

Hospital keeps on operating through ice storm

By LINDSAY HAYES
Staff Writer

This week's ice storm brought activity in Orange County to a crawl, but with the help of emergency vehicles prepared for the worst, hospitals such as North Carolina Memorial were able to continue business as usual.

Thanks to "Operation Snowflake," the staff members of NCMH were able to report to work on time this week despite ice and dangerous road conditions.

"Operation Snowflake" goes into effect when weather conditions are dangerous for travelling, said Brian Howard, public affairs official for NCMH. The operation ensures that doctors, nurses and other staff members arrive on time for their shifts when they are unable to drive because of dangerous weather, Howard said.

All key personnel must make prior arrangements for getting to the hospital by driving themselves or arranging for rides with other staff members having four-wheel drive vehicles, he said.

Despite dangerous weather, the hospital had no cases of serious injuries, Howard said, and people needing special care for snow-related injuries were able to get to the hospital.

"The main injuries were twists and sprains that people got from slipping on the ice," Howard said. "They didn't think the snow was as bad as it was."

Overall, the hospital ran as

smoothly as usual, he said.

The NCMH air ambulance service, Carolina Air Care, did not receive more calls this week than usual, said Robert Harrison, aero-medical coordinator of the service.

"I don't think we've experienced any significant increase in calls."

The snow and icy conditions forced many people to stay at home, he said, and most accidents were only low-speed fender-benders.

NCMH began the air ambulance service July 15, 1986, so it had not operated during a major snow or ice storm until this week, Harrison said. He said he had not known how the helicopter would fly in dangerous weather, but it had more problems flying in icy conditions than in light snow.

"It's hard to tell from just one storm," Harrison said.

The air ambulance helicopter is equipped with advanced life support systems that provide better care than ground ambulances, he said.

The Orange County Rescue Squad was prepared for the icy roads, but ambulances still had some problems reaching patients, said Bobby Baker, emergency management director.

The squad had one ambulance on each side of the county equipped with chains on the tires, and two four-wheel drives ready to respond to calls, he said.

"There were no situations where we couldn't reach the person," Baker said. "But there was a call in the northern part of the county that took



Ambulances parked outside the emergency entrance at N.C. Memorial Hospital

DTH/Charles Carriere

about an hour for us to reach."

He said the caller was about 15 miles away, but the ambulances had to break through ice on roads that had not been plowed.

The squad also transported some of its own employees to work, as well

as hospital employees who were stranded without transportation, Baker said.

Chapel Hill's four fire departments all reported that their vehicles had no problems responding to emergencies.

The public works department plowed both night and day to clear roads and parking lots in Chapel Hill, said Tommy Tapp, street superintendent.

The department used seven plows to clear the roads, while two small

tractors and a back hoe cleared parking lots, he said.

Taxpayers will pay the cost of clearing the roads, Tapp said.

"I would estimate that, including labor and equipment, it cost \$15,000," he said.

Board advises state to stay in Compact

By MATT BIVENS
Staff Writer

Gov. Jim Martin's Waste Management Board recommended that North Carolina uphold its agreement to host the Southeast Compact's low-level radioactive waste disposal facility and remain in the Compact, said Linda Little, executive director of the board.

Board members advised against withdrawing from the Compact because North Carolina doesn't generate sufficient waste to build a cost-effective facility of its own, Little said.

Federal law requires states to provide a waste disposal facility if it produces any radioactive waste, so North Carolina must abide by the compact's decision or build its own facility, said Kathryn Visocki, deputy director of the compact.

All of the compact's eight member states would share in the cost and responsibility of the operating facility if North Carolina decided to accept the Compact's decision, Visocki said.

Honor among the states should prevent North Carolina from withdrawing from the Compact because states depend on a spirit of cooperation in many of their joint

Fines given to underage drinkers

By CORNELIA LEE
Staff Writer

Underage UNC students arrested in Troll's Bar Jan. 22 have received penalties typical of the many cases processed by the Alcohol Law Enforcement Agency, said Bill Massengill, assistant district attorney.

ALF officers arrested Daniel Coleman, 20, for underage possession of a malt beverage, and he was fined \$10 with a minor infraction charge.

Possession of alcohol is a misdemeanor for people younger than 19, he said. Sonja Grindstaff, 18, was arrested for possession of alcohol and a false ID. She will be fined \$100, and required to complete community service work, he said.

Some charges are not deferred from district court, such as those involving the use of a false ID to purchase alcohol and the sale of alcohol to someone who is underage, Massengill said. These cases always go to court for the judge to determine the penalty.

ventures, Visocki said.

"That (honor) might sound like a Southern genteel thing, but there is a practical side to it, too," she said.

If the state hosted the facility it would save on waste-shipping costs, she said. These savings could be passed on to the consumer in the form of lower utility bills and decreased prices of goods produced by nuclear power, she said.

After 20 years the disposal facility will be relocated to another member state, Visocki said. State officials are concerned that other states will withdraw from the Compact when it is their turn to host the facility, she said.

"The big question here is, can one state force another state to do something," she said.

North Carolina could try to make it difficult to withdraw from the Compact by suing the offending state, said William Briner, one of two N.C. delegates to the Compact.

Mitchell's Formal Wear
Parkway Plaza II
493-0874

The largest formal wear company in the Southeast with 100 convenient locations and over forty years of experience.

"We have the look you after"

South to be major elections factor

By NEIL WATSON
Staff Writer

Democratic Party officials announced last week that Atlanta will host the party's 1988 national convention.

Choosing Atlanta emphasizes the importance of the South in the 1988 election, said Ken Eudy, executive of the N.C. Democratic Party.

Atlanta was chosen over Houston to host the meeting, which will be held July 18-21, 1988.

At the convention, the Democrats hope to choose a ticket which will reverse the party's disastrous showings in recent presidential elections, particularly in the South. With the exception of 1976, Democratic candidates have won only one Southern state since 1964.

"(The selection) shows that the Democratic Party is trying to express interest in the South. The South is a swing area in the upcoming election," said Merle Black, director of graduate studies

for the UNC political science department.

"The selection helps bring the Democratic Party back in line with Southern Democratic thinking," Eudy said. "It also gives Southern news media a better opportunity to cover the convention."

Eudy said that in a close race it was possible that the location could give Southern candidates a boost.

The Democratic decision means both major parties will hold their

conventions in the South. Republican Party officials announced last month that they would go to New Orleans for their 1988 convention.

"The Republicans know that to keep their winning coalition of the South and West together, they need the South," Eudy said. "Democrats know that to restore the winning coalition of the Northeast, Midwest and South, they need to show their interest in the region. The South is a pivotal area in the 1988 election."

EAST WIND CHINESE RESTAURANT
Cantonese, Mandarin and Szechuan specialties

Lunch and Dinner Specials Everyday

Full-Service Bar
All ABC Permits

Take Out Orders
Free Delivery to Campus
929-0633

201 East Main St. • At The Station • Carrboro

SPECIAL FEATURES PRESENTS:

ACTORS FROM THE LONDON STAGE

THURSDAY, FEB. 17 — SATURDAY, FEB. 21

ONE HANDERS: (ADMISSION FREE):

February 17: **BRUCE ALEXANDER** "JACK AND THE PRIEST" 8 PM GERARD HALL

February 18: **TREVOR BAXTER** "THE SEA AND THE MIRROR: AUDEN'S COMMENTARY ON THE 'TEMPEST'" 4 PM GERARD HALL

CALL THE UNION BOX OFFICE FOR TICKET INFORMATION 962-1449 12-6 PM

Take A Break With Some Real

PARTY ANIMALS

Disney Break '87!

SPECIAL '88 ADMISSION WITH YOUR VALID COLLEGE STUDENT I.D.

Don't miss the biggest party in Florida, at Walt Disney World. Michael Jackson is Captain EO. Mickey Mouse is a magician. And you might be a winner! Every 15 seconds somebody wins during our 15th Birthday Party. And every day we're giving away a 1987 Chevy Cavalier or S-10 pickup!

March 1-31, a day at either the Magic Kingdom or Epcot Center is only \$18 with a valid college student I.D. Two days (a day at each) is \$28! Disney Break '87. It's outrageous! It's outlandish! It's outstanding! It's everything it's cracked up to be!

No purchase necessary to play giveaway. Void where prohibited. Rules available by writing Walt Disney World Co.

Walt Disney World®

Royal Park
Kingswood
Estes Park
Booker Creek
UNIVERSITY LAKE

Avoid the lottery blues. Apply now! All apartments on the bus line to UNC. Fantastic Social Program. Call today for full information. 967-2231 or 967-2234. In North Carolina call toll-free 1-800-672-1678. Nationwide, call toll-free 1-800-334-1656. The Apartment People