

Local restaurants, bars suffer

Many businesses boom during holidays

By AMY EDWARDS
DTH Staff Writer

From smiling to driving, from borrowing to drinking, people tend to do more of everything during the holidays, making the Christmas season one of the busiest times of the year.

Unusually heavy holiday traffic is expected in North Carolina this year, said Quentin Anderson, a spokesman for the Carolina Motor Club in Charlotte. He said Thanksgiving traffic on North Carolina roads was very heavy, and so far, trips planned by the American Automobile Association for its members are up 16 percent through October of this year.

Stable gas prices are one factor behind the traffic increase, Anderson said. "As long as prices are stable and availability is assured, people tend to travel more," he said. The AAA does not expect gas prices to change much during the holiday season because of the abundance of available gas. Gas prices could even come down a little, Anderson said, unlike previous years when prices rose in December.

The North Carolina Highway Patrol has not yet finalized its plans to deal with the extra motorists, said Lt. Arnold Rector of Highway Patrol headquarters in Raleigh. "We probably will not be having any special emphasis is other than what we normally have," he said. "We'll be looking for the drinking driver and the speeder. They are the ones most often involved in fatal accidents, he said.

The Thanksgiving holiday fatality rate was down this year; there were 12 deaths on North Carolina highways compared to 25 last year, Rector said.

Along with traveling to visit friends and relatives, the holiday season also means buying presents—and, for some people, a money crunch. Neal Harrell, manager of the University Mall branch of Wachovia Bank, said loans at his bank usually increased from 10 to 15 percent during the gift-buying season. "They are usually small loans, though," he said.

Larry Holt, a loan officer at First Citizens Bank, said, "there is an increase in requests for charge cards and revolving-type credit."

State Alcoholic Beverage Control stores are expecting increases in sales of holiday spirits, said Bill Hester, a spokesman for the state Alcohol Control Board. "During that time (Thanksgiving through New Year's), we'll ship out twice as much (alcoholic beverages) as usual," Hester said. "The holiday season is the biggest time of the year for ABC sales."

Hester attributed the increase in liquor sales to the rush of holiday parties and the purchase of liquor for gift-giving. "Businesses give away a lot (of liquor) for Christmas," he said.

ABC gift packs are popular this time of year, as well as the approximately 30 different decorative decanters which people collect and give during the holidays, Hester said. He added the decanters come in the shapes of birds, fire engines, old-fashioned moonshine stills and the state of North Carolina. There is also a John Lennon decanter, as well as a bone china Elvis Presley decanter selling for \$247.

Unlike ABC stores, local bars and restaurants do not look for sales increases during the Yuletide season.

"Restaurants don't have anything to offer special at Christmas, nothing to take home to relatives," said David Sink, manager of Harrison's. "With students leaving, sales will drop off," he said, although downtown shoppers will continue to patronize the restaurants.

Some establishments, like the Henderson Street Bar, will close from Christmas Eve through New Year's. Bar manager Tim Kirkpatrick said he expected heavy student traffic after big exams. "It depends on the pressure," he said.

Two other bars, Troll's and Kirkpatrick's, plan on steady sales through the student holidays. "Our sales hold pretty steady even though all the students leave," said Roger Meyland, manager at Troll's. "Students who live in Chapel Hill come home (from other schools)," he said.

Kirkpatrick's manager David Flower said his bar depended on regular, non-student patrons over the holidays. "We have a big regular crowd. They tend to drink more because they have more days off," he said.

All the festivities can sometimes cause people's spirits to droop, though. "To be sure, there are some people who get depressed," said Myron Liptzin, director of student psychiatry services for the UNC Student Health Service. He attributed this to over-idealizing the holidays.

However, he said the notion that more suicides occurred during the holidays was not true. He said less fortunate people somehow find ways to handle the holiday season.

"On the whole, most people love Christmas and have a glorious time," Liptzin said.

Climate data given

The University of North Carolina and North Carolina State University have recently established a telephone service to provide climate information to the public from a central telephone number.

Dr. Peter Robinson, associate professor of geography at UNC-CH, is program coordinator and has developed the program in cooperation with state and federal governments in response to increasing demands for climate information.

"Climate information can be very beneficial, and the University system is trying to put together information for people who need it," Robinson said in a telephone interview from Washington, D.C., where he is on leave from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"The people at State are responsible for maintaining the data base, and I am the coordinator in charge of finding out

who needs what data and getting it to them," he said.

The program provides all available climate records for the state, including original data and general summaries of temperature and precipitation for many places in the state and records of other weather elements at selected sites.

"We don't want to suggest that we're weather forecasting," Robinson added. "We try to give information about sun, wind and other parts of the climate for any farmers, architects or anyone who may want the information."

The telephone number for the new service is (919) 737-3056. Additional requests for climate data or other information about the program may be made to Jerry M. Davis in the department of marine, earth and atmospheric sciences at N.C. State University or at the office of the state climatologist in Raleigh.

—LOUISE GUNTER

Iodide tablets stockpiled

By ALAN CHAPPLE
DTH Staff Writer

North Carolina has stockpiled potassium-iodide tablets to protect workers from radiation in the event of a nuclear power plant accident.

The tablets, which are stockpiled within 10 miles of the state's two nuclear plants, Brunswick and McGuire, are designed to coat the thyroid gland, preventing radioactive iodine from being absorbed.

The principal chemical in the tablet is common iodine, which is found in such foods as table salt, bread and cake.

"The potassium-iodide pills are primarily made up of a common, perfectly healthy iodine which saturates the thyroid so that radioactive iodine won't be absorbed," said Anne Stringham, administrative assistant to the Tennessee Commissioner of Public Health, Tennessee.

the first state to begin using the KI tablets, distributed them to the public this year.

In North Carolina, the distribution and use of the tablets has been restricted to emergency workers in the event of a radiation leak. The pills will not be distributed to the general public, said James Self, a nuclear facility planner for the state.

"These pills are not for the public," he said. "We feel that if we have time to distribute and administer the pills to the public, then we would have time to evacuate — and that's the safest procedure."

The potassium-iodide tablets are not designed to be a preventative measure against all types of effects of a radiation leak.

"These pills work only against the one type of radioactive iodine," Stringham said. "But if it will work against one type of radiation, then it's one action we can take."

Panel asks for nuclear rules changes

By LAURA SEIFERT
DTH Staff Writer

In an effort to increase safety levels in and around nuclear power plants, a local task force has requested changes in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's rules for nuclear preparedness.

The Citizens' Task Force, established in May 1979, created various subcommittees to address the problems surrounding the effects of the Shearon Harris Nuclear Plant on Chapel Hill and surrounding communities.

The Subcommittee on Legal Issues prepared a report that will be included in the Federal Register, said Greg Kats, subcommittee co-chairman.

"The Federal Register is a document put out by the government that contains all the legal considerations brought to the federal agencies by local groups such as ours," Kats said.

In its report, the subcommittee proposed three amendments in NRC regulations:

- To extend the present 10-mile Emergency Preparedness zone to 20 miles.
- To install equipment that would monitor

the radioactive releases from the plants in towns with populations over 5,000 that are within the EPZ.

• To require the utility companies building the reactors to pay for this monitoring equipment.

These recommendations, which Kats said should go into the Federal Register in the next four to six months, would apply to all U.S. nuclear reactors.

Chapel Hill is within the 20-mile radius of the Shearon Harris plant. The committee concluded that all towns within the radius should devise adequate emergency evacuation plans in case of a possible nuclear accident, he said.

To ensure that towns receive proper information about radioactive releases from the plant, it was also suggested that each town have monitoring equipment and that the companies in charge of the nuclear facilities be required to pay for this equipment.

"We (the task force) are neither for nor against nuclear power ... we tried to present both sides (of the issue)."

"The whole effort of the Citizens' Task Force is part of our basic democratic prin-

ciples. The emphasis that goes to the local government extends to the individual ... the concerned student, professor or townspeople should get involved," he said.

The task force has other subcommittees that are giving information to the public and educating them about nuclear plants and their possible problems.

"This is a fairly non-controversial subject; there has been extensive government documentation (in this area)," Kats said. There is a very substantial problem with emergency preparedness nationwide.

Library hours set for finals

UNDERGRADUATE LIBRARY EXAMINATION SCHEDULE: Fall 1981

Dec. 4 (Friday)	8 a.m.-midnight
Dec. 5 (Saturday)	9 a.m.-2 a.m.
Dec. 6 (Sunday)	10 a.m.-all night
Dec. 7 (Monday)	24 hours
Dec. 8 (Tuesday)	24 hours
Dec. 9 (Wednesday)	24 hours
Dec. 10 (Thursday)	24 hours
Dec. 11 (Friday)	Close at 2 a.m.
Dec. 12 (Saturday)	9 a.m.-2 a.m.
Dec. 13 (Sunday)	10 a.m.-2 a.m.
Dec. 14 (Monday)	8 a.m.-2 a.m.
Dec. 15 (Tuesday)	8 a.m.-2 a.m.
Dec. 16 (Wednesday)	8 a.m.-2 a.m.
Dec. 17 (Thursday)	8 a.m.-5 a.m.

Craige opening over holidays

Students wanting to stay in on-campus housing over Christmas break will find "room in the inn."

University Housing provides interim housing during vacations, said Judy Ingram, manager of conference and short-term housing.

"Interim housing is for those students who don't have a home to go to or can't go home when the residence halls close," she said.

The housing department arranges beds in lounges in Craige Residence Hall.

"The lounges in Craige are set up with a bath on either end, so we put a maximum of 10 people in each of two lounges," Ingram said.

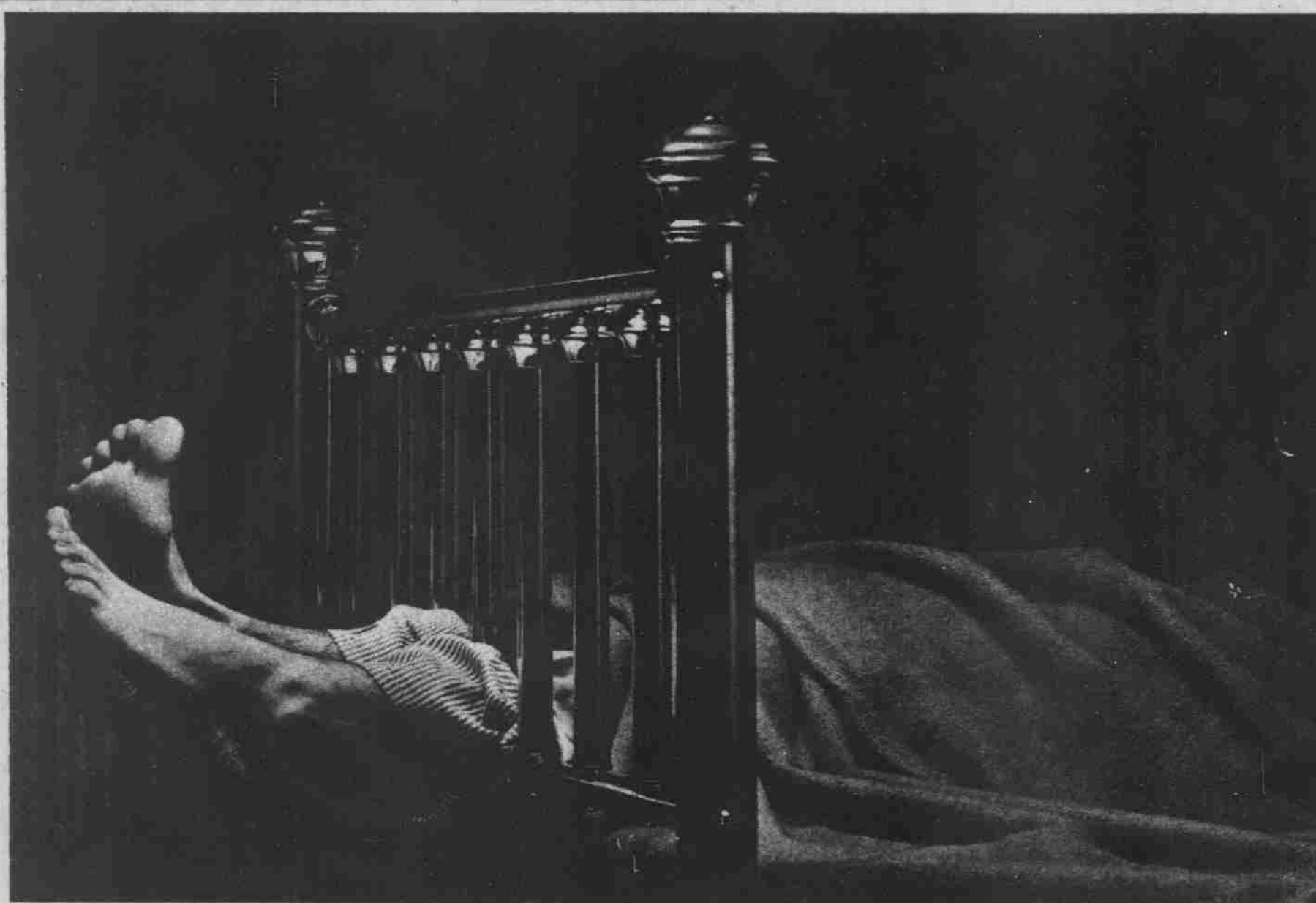
Each student pays \$3 per night because housing fees and costs are computed without allowing for these days.

Reservations can be made by calling the housing department by Dec. 14. Craige residents do not need reservations and may stay in their rooms.

Residence halls officially close at 6 p.m. Dec. 17 and open at noon Jan. 10.

—LYNN EARLEY

Special THANKS to the daytime composition crew, especially Roger and Elizabeth for their invaluable help in the production of this paper.



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Moravian Lovefeast is Sunday

Each year the Wesley Foundation, the Methodist student center, sponsors a Christmas Lovefeast and Candlelight Service. This year's service will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday in the Wesley Chapel on Pittsboro Street.

The Moravian Brass Choir will meet at 6:30 p.m. Sunday at the Old Well and will play Christmas carols while walking to

the Chapel. Moravian buns and coffee will be served. Music will be provided by Liz Ledford, Rob Maddrey, Marte Samuel and Bill Rose.

The Moravian Lovefeast is a Christmas tradition. This is a non-denominational Christian service. For more information, call the Wesley Foundation at 942-2152.

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