll take away with us when we leave here. If you remember derivatives and dates and how to write a good paper, that's great, but that's not what students think of as the most important things learned.

"Probably what will stick with me most is how I've grown," said Amanda McGraw, a sophomore French major from Henderson. "I don't think what I've learned in school is going to do a whole lot in the long run, but personally what I've learned about myself at this stage in the game will be important."

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— Joel Winful, senior political science/African studies major

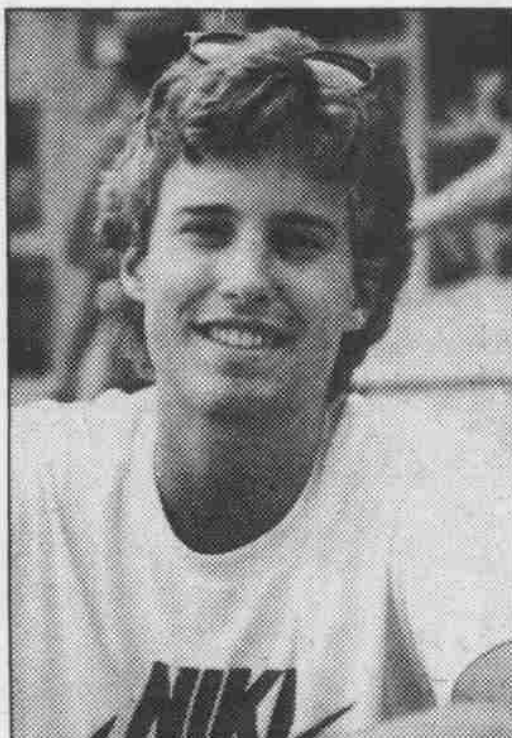


## Why did you come to UNC?



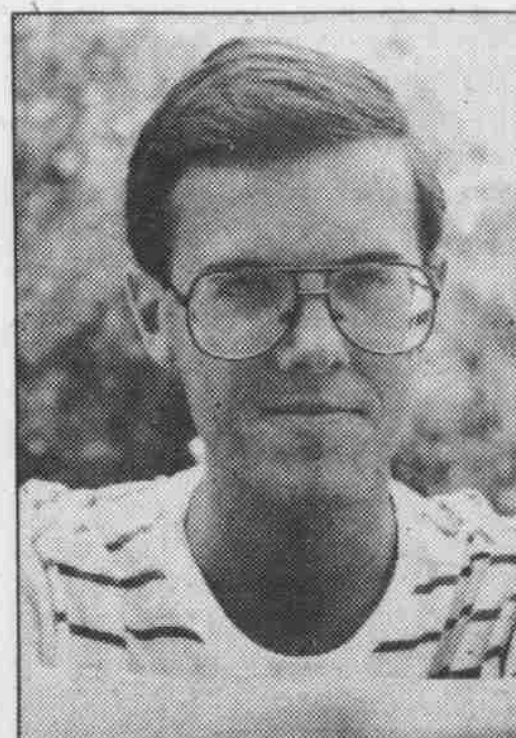
"Part of it was to get out of the north. I'd be walking down the street and someone would say 'hey' like they knew me. Also UNC has an awesome out-of-state reputation. And the school colors are blue and white—you can't beat it."

— Mindy Friedman, junior English education major from Long Island, N.Y.



"UNC is a very prestigious top-ranked university with one of the best journalism schools in the nation. These things - coupled with the fact that we have the best-looking girls in the Southeast - is why I came to Carolina."

— Jeff Eckerd, senior journalism major from Newton



"The main reason is that I didn't get into the other two universities that I applied to. I didn't always think of it with very high esteem but the more classes I take, the more I realize how good the education is."

— Mark Fullerton, junior Spanish major from Winston-Salem

"I came here to wrestle. Actually, my parents lived in Fort Bragg and I followed the wrestling team, so I wanted to come to Carolina."

— Denny Denison, senior industrial relations major from Worms, Germany



"It's the big school atmosphere. I also think there is a good biology department and heard that a lot of pre-meds are accepted to the medical school of their choice."

— Ronda Wall, freshman biology major from Winston-Salem



"Because it had a good reputation and it was close to family. And, of course, I'm a Tar Heel basketball fan."

— Laura Bramley, junior education major from Honolulu, Hawaii

