

LOCAL

# Local schools to study year-round plan

By Richard J. Dalton Jr.  
Staff Writer

A committee will meet in October to investigate eliminating the traditional three-month summer break from the Chapel Hill-Carrboro school system.

A group of teachers, parents, students and day-care center operators will be involved in the decision whether to implement year-round school, according to Superintendent Neil Pedersen.

One option the committee will consider, the multi-track system, involves smaller breaks spread uniformly throughout the year, with different groups of students on vacation at different times.

At any given time, one-fourth of the school would be on vacation in an attempt to reduce overcrowding. Students

would still attend school for 180 days, but teachers would work for about 235, Pedersen said.

In another arrangement, the single-track system, vacations would be shorter and more frequent, but would be taken at the same time.

The single-track possibility would increase retention, but not affect overcrowding. The school year would remain at 180 days for students and teachers, Pedersen said.

One of the major attractions of either plan is the elimination of regression during the summer, he said.

"The students who can least afford it tend to regress the most (during summer break)," Pedersen said, adding that disabled students and under-achievers would be among those benefiting from year-round school.

Pedersen added that students would be able to catch up or attend "summer school" during breaks. Traditional summer school could be spread throughout the year, on an as-needed basis, he said.

Where multi-track programs have been implemented, teachers have benefited from higher salaries due to a longer school year. Teachers have been able to substitute for other teachers during their vacations or seek other employment, he said.

Multi-tracking puts greater demands on the building resources but is probably less expensive than building and operating a new school, Pedersen said.

One of the drawbacks of the multi-tracking system is that teachers would lack permanent classrooms. After vacations, teachers would return to new classrooms, he said.

Bud Stuart, a math teacher at Chapel Hill High School, said year-round schools would be a significant inconvenience.

Stuart said there was a difference of opinion among teachers about year-round school, although "we've never taken a vote."

Madeline Mitchell, Chapel Hill PTA

council president, said it would be difficult for teachers to maintain continuity when some of the students were gone for three weeks.

Another problem is that parents who dislike year-round school might send their children to private schools.

"I'm sure that'll happen," Mitchell said. "Any time you change what's traditional, people don't always like it."

Year-round school also would require some personnel, such as principals, counselors and reading teachers, to work all year.

But Mitchell said the plan might be implemented on a voluntary basis in one of the following ways:

■ Some schools could be year-round, while others could have the traditional summer break;

■ Individual schools could be broken down into year-round and the regular schedule; or

■ One "magnet school" could be year-round, and students could be transported across the district.

The committee on year-round schools will meet and present its recommendations in February at the school system's annual planning conference, Pedersen said.

# A beer lover's dream: Festival to serve ales from around the world

By LeAnn Spradling  
Staff Writer

Imagine a huge room filled with beer, all yours for the asking.

Music throbs in the background, as yet another exotic draft cools your throat. Can this be real?

Yes. It's a dream come true for beer lovers. The World of Beer festival at the Raleigh Civic and Convention Center Friday will provide an opportunity for participants to sample more than 60 different styles of beers from countries around the world.

The festival, from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., will raise money for the International Festival of Raleigh, an organization that sponsors an annual international festival to raise awareness of Raleigh's 45 recognized ethnic groups.

Daniel Bradford, director of the beer-tasting fund-raiser, said the beer festival also would acquaint people with cultural diversity. "The diversity of the beers reflects the diversity of cultures," he said.

Tickets for the festival may be purchased in advance for \$12.50 at Ticketmaster and Raleigh Memorial Auditorium. Tickets will be \$15 at the door. Only those older than 21 will be admitted to the festival.

Little Oompah, a band specializing in German music, and the Mickey Mills Band, a steel-drum band, will provide musical entertainment, and free snacks will be served.

Between 1,500 and 1,800 people are expected to attend the World of Beer festival. Participants will receive a free two-ounce commemorative mug to sample the beers.

More than 60 beers will be available, ranging from Canadian and German brands to South African ales and Czech pilsners, plus unusual brands from Belgium and Italy.

"Tastings are the best way for small breweries and imported brands to reach the public," Bradford said. "People can taste a small amount to see if they like the brand."

"Since the mid-1970s, there has been a renaissance in beer appreciation," he said. The number of breweries in the United States grew from 41 to about 300 between 1981 and 1992, Bradford said.

Many of the new breweries have brought diverse styles to the market. Consumer interest in the variety of beer parallels consumer interest in the varieties of other foods such as bread, wine and ice cream, Bradford said.

"We're moving back toward the 18th century, when there were 3,000 breweries in the United States."

Because of the small samples of beer and the snacks that will be available at the festival, there is little risk of intoxication, Bradford said. The food will reduce the absorption of alcohol, and waiting in line for samples will cut down on the amount of beer that will be consumed.

Bradford described the atmosphere of beer tasting as "fun and convivial. It's not a keg party or a stilted wine tasting," he said.

Although the majority of beer-festival participants are men, women are interested in beer, too. About 45 percent of participants are usually women, Bradford said.

The World of Beer is being sponsored by the city of Raleigh, WRAL-TV, WRAL-FM, the News and Observer, the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County, and The Grass Roots Arts Council.

Loren Rotman, a member of the International Festival staff, said, "It's definitely a casual atmosphere in which to sample new tastes and new beers."

## Senior Week Festivities

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• 11 a.m.-1 p.m. - "Kickoff Senior Week" in the Pit  
• Evening - 15-percent discount at Ben & Jerry's


**Tuesday, Sept. 22**  
• 11 a.m.-1 p.m. - Read to kids in the Pit  
• Evening - Specials at Last Call

**Wednesday, Sept. 23**  
• 11 a.m.-1 p.m. - Tell jokes in Pit  
• Evening - Dinner special at El Rodeo restaurant

**Thursday, Sept. 24**  
• 11 a.m.-1 p.m. - Play Twister, ping pong, in the Pit  
• 8:30 p.m.-11:30 p.m. - D.J. Bunn at He's Not Here

**Saturday, Sept. 26**  
• 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. - Chicken buffet in the Pit (\$4)

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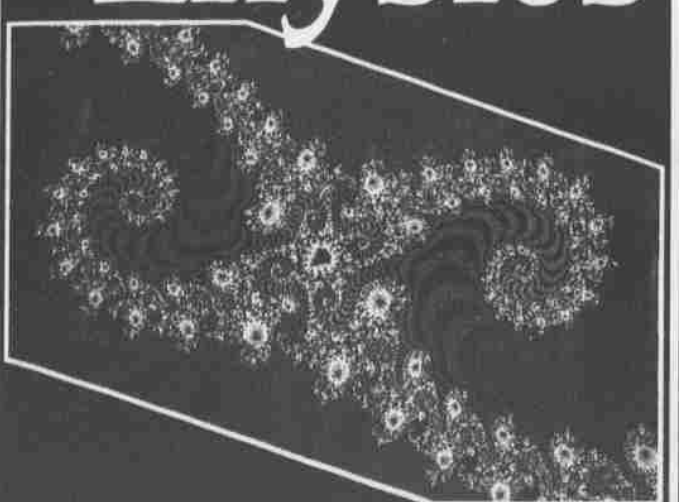
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