

# Spring Break

## A long awaited vacation for all to enjoy the slopes, the beaches

By RACHEL PERRY

**S**PRING Break. Ah yes, the time of legendary Carolina mass exodus to Ft. Lauderdale for fun in the sun.

However, more and more Carolina students are seeking alternatives to the Florida scene. Bermuda, the Bahamas, North Carolina and Vermont ski slopes, and—last but not least—home, for a well-deserved rest are some options students are considering this year.

"A lot more people are going down to the Bahamas and Bermuda than ever before," said senior John Mitchener. "Sailing down there is really an adventure. It's an exciting alternative to Ft. Lauderdale," he said.

Mark Fisher of Small World Travel Agency said, "We've had quite a few students sign up for our Bahamas cruise. We've had much better response as compared to last year. They seem to be seniors, mostly."

"We've signed up a lot of individual trips to the Bahamas, and a few to Bermuda" said a Continental Travel Agency spokesperson. "Quite a few students are going skiing up in Vermont or out West, too."

Most NC ski resorts expect a good turnout for skiing if the cold weather holds over. "Most skiers usually go out to Colorado for Spring Break, but the West didn't

get a lot of snow this year, so we're expecting a good crowd," said Greg Confer of Beech Mountain. "Also, the high gas prices are keeping a lot of students closer to home for skiing this year," he said.

But Grady Moretz, general manger of Appalachian Ski Mountain expects only the most dedicated skiers to show up. "A lot of people are getting tired of winter about now, that's why so many students head down to Ft. Lauderdale, to escape the cold," he said. "March is getting pretty mild, so only the hard-core skiers know that we still have man-made snow then," Moretz said.

"I think it's a great time for skiing," said Confer. "It's not nearly as crowded as other times, and you can get a good tan while you're skiing too," he said.

**A**ND where do Carolina students themselves plan to go for Spring Break? The *Daily Tar Heel* asked students what they had in mind. Senior Lee McAllister said, "I'm not sure yet. I'm either going skiing in Vale or down to the Keys with a bunch of friends."

Pickle Robinson, junior, said "I'm going down to Haiti with some students and teachers associated with the Chapel of the Cross. They have a diocese down there. I'm excited; it is going to be great."

Senior Tom Moore said, "Spring Break? I'm having my teeth pulled out."

Lisa Banks, sophomore, said, "If it stays warm, I'm going down to the beach. I plan to watch the sunset every night at Emerald Isle."

Junior Elizabeth Dunne said, "I'm just going home to see my family in New York."

Senior Dwight Roseman said, "I'm just going home. I guess that sounds pretty dull. I've had to spend past Spring Breaks hunting for summer jobs, though."

One sophomore said, "If I go somewhere all depends on how fast my income tax returns come back, because I won't be able to afford anything otherwise. I want to go down to Miami, but I may end up just going home and working."

For those students with an adventurous spirit and money to spend, local travel agencies and clubs have a dazzling array of package trips planned.

Small World Travel Agency has its annual Bahamas cruise priced at \$366 for four days to Nassau and Freeport. "The price includes all meals, tips and port taxes, along with the cruise itself," said Mark Fisher. The cruise leaves Miami on Monday, March 8 until Friday, March 13.

Viking Travel also has a trip to Nassau planned. With the 28 available seats booked, students are paying about \$225 for a week long cruise from Miami. "It's about the cheapest thing you can do," said Lorrie Basnight of Viking. "This cruise is almost cheaper than going to Florida," she said.

A private chartered cruise, the Flavia, and a ski trip to Killington, Vt. are among the package deals offered by Circle Travel, said Circle Travel consultant Carolyn Darby. "We've booked 73 people for the Flavia already," she said. The cruise, priced at \$373, includes meals, tips and taxes, but students have to find their own rides to Miami, Darby said.

One enterprising Carolina student has sponsored his own cruise to the Bahamas, complete with transportation to and from Chapel Hill and Miami, 16 professionally captained 44 foot sailboats and all the beer, liquor, steaks and oysters students can consume. The cruise costs \$399. "I've booked 130 people so far, including the UNC Sailing Club," he said. Mitchener said the sailboats will be going down to Bimini in the Bahamas. "They're like little condominiums on the water," he said.

Mitchener said that out of the 130 seats he has booked, most were Carolina upperclassmen. "I think



people get tired of Ft. Lauderdale after their freshman or sophomore year," he said.

**B**UT not all Carolina students are sun worshippers.

"This is probably our last chance to get one last ski trip in," said UNC Ski Club President Kyle Shatterly.

The Ski Club is organizing a trip to Sugar Bush, Vt. for that last bit of snow skiing before spring. "It will still be snowing in Vermont, and it should not be crowded at all," Shatterly said. For about \$135-\$140, a student can get lodging and lift ticket for 5½ days at Sugar Bush. "We'll probably be carpooling up there. Anybody is welcome to come," he said.

Circle Travel's Killington, Vt. ski trip costs about \$318, Carolyn Darby said. "That includes the bus trip, dinners and breakfasts, rooms and lift tickets," she said. Lunches, ski lessons and equipment rentals are not included, she said.

"We have 25 people signed up for the ski trip now," Darby said. "The response has not been as good as for the Bahamas trip, but we still have space on it."

Now for the local slope report. Only Sugar and Beech Mountains will be open for skiing throughout Spring Break. Appalachian Ski Mountain will close on the first weekend of Spring Break, and Seven Devil's will tentatively remain open until March 15.

The most economical time to ski Sugar Mountain is during the week, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. or at night (Monday-Saturday, 6-10 p.m.). For weekdays, the price of a lift ticket is \$9. A lift ticket and a ski lesson cost \$14, as do a lift ticket and equipment rental. For \$19, one can rent equipment, get a lesson and or lift ticket. At night, the lift/lesson equipment cost is \$15, \$11 for lift and equipment, \$10 for lift and lesson, and \$6 for the lift ticket only.

Weekend rates are more than double at Sugar. The prices are: \$36 for lift, equipment and lesson, \$28 for lift and equipment, \$26 for lift and lesson, and \$18 for the lift ticket only.

Accommodations run from \$24 to \$45 a night for four, said Ski School Director Mike Lamb. Also, a group of 25 gets one free lift ticket. "Sugar Mountain is very popular because it's accessible. We have both beginner and intermediate slopes," Lamb said.

Beech Mountain offers half price skiing after March 9 (tentatively March 1), Greg Confer said. "Lift tickets will be \$4, equipment rental will be \$2," he said. "Lessons won't be reduced, though."

Beech's usual students discount (half price with student I.D. on weekdays) will not be good after March 9 either, he said. Accommodations run about \$50 a night for two people. "We have a better variety of slopes and better lift capacity than Sugar Mountain," Confer said.

Rachel Perry is a staff writer for The Daily Tar Heel.



Spring Break indecisiveness abounds at Carolina Tar Heels choose between the lure of sun or snow