

Carrboro offers an alternative to campus

By Chelsey Dulaney
Staff Writer

With all the restaurants, stores and hangouts on Franklin Street — where students venture to once they tire of dining hall food — it's easy to forget that there's a world outside of Chapel Hill.

But just a little more than a mile from the heart of campus lies the town of Carrboro — Chapel Hill's eclectic sister.

"Free trade" and "organic-grown" signs line the walls of many of the town's restaurants, grocery stores and storefronts.

One of the most popular spots in Carrboro is the Open Eye Cafe, a coffee shop located on South Greensboro Street that has served as an alternative to the library for students for almost 10 years.

Professional baristas make coffee from farms across the world, and it's all direct trade and organically grown.

Miles Murray, an Open Eye barista, said the most popular drink at the cafe is the cappuccino.

"We take coffee very seriously, here," he said. "It's a completely different experience than anywhere else."

So whether you need a place to study, hang out with a friend or just get away for awhile, Open Eye has it all — even cupcakes.

Another legendary part of Carrboro is Cat's Cradle, a small live music venue that hosts big time performers at a college budget price.

General admission tickets usually cost less than \$30, and notable past performers include Citizen Cope, The Weepies, The



DTH FILE/LAUREN VIED

Miles Murray prepares a coffee at the Open Eye Cafe, a local laid back cafe featuring direct trade, organically grown coffee and other drinks.

Psychedelic Furs and many other bands that patrons might find at Bonnaroo.

Carrboro also hosts an impressive amount of dining options.

In addition to the many unique restaurants — including Tyler's Restaurant & Taproom and Southern Rail, which is a restaurant inside of vintage railroad cars — Carrboro is home to Weaver Street Market.

The market is a community-owned store that sells a variety of organic, locally-grown foods. There is also a cafe with prepared organic food and a salad bar.

Lori Washington, who has

worked at the market for more than six years, said her favorite part about the market is the quality of its meat and produce.

"We have good healthy food," she said. "Whatever you're putting in your mouth, you know is good."

Joe Eisen, a Chapel Hill resident, said he comes to the market at least once a day.

"The food is great and it's fun to get food and eat outside with friends," he said. "Carrboro is just a completely different vibe. It's comfortable to be in."

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