

## CITY

# Liquor laws force changes in downtown Chapel Hill

By Richard Dean  
Staff Writer

State laws restricting sales of liquor by the drink have had a noticeable effect on Chapel Hill's bar and restaurant scene

in recent months.

Legislation enacted in 1981 allows the sale of mixed drinks only by restaurants, private clubs, hotels and groups such as community theaters and non-profit organizations. The law defines a

restaurant as an establishment that earns more than 51 percent of its gross sales from food and non-alcoholic beverages, which means that a business that sells more alcohol than food must become a private club if it is to continue serving liquor.

Linda's Bar and Grill acquired its upstairs neighbor, Sadlack's Heroes and Deli, partly so Linda's could increase food sales and avoid becoming a private club, said Larry Eldridge, who co-owns Linda's along with his wife Linda Williams.

Linda's bought Sadlack's in July 1991 from Don and Diane McLennan, who had owned the sandwich shop for 14 years. Williams remodeled the stairway connecting Sadlack's and Linda's so the two businesses would qualify as one establishment under liquor control laws.

Sadlack's was renamed Linda's Upstairs in October 1991 after Williams fired Don McLennan, who had become her employee when she bought Sadlack's. The McLennans retain ownership of the "Sadlack's" name and logo, and have opened a new Sadlack's inside Sutton's Drugstore.

Eldridge said it was difficult to keep

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Scott Greer

manager, Rosey's Good Times

food sales above 51 percent before acquiring Sadlack's, but that Linda's had dropped below the 51-percent mark only during 1988, its first year of business.

But Mike Herring, supervisor of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission's audit division, said Linda's was below 51-percent food sales for the August-October quarter of 1991. "They've always had a percentage problem," Herring said. He added that Linda's food sales rose above 51 percent in the most recent reporting period.

Rosey's Good Times, which is located in the same building as Fred's and Bub O'Malley's on Rosemary Street, became a private club in mid-March because it could not sell enough food to retain its status as a restaurant.

Manager Scott Greer said business at Rosey's Good Times had gone down a little since the switch. "Some people think that you're snobby or selective if

you're a private club, which isn't the case at all," he said.

He added that being a private club also discourages walk-in business because the state requires a three-day waiting period between receiving a membership application and granting membership.

The Parlor, located beside Linda's, became a private club in December 1991 when it began serving mixed drinks in addition to beer. Owner Tom Byrd said liquor sales since the switch have compensated for any decrease in rental of pool tables.

Franklin Street Bar and Grill sometimes comes close to dipping below the 51-percent food sales mark, but the ABC has been willing to work with the bar to bring food sales up, according to manager David Kitzmiller Jr.

Herring said Four Corners is also having trouble keeping food sales above

51 percent.

More businesses have been affected by the 51-percent rule recently than in past years, Herring said. "Probably it's the state of the economy. People are probably eating less and drinking more," he said.

John White, manager of Molly Maguire's, which became a private club two years ago, said that if the 51 percent rule was intended to make restaurants encourage eating instead of drinking, it has proven ineffective.

"If people are eating, it's usually from five to eight at night," White said. "If they're drinking they'll go out after 11 (p.m.), and they'll drink just as much."

Herring said the 51-percent rule may prevent excessive numbers of bars from opening in a small area. But Greer said this reasoning doesn't make sense.

"There still could be a beer bar on every corner," Greer said, referring to the fact that the 51-percent rule does not apply to businesses that sell only beer or wine. "I honestly see no good purpose to (the rule) at all."

The rule originated as a compromise to appease North Carolinians who opposed all sales of liquor by the drink. No sales of liquor by the drink were allowed in North Carolina until 1978, when the state legislature voted to allow individual counties to decide by referendum whether they would allow such sales. Currently only about half of North Carolina's 100 counties allow liquor to be sold by the drink.

## Campus Calendar

### THURSDAY

5:15 p.m. The Black Interdenominational Student Association will sponsor a bible-study fellowship meeting in the BISA office, located in the Wesley Foundation Building, 214 Pittsboro St.

6 p.m. The Presbyterian Campus Ministry will hold a cook-out at Unstead Park.

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

11:30 a.m. The Campus Y will hold a discussion on "Reverse Migration — The Move Back to the South" in the Campus Y lounge.

### ITEMS OF INTEREST

The UNC Vegetarian Club sponsors free vegetarian dinners every Wednesday from 5-7 p.m. across from the Franklin Street post office.

The Black Interdenominational Student Association sponsors bible-study fellowship meetings every Thursday at 5:15 p.m. at the BISA office in the Wesley Foundation Building. For more information, contact 962-3333.

The Campus Y is holding a series of brown bag lunch-time discussions featuring resource facilitators throughout the summer. Contact the Campus Y at 962-2333 for more information.

The Presbyterian Campus Ministry sponsors student cook-outs every Thursday at 6 p.m. at Unstead Park. For more information call 967-2311.

International Student Orientation Counselor applications are available at the International Center, next to Great Hall in the Union. Undergraduate and graduate students who are willing to return to Chapel Hill Aug. 19 and who would like to assist newly arrived foreign students should apply.

Seniors and Graduate Students: If you have accepted a job or will be going to graduate or professional school next year, please stop by UCPS 211 Hanes, and complete a follow-up form. If you are still job hunting, be sure you have resumes on file at UCPS, and call 962-CPPS frequently to hear job openings.

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes submissions to Campus Calendar. Please let the community know about your group's events or meetings by placing an announcement in the box outside the DTH's Student Union office.

### Crossword solution

SUCHIS	CAUDAL
ENRAGED	PURLIEU
ALAMODE	ORATORS
BUN	TUMBLER
ACID	MOLLS
SKUAS	NAY
SYMBOLIC	LOCALS
BLACKBUCK	
VILLAS	BARKEEPS
EMEER	TEL
NAGS	MEALS
ERR	FERRIS
TEEPEES	TOPSIDE
ITERATE	SWATTER
ASSETS	STEEDS

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