

NEW YEAR: Chinese Americans have different customs

By Lisa Jackson
Special to the Argus

The celebration of New Year's is one of the oldest celebrations in the world. New Year's was first celebrated in ancient Babylon about (roughly) 4,000 years ago. With the holiday season at hand, many people are preparing to celebrate in different ways. Have you ever wondered how people around the world celebrate New Year's?

"During this time here in America, the Chinese have parties. A group of us get together and go to a friend's house and eat Chinese food and play Chinese music and just have fun being with friends and family," said Ann Lee, a Chinese-American.

The Chinese celebrate

the new year quite differently.

In the United States, New Year's is always Jan. 1. However, the Chinese New Year falls between Jan. 21 and Feb. 19, beginning with the new moon and ending with the full moon.

This year it began on Jan. 24, which was the "Year of the Snake."

The Chinese calendar is based on a mix of lunar and solar movements. To "catch up" with the solar calendar, they add an extra month every few years. Think of it as adding one day on the American calendar for leap year. This is why the Chinese New Year falls on a different date every year.

"When I was at home back in China, my family

would come together and have dinner. My mom and all the women in my family would cook all day. She would make a special dish of dumplings and would put one coin in one of the dumplings. And whoever found the coin would be believed to have good luck for the rest of the year. That is my favorite part of the dish," said Xiao Sun, a senior WSSU chemistry major.

Locally, the Chinese people don't celebrate the festival as they would in China or in New York or California.

The largest festival is held in China. Members of the Chinese Association of North Carolina meet in different place to celebrate the new year. The celebration this year was held at Wake Forest University.

"Traditional Chinese food, traditional dancing and writing were a part of this special day, held on the campus of Wake Forest University," said Mau Lee, a resident of Winston-Salem.

Local Chinese restaurants do nothing special for their patrons during the celebration. But they do wish them a Happy New Year.

In addition to all the outside decorations, all the homes are decorated with pretty red blossoms that symbolize rebirth and growth, plates of oranges, tangerines and candy are put out as well to aide with the symbol of new growth.

The children carry little lanterns in their hands for this great festival. Each city in China has a differ-

ent theme during the "Lantern Festival," but they all have the same colors and animals.

For example, their spiritual guide dragons and the color red are synonymous throughout the country.

Both are symbols of good luck. Fireworks also play a major role in this celebration. Chinese people believe that setting off fireworks will send the old year out and bring in the new one.

"In my town, factories, government departments, and local farmers have set themes that are used to coincide with the overall theme. I wish I was home now, because I always look forward to the 'Lantern Festival' everyone stays up all night and has lots of fun," said Sun.

DEBT

from page 1

The FCRA ensures consumers' rights and privacy are protected even as the credit reporting industry makes it possible for credit histories to be transmitted so quickly that stores can offer

instant credit to consumers who qualify.

College students may qualify for credit cards because credit card companies solicit for first time credit card users. That is when students become trapped with a credit card for different reasons.

"The only credit cards

college students can get have very high interest rates," said Portia Hilliard.

Hilliard is a junior political science major and owns a new charge card.

"Avoid carrying high-interest rate cards," said Hill. Hill also suggests that consumers read the

fine lines on credit card agreements. Educate yourself about hidden credit card costs such as cash advances and late fees.

"Use your card every month to make purchases and pay off the entire balance in full. Pay your bill before the due date," said

Hill. The best way to maintain good credit is to pay the bill on time. However, a person cannot pay a bill if they do not have any income.

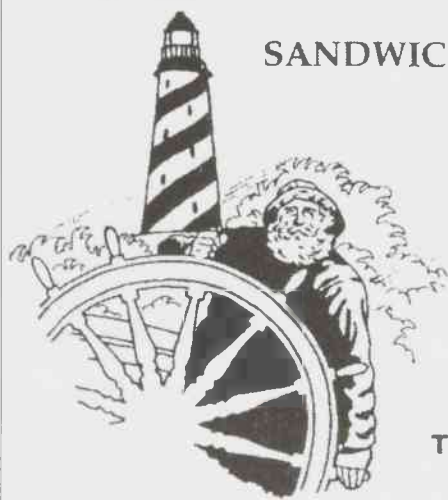
"Students spend money they do not have. They have no income or anyway to pay it off," said Hilliard.

Forsyth Seafood Cafe

WSSU - FREE DELIVERY

Fresh Seafood Direct To You!

WSSU - FREE DELIVERY



SANDWICHES AND DINNERS

TWO LOCATIONS
5 MINUTES AWAY
150 Broad Street (Sit Down)
748-0740

108 Martin Luther King Dr.
748-0793 (Take Out)

THE BEST YOU HAVE EVER TASTED!

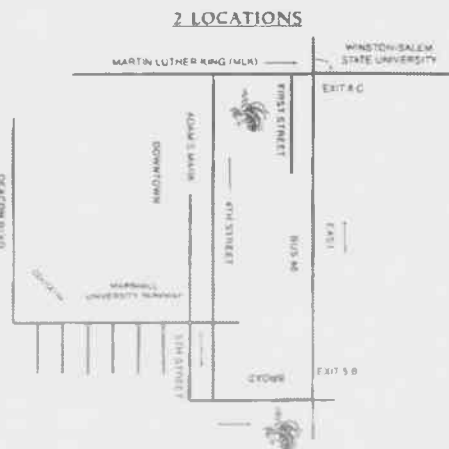
BONE & FILLET FISH!
HOURS

150 BROAD STREET
MON - THURS 10:30 AM - 9:00 PM
FRIDAY 10:30 AM - 9:30 PM
SATURDAY 12:00 NOON - 9:30 PM

108 MARTIN LUTHER KING

FRESH MARKET
MONDAY 11:00 AM - 6:30 PM
TUES - SAT 10:30 AM - 6:30 PM

TAKE OUT GRILL
MON - THUR 10:30 AM - 9:00 PM
FRIDAY - SAT 10:30 AM - 9:30 PM



The News Argus

James Jones Jr. Editor in Chief
Keith Caesar News Editor
Aja Pharr Arts Editor

Reporters

Nicole Ferguson, Daysha Williams,
Donutea Johnson, Bridget Terry,
Claresa Simmons,
Nakida McDaniel, Nhy Smith
and Delores Gullick

Photographer/Illustrators

Jerry Watkins
Jamil Steele

Ad Representative

Alvin B. Downing Jr.

*The News Argus is a monthly campus newspaper for the students, faculty and staff of WSSU.

*Opinions expressed in The News Argus are not necessarily those of the faculty or staff at WSSU.

*For advertising information please call (336) 750-2327.