

Weekend

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Tastes by the truckload

Want to really eat out? Try one of Durham's restaurants on wheels

By ANDREA WEIGL
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Last weekend, I, with the help of several friends, went on an eating tour of Durham. We sipped a banana, ginger and kale smoothie; split a nettle, rose hip and lime juice tonic; devoured a burger topped with a fried egg and fried green tomato; wiped our fingers on paper napkins after eating Mexican tacos, one filled with chorizo, the other with pork and pineapple; wolfed down beef and spicy pork Korean tacos; and shared two takeout boxes of Indian food.

Everything we ate was served from a truck.

The latest craze, food trucks or food carts, is cropping up from Portland to Manhattan. These mobile eateries serve waffles to dumplings, crème brûlée to schnitzel. They represent cuisines as varied as Bosnian and Jewish, Hawaiian and Venezuelan.

These "cartrepreneurs" can't afford to open a brick-and-mortar business so they opt for a restaurant dream on wheels.

Food truck feast

Several of the trucks will be parked outside Sam's Quik Shop, 1605 Erwin Road, Durham from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 6. The trucks planning to attend include Only Burger, Indian Food on Wheels, Daisy Cakes, Bulgogi Korean BBQ To Go, Parlez-Vous Crepe and Mom's Delicious Dishes.



See a gallery of the food truck scene at newsobserver.com

The forerunners of this food cart explosion are taco trucks, a staple of South of the border culture that has migrated here with its people.

"Taco trucks are no longer exceptional. They are everyday," says Southern food expert and writer John T. Edge, who has a book coming out next fall about food truck eating. "It has inspired hipster restaurateurs to try that form."



Aloo Tikki Chat is a regular item on the Indian Food on Wheels truck.

Zulayka Santiago, the owner of Liberation Juice Station, prepares wheat grass for a drink in her bus.

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