

The Daily Tar Heel

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Friday, January 21, 2000
Volume 107, Issue 138

News/Features/Arts/Sports 962-0245
Business/Advertising 962-1163
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
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Francis Chan, co-owner of Jade Palace Chinese & Seafood Restaurant, surveys the damage after Carrboro firefighters extinguish the fire.

Midday Blaze Guts Local Eatery

By KEVIN KRASNOW
Staff Writer

As smoke billowed out of a local Chinese restaurant Thursday afternoon and firefighters worked feverishly to extinguish the blaze, the restaurant's owner shared a tearful embrace with her daughter.

The future of Jade Palace Chinese and Seafood Restaurant, located at 103 E. Main St. in Carrboro, is uncertain after a structural fire ripped through the building.

"It was all smoke," said Jenny Chan, the restaurant's owner. "I went inside, and the damage was a lot."

Carrboro Fire Chief Rodney Murray

said the fire department received notice of the fire from Emergency Management Services at 1:32 p.m. and one minute later arrived to find heavy smoke coming from the rear of the restaurant. It took 23 firefighters about 40 minutes to extinguish the fire.

Preliminary damage estimates were unavailable Thursday afternoon, but Murray said the east side room, where special events were held, suffered heavy damage, while the main dining room sustained water and smoke damage.

Chan stood near the rear of the building, watching in anguish as the firefighters tried to subdue the fire. After the blaze was out, she ran to her daughter for comfort and support.

Peter Drake, a worker at the nearby Weaver Street Market, said he was walking along the street when he noticed clouds of smoke.

"Smoke was puffing out on the street from both sides of the restaurant," he said. "The traffic didn't seem to notice until the fire department arrived."

Murray said the 10 employees and three patrons in the restaurant were able to escape from the building without any injuries.

Murray said the cause of the fire was yet to be determined. A malfunction in the heating system was deemed to be the preliminary cause.

Chan said she was not sure when the restaurant would reopen, considering

the extensive damage.

"The smoke went to the main dining room, which will make it harder for us to recover," she said. "I just bought a new carpet, and that was also damaged."

Chan's daughter, Roxanne, a registered nurse at UNC Hospitals, said she had never seen her mother so visibly shaken.

"I don't think she cried when she got robbed," Roxanne Chan said. "She tries to be practical, but this is tough. She'll try to reopen as soon as possible."

Many of the bystanders watching the scene were workers at nearby stores. Ben Wingrove, of Slick Winston

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Snowstorm Hits, Makes Quick Exit

Thursday morning's winter storm quickly became a memory, as warmer weather melted the fallen snow.

By SHAHRZAD REZVANI AND DEEPIKA NARASIMHAN
Staff Writers

Following the early morning hours of heavy snowfall and heated snowball fights across campus, students rose to the news that classes would be held as scheduled Thursday.

The sounds of snowball pelt and high-pitched shrieks were heard until nearly 4 a.m. Thursday morning as 2 to 3 inches of snow fell in the Triangle area, according to the National Weather Service.

The storm followed a Tuesday storm that brought 2 to 4 inches of snow to Chapel Hill and the surrounding area.

But while Tuesday's snow allowed students to play throughout the day, Thursday's warmer temperatures limited winter fun to the early morning hours.

Before the snow melted, snowballs were not the only objects filling the air. "People were throwing condoms full of snow at each other," said Derek Olds, a freshman business major from Cary.

Senior Sam Jenkins said other students were not the only targets outside of Hinton James Residence Hall.

"There were 500 people out there throwing snowballs at cars as they went by," said Jenkins, a chemistry major from Williamston.

Students without the proper snow equipment made use of whatever they could find to enjoy the wintry weather. "I borrowed a tray from Chase Hall, but I brought it back," said freshman Scott Holleman, a business major from Charlotte. He said he used the tray to sled down the icy sidewalk in front of Ehringhaus Residence Hall.

"As long as you could avoid the trash cans and trees, it was quite a thrill," Holleman said.



Polk Place lies under a blanket of snow early Thursday morning. Many students came out to play in the fresh layer, despite the late hour. The snow began falling about midnight at a rate of an inch per hour. Areas in the Triangle reported receiving as much as 4 inches.

While the snowstorm provided excitement for students during the late night hours, it followed Tuesday's example of causing early morning transportation problems for off-campus students.

Some students said they found that buses were inconveniently not running early Thursday.

Brooks Ann Camper, a graduate student in dramatic arts from Tyler, Texas, said the bus did not show up at 8 a.m.

"I had to set my alarm at 7 a.m. in case I had to walk if the buses weren't running," Camper said. "I had to end up calling friends to get rides."

Maj. Jeff McCracken of the Department of Public Safety said the snow on the roads Thursday morning was not severe. "It was a Condition I, which basically means everything is open, and if you can make it, come on in."

Despite some students' gripes about the snowy roads, McCracken said he was pleased with how the DPS and the

Grounds Department handled the snow by adding salt and chemicals to clear ice.

Additional preparation by the N.C. Department of Transportation and Highway Patrol helped thwart problems.

As the snow began to fall around midnight Wednesday, county maintenance engineers began clearing out major routes, said Ashley Memory, a spokeswoman for the N.C. DOT.

Memory said the state's plan of action helped prevent dangerous situations. "We were operating under the state's adverse weather policy, and it helped a lot this morning," she said.

The State Highway Patrol also followed a plan of action. "In addition to being on the highways) we put out statements advising people to stay off the roads," said Renee Hoffman, spokeswoman for the patrol.

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The sun made its way out Thursday afternoon, helping to melt several inches of snow that had fallen in the early morning hours.

Court Case Adjourned Indefinitely

Junior Chiara D'Amore gave new evidence with which the court was not familiar before the hearing.

By GEOFF WESSEL
Staff Writer

An open Honor Court hearing held Thursday was adjourned until a future date after the court added two new charges against junior Chiara D'Amore.

Two charges — misusing the University's property and obstructing the operation of University activities — were brought against D'Amore, in addition to the original charge of furnishing false information to University officials.

D'Amore said she was upset about the addition of the new charges.

"I think that the proceedings were unfair and that my rights were not kept in mind," she said.

D'Amore's testimony presented facts with which court members were unacquainted before entering the hearing, prompting the addition of new charges.

The Instrument for Student Judicial Governance allows the court to correct any error it finds to have been made in the charges against a student.

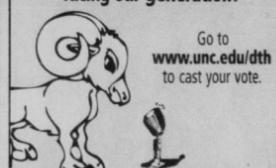
Student Attorney General Drew Haywood said that when he first saw the case before the hearing, he became aware that additional charges were a possibility. "I thought myself that perhaps we ought to rewrite the charges, but because of the late date that would

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Carolina, Speak Out!

A weekly DTH online poll

What is the most pressing issue facing our generation?



Clinton Proposes Aid For Higher Education

Staff & Wire Reports

WASHINGTON — President Clinton unveiled a tax credit proposal Thursday designed to make a college education more affordable, one that University administrators say could benefit UNC students.

"When we open the doors to college, we open the doors to opportunity," Clinton said in a press conference.

The centerpiece of the program outlined by the president is a \$30 billion, 10-year initiative that would make higher education more affordable for millions, said officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

When the "College Opportunity Tax Cut" is fully phased in, a family could

receive a tax deduction of up to \$10,000 for tuition, fees and training. Alternatively, taxpayers could seek a maximum credit of \$2,800 a year. A similar proposal died in Congress last year. "When we make college more affordable, we make the American dream more achievable," Clinton said.

The proposal is in its fledgling stages, but it might help to ease the financial burden of college for UNC students if it passes, said Shirley Ort, director of the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid. "It sounds like a really ambitious and positive agenda for higher education, and one that could benefit our students as well," Ort said.

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USSA Referendum in Violation Of Code; Another Vote Possible

By KATIE ABEL
University Editor

A controversial voter referendum slated to appear on the Feb. 8 ballot is in clear violation of the Student Code, and the fate of the legislation remains unclear.

In a late-night meeting in December, Student Congress voted 12-10 to add a referendum to the ballot that would ask students to pay about \$3 more annually in student fees to join the United States Student Association, a higher education advocacy group.

But the resolution was passed without the necessary votes, according to the Student Code.

Title II, Article IV, Section 166 of the code states that, "No resolution calling a referendum to amend the Constitution of the Student Body shall be passed at any time without a two-thirds vote of the Congress."

A referendum proposing a new student fee requires an amendment to the Student Constitution and thus is subject



Student Body President Nic Heinke said the Speaker needed time to consider his options.

to the two-thirds requirement.

Student Body President Nic Heinke told The Daily Tar Heel on Thursday that student government was giving Mark Kleinschmidt, speaker of Student Congress, time to weigh his political options.

But Kleinschmidt's pending decision does come with a certain sense of urgency, as the legislation would have to come before Congress on Tuesday, the last full meeting of the body before student elections.

But sources told the DTH that the legislation could die altogether because it might have to pass committee before

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There is no force so powerful as an idea whose time has come.

Everett Dirksen

INSIDE
Friday

Everybody's Doing It

Staff applications are now available in the DTH front office. We are seeking applicants for several desks. Applications are due by 5 p.m. Jan. 25 at the front desk. Contact Editor Rob Nelson at 962-4076 with questions.

Constructive Critics

The DTH is looking for students to serve on its Student Feedback Board, which meets to discuss issues related to the paper's coverage. We'll even feed you. Contact Managing Editor Vicky Eckenrode at vicky@unc.edu.

Today's Weather

Sunny;
High 30s.
Saturday: Cloudy;
Low 40s.