

University copes with snow, cold

By JENNY CLONINGER
Staff Writer

Most of North Carolina woke up to snow last Thursday morning, and UNC is still feeling the effects of the unusually heavy snow and low temperatures.

Herbert Paul, director of UNC's Physical Plant, said the 8 to 10 inches of snow that is melting during the day and refreezing at night has hampered cleanup efforts.

Approximately 60 people have worked with shovels and snowplows to clear the University grounds. Work began Thursday and the 12- to 14-hour workdays will probably continue through the end of this week, Paul said.

With regard to any problems students and faculty may have had getting around campus, Paul said, "People have been very patient. We've had very few big complaints."

Paul said the relative lack of roof leaks and burst pipes has been surprising, considering the week's extreme temperatures, which are unusual for this part of North Carolina.

One problem area is the campus parking lots, Paul said. The continuing nighttime freezes have left thin



Joyayne Keller and Christy Youngblood add the finishing touches to their 'snow alien' Tuesday

DTH/David Minton

sheets of ice on the otherwise clear pavement.

Also, he said some entrances to parking lots are not wide enough because plows were blocked by parked cars, or because the snow had been packed down by passing traffic and could not be scraped away.

A traffic office employee, who asked not to be identified, said the unusual parking conditions have created additional problems. Although the lots are being cleared, she said people have caused traffic holdups or blocked others' parking spaces by just leaving their cars in

a clear space.

She said many people are using the wrong lots because of limited parking space. The Parking Control Division, with the exceptions of handicapped spaces and fire lane violations, has issued only warning citations during the worst of the snow and ice.

Residents add input to land use discussion

By WILL LINGO
Staff Writer

Most citizens were pleased with the Joint UNC-Town Committee's land use report, but some had a few complaints at the public hearing on Dec. 8.

The 16 people who spoke at the hearing complimented the recommendations made by the committee and suggested they make only minor changes in the report before submitting it to Mayor Jonathan Howes and Chancellor Christopher Fordham.

The joint committee was formed in July 1987 in reaction to public opposition to the UNC land use plan. The committee's purpose was to propose possible alternatives to the plan and to make recommendations to the mayor and the chancellor.

"I am impressed by the intelligence, interest and dedication of this group," said Joyce Brown, who lives on Vance Street. "I feel a continuation of this group or a similar group would benefit the town and the University."

Several other citizens said they felt the town and University should establish an ongoing joint committee to improve town-University relations.

Those who had complaints about the plan were concerned about the committee's proposals to widen Pittsboro Street to three lanes.

Betty Marks, of 408 Pittsboro St., said she did not like the idea of adding

a third lane to Pittsboro Street, as the land use plan suggests.

Other speakers who opposed adding a third lane to Pittsboro Street favored returning it to its status as a two-way neighborhood street.

"Pittsboro Street was obviously not intended as a highway, and N.C. 86 traffic should be returned to Columbia Street," Marks said.

Several other citizens supported the idea to widen South Columbia Street and reopen it to two-way highway traffic.

Don McChesney, of 410 Pittsboro St., said the road could be made to carry north-south traffic well into the 21st century.

Keith Burrige, a UNC professor who lives on Briarbridge Lane, said the widening of Columbia Street would eliminate zigzagging traffic and keep people on a properly designed road.

Citizens said they were also concerned about preventing future traffic growth. Some suggested a more intensive look at alternatives to automobiles, such as mass transit and park and ride programs.

"If we had park and ride first, we wouldn't need any new or re-routed roads," said Eddie Wills, of 225 Vance St.

Committee may extend Rosemary Square deadline

By REBECCA NESBIT
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill Town Council voted 5-4 Monday to form a committee to decide whether an extension on the Rosemary Square project is needed.

Fraser-Morrow-Daniels, the Rosemary Square developers, have requested a Nov. 30, 1988 date to close the deal for the hotel, restaurant, shop and parking project. They want the March 3, 1988 closing date extended in case more time is needed to complete the financing of the project.

Council member Art Werner made the motion to create a committee to negotiate with the developers in order to come to an agreement on the closing date. Mayor Jonathan Howes and council members David Pasquini, David Godschalk and Roosevelt Wilkerson voted against creating the committee.

Werner said, "The purpose in my motion is that I would feel more comfortable if they (the developers) would take more time to look at it in more detail so they can meet and decide on a date."

The developers gave the council a

timeline that showed a maximum amount of time that may be needed for each of the project's financial arrangements. The timeline projected a four to six month time span for the selling of Rosemary Square's 188 hotel suites.

Pasquini said he was unsatisfied with the developers' information. "I want the town manager (David Taylor) to come back with detailed information on why they need an extension," he said. "I don't consider this information to be valuable and I feel uncomfortable with this being the justification for an extension."

Fraser-Morrow-Daniels has also said the recent lawsuit brought up by Rosemary Square opponents has created a need for the extension.

Council member James Wallace, a longtime opponent of the project, said he did not want to grant the extension.

"We have extended this thing three times and we have done this for three years," Wallace said. "The town has not asked for an extension and the town has not delayed (the developers) five minutes."

Wallace said that extra time should

be granted only if this is the developers' last request for an extension and the amount of time given is no more than is needed.

Walter Daniels, chief executive officer of the developing company, said he could not guarantee that more time would not be needed after the extended deadline.

"Another lawsuit would be a very good reason where we would need more time," Daniels said.

Werner said the committee, which consists of town manager David Taylor, town attorney Ralph Karpinos, council member Nancy Preston and the developers, should approve a closing date by Jan. 25.



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